

Southside NewsLine

DECEMBER 2017 Volume 5 Issue 10

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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Apartment community contributes to Toys for Tots this holiday season

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewslines.com

Many underprivileged children will have a smile on their face this Christmas, thanks to the generous contributions of residents at The Uptown at St. Johns, through their



Photo by Angela Higginbotham

Monique Percentie-Clark, resident; Angela Bazzell, Assistant Property Manager; Pablo Maya, resident; Jennifer Sewell, resident; Stephanie Stanfield, Leasing Consultant and Amy Allman, Property Manager, with the Toys for Tots donation box at Uptown at St. Johns.

first annual Toys for Tots drive. The residents of Uptown have been contributing toys since Nov. 11, and will continue filling boxes with toys until Dec. 8, 2017. The staff at the apartment community, located near the St. Johns Town Center, are thrilled that the residents wanted to be a part in this act of kindness and they hope to plan other ways to help the community throughout 2018.

"It's convenient to drop off my contributions here instead of finding an orphanage or children's home," said resident Monique Percentie-Clark.

Many residents in the community

Toys for Tots cont. on pg. 10

Jacksonville's **IKEA** opens

By Elaine Omann
mail@floridanewslines.com

The doors of Jacksonville IKEA opened at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017. Many in the Southside area have followed the construction from the first shovel to the finished construction and the official opening ceremony — which was completed with the Swedish good luck tradition of sawing the log. To honor the Florida location a palm tree trunk was cut.

For the some, the grand opening included waiting in the line since Monday to be among the first to receive the free sofa and other prizes. At 9 a.m., Magni Partee made it in as the first person in line, followed closely by his friend, Devon Farrar, who was surprised to know they were planning to run in. The young men had been on the sidewalk area waiting since 2:30 a.m. and once registered, they set up their well-equipped tents.



Sam Donin pitched his tent as he waited in line.

Close behind them was Dionne Wellington from Orange Park who, like the others, had prepared to spend the next few days and nights in line till the doors opened.

The Vostrikov family, husband, wife, and grandmother joined the ranks in line to get their identification bands and prepare themselves for the adventure. A neighbor joined the Russian family in the experience and was surprised to realize it meant staying on site day and night.

On Tuesday morning Sam Donin, who lives in Village Walk apartments adjacent to the IKEA site, pitched his tent. Gizelle, another area resident who is

the florist at Costco joined the line. The youngest child, a seven-week old baby girl Harper joined her sister, two-year-old Kalee and mom inside a big umbrella tent fit over a huge air mattress

Most people in line said they did it for the adventure, the IKEA experience, and of course, for the couch. Chairs and other prizes were given to the first in line.

IKEA had provided a cell tower for internet hook up, music, water, and refreshments. Campers brought coolers, games, books, beds and bedding.

On opening morning the campers had put away their gear and were in the front of the line near the stage and entrance area for the ceremony. They laughed and shared stories of their experiences with others.



Dmitry and Yulia Vostrikov show off the IKEA t-shirt

The IKEA t-shirt was handed out and the line was growing in size for the ceremony. A man was busy creating balloon characters for young and old alike and a live band on stage kept the crowd entertained until the ceremony officially began.

The flag ceremony was conducted by the University of North Florida color

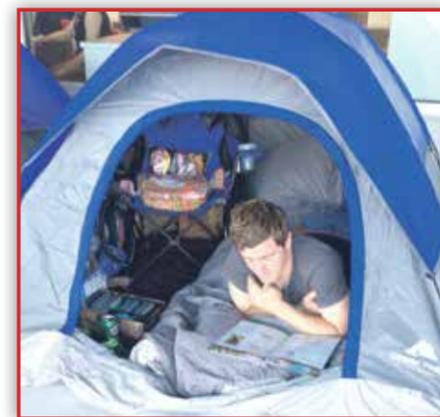


Photos courtesy Elaine Omann

IKEA employees welcome the first customers on Nov. 8.

guard with the three flags raised by the Chapter 38 Disabled American Veterans first for USA, then Sweden, and then the State of Florida flag. Anthems were performed and then the United States flag was lowered to half mast to honor the victims of the recent Texas shootings.

Leontyne Green Sykes, the store manager, opened with remarks and introduced the 350 coworkers who ran onto the site dressed in their yellow IKEA shirts and cheering and shaking the inflatable IKEA batons. Sykes introduced the Jacksonville store and was followed by Councilman Danny Becton, City Councilman for District 11 and Kirk Wentland, a representative from the



People waiting in line found lots of ways to pass the time.

IKEA cont. on pg. 10

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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. Show hours are from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

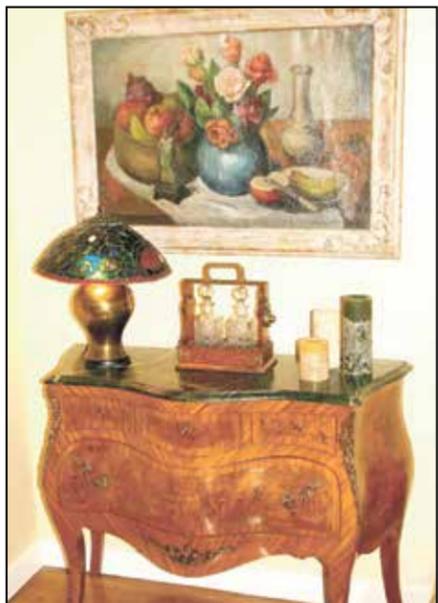


Photo by MetroCreative

on Saturday and 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday. Daily admission to the show is \$15 and lecture tickets are \$30. Tickets are available online at www.artandantiquesshow.com, by email at womensboardwch@bmcjax.com or by calling (904) 202-2886.

Southside Newcomers Club seeks members

Southside Newcomers Club welcomes ladies in the Greater Jacksonville area who have moved to the area, are long time residents, have had a lifestyle change, want to make new friends, or want to participate in a wide variety of fun activities. Groups and activities include Bridge, Bunco, Canasta, day trips, dining out, book groups, beading, movies, Mah Jong, and lunching at various locations. Join members and other prospective members for coffee or breakfast at Mimi's Cafe in St. Johns Town Center on the first Monday of every month to learn more. To attend, email sstoner1963@aol.com to RSVP. Membership to Southside Newcomers Club is \$30 per year, which entitles women to participate in any and all activities. Contact phorn94479@aol.com for more information.

3D Printing Pens for the Holidays classes offered

The Southeast Regional Library will offer two opportunities to deck the halls with 3-D ornaments patrons make



Photo by MetroCreative

themselves with easy-to-use 3D printing pens on Dec. 16 from 2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. and Dec. 19 from 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. E-library specialists will guide attendees every step of the way as they make colorful, homemade ornaments for the tree. There will also be plenty of ideas for inspiration at the class. Visit jaxpubliclibrary.org/events or call the Southeast Regional Library at (904) 996-0325 for more information.

FSCJ chorus to present "And On Earth, Peace"

Under the direction of Thomas M. Shapard, the Florida State College at Jacksonville Chorale, Women's Chorus and Men's Chorus will present "And On Earth, Peace" on Friday, Dec. 8 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts on the South Campus. The concert is free and open to the community. Shapard, who received his M.M. in Music Perfor-

take 5

mance (Conducting) from the University of North Florida in 2016, is serving as Director of Choirs at Florida State College at Jacksonville for 2017 – 2018. Visit <https://www.fscj.edu/news-events/calendar> for more information.

Old World Wines for the Connoisseur class offered

Old World Wines for the Connoisseur will be offered by the Division of Continuing Education of the University of North Florida on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Adam W. Herbert University Center on campus. Taste seven wines — mostly red — from the finest classic wine regions on Earth. The instructor, a 35-year veteran of the wine industry, will walk attendees through the process of tasting, evaluating and discussing each wine in detail. The cost of wine is included in the \$79 course cost. Visit www.campusce.net/unf/Course/Course.aspx?c=1084#. WgxnW0qnG71 for more information and to sign up.

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The Jacksonville Humane Society is open 12 p.m. – 7 p.m. on weekdays, and from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on the weekends. Call (904) 725-8766 for more information.

December *Enhanced Section*

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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 a street at the St. Johns Town Center. Our winner was Mike Robertson.

The difference between your "local" daily newspaper and your local community paper



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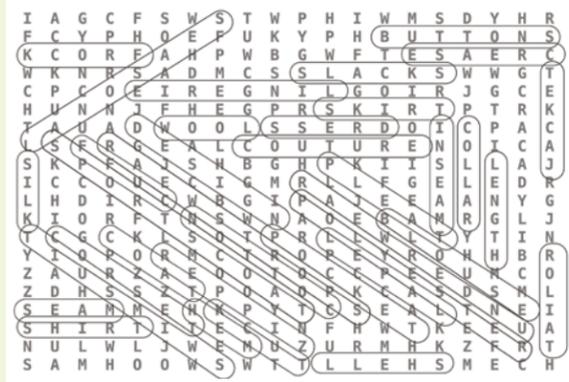
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answers to puzzles on page 12



Answers to our Puzzles

CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

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

around town

dec.

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

1st
Deerwood Rotary Club meeting
 7:30 a.m. (Repeating event on Fridays)
 Deerwood Country Club 10239 Golf Club Drive
 Deerwoodrotary.org

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

2nd
Free Tools to Quit Smoking Class
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Baptist Medical Center South
 Call Florida AHEC to register (904) 482-0189
Florida Sisters in Crime writers/readers group
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Southeast Regional Library, Room B, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd.
 https://floridasistersincrime.wordpress.com/

4th
Southside Newcomers Club First Monday Coffee
 10 a.m.
 Mimi's Cafe in St Johns Town Center
 sstoner1963@aol.com

5th
Honeybee Quilt Guild
 6:30 p.m.
 Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 11844 Mandarin Road
 www.honeybeequilters.org (Repeats first Tuesday of each month)

7th
National Stuttering Association meeting
 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 Southeast Regional Library, Room D, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd.
 https://sites.google.com/site/jacksonvillensa/ or (904) 247-6892

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

9th
Toast of Jax Toastmasters meeting
 7:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.
 Baha'i Community Center of Jacksonville, 5034 Greenland Road
 www.toastofjax.com (Repeating event on Saturdays)

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!

11th
Sierra Club meeting
 6:30 p.m. social/7 p.m. meeting
 Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001 University Blvd. W.
 www.sierraclub.org/florida/northeast-florida

13th
UNF men's basketball vs. FIU
 7 p.m.
 UNF Arena; \$10 adults

14th
American Legion Post 372 general assembly
 6 p.m. meet and greet / 7 p.m. meeting
 Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive
 (904) 297-8344 or www.mandarinpost372.org

15th
Deerwood Toastmasters Club
 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Southeast Regional Library, Room B, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd.
 Deerwoodtm.toastmastersclubs.org

18th
All Star Quilt Guild
 9:45 a.m.
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.
 www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 502-5254

28th
Knitting Chicas
 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Southeast Regional Library, Room F, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd.
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Briefs

Urgent care clinic now open at Town Center

CareNow® Urgent Care opened its first Jacksonville clinic at the St. Johns Town Center on Town Center Parkway on Nov. 16. The clinic will be part of an urgent care network operating over 90 clinics in 15 U.S. markets. CareNow® is one of the largest urgent care networks in the country.

“We are pleased to see this clinic opening,” said Memorial Hospital President and CEO Bradley Talbert. “CareNow® clinics improve access to care for patients by filling the gap between primary care physicians and hospital emergency rooms. Bringing urgent care to the St. Johns Town Center is an excellent way to meet the community’s growing healthcare needs in a convenient and centralized location.”

CareNow® physicians and other care professionals will provide urgent care – quick care for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries, such as sprains and strains, minor burns, lacerations, sore throats and flu-like symptoms – as well as physicals, vaccinations, and general diagnostic and treatment services. The clinics will have X-ray and lab services onsite. CareNow® clinics also provide occupational medicine services to local employers, including examinations and treatment of injured workers in worker’s compensation cases, pre-employment screenings and drug tests.

CareNow® Urgent Care is part of HCA Healthcare, one of the nation’s largest providers of healthcare services. CareNow® is affiliated with Memorial Hospital, a part of Memorial Health. Visit www.CareNow.com for more information.

Symphony names new vice president and general manager

The Jacksonville Symphony recently welcomed Roger Wight as Vice president and general manager according to an announcement by President and CEO Robert Massey.

In this position, Wight will work closely with both Massey and Music Director Courtney Lewis in overseeing the production of Jacksonville Symphony concerts and programming. Wight will also work closely with the marketing and development teams to engage sponsors and promote concerts.

Wight began his professional career in classical music radio as an announcer for WCLV in Cleveland while studying at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He then continued as a radio host and producer at the Interlochen Center for the Arts before

working as a classical music recording and show producer at National Public Radio in Washington, DC.

In 2007, Wight moved into the orchestra world when he joined the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra as their director of artistic planning. He then began working with the Philadelphia Orchestra as their artistic administrator.

Between his tenure with the Philadelphia Orchestra and joining the Jacksonville Symphony, Wight has worked as an arts management consultant with a variety of performing arts organizations including the Miami Music Festival and the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. As a volunteer, Wight serves as a board member of The National Arts Club in New York.

Jewish Family & Community Services celebrates grand opening of new Southside headquarters

Jewish Family & Community Services (JFCS) recently celebrated the grand opening of its new Southside headquarters, the Alan J. Taffet Building, with a ceremony attended by more than 350 community members. The celebration in-



Photo courtesy Larry Tallis

Laurie DuBow, Renie Levin, Jodie Leach, Morris Bendit, Colleen Rodriguez, Ben Frisch, Ina Taffet, Rhonda Passink, Eunice Zisser, Kalilah Jamall and Essence McKinney helped cut the ribbon at the new headquarters building for Jewish Family & Community Services.

cluded a ribbon cutting and tours of the new building that features the new Frisch Family Holocaust Memorial Gallery. The gallery is the only Holocaust memorial between Miami and Atlanta and will host rotating exhibitions to help educate the community.

The dedication ceremony also honored the nonprofit’s 100 years of service with a commemorative time capsule. Diverse community members, including a JFCS foster care child and a Holocaust survivor, added mementos to the capsule to represent the nonprofit’s areas of community service.

The new 30,000-square-foot headquarters provides space for the nonprofit’s range of social services and will house a majority of the agency’s staff, according to JFCS CEO Colleen Rodriguez.

Visit JFCSjax.org for more information.



with Duval School Board Member, District 7, Lori Hershey

Q: What is the latest news on follow up on schools used as hurricane shelters?

A: The Duval Delegation, consisting of local state representatives, visited Atlantic Coast High School on Nov. 21 to better understand the role our schools play in serving as shelters for our city. We have asked the state to allot more dollars for schools serving as shelters. The school district has to front costs for setup, clean up and repairs. To date the district has not received FEMA dollars for damages from Hurricane Matthew. That storm destroyed tarps at Twin Lakes Elementary; one tarp on the playground cost \$6,000 to replace.

Q: What can you tell us about the community meetings held in November in which the school board rolled out its strategic plan?

A: We held one of the meetings at Atlantic Coast High School on Nov. 13. The community meeting was well attended and I encourage stakeholders to commit to attending community meetings that will take place the first part of 2018.

Q: What is the latest update on the superintendent search?

A: The Request for Proposals will go out in December. We plan to select a search firm by mid-January and complete the process by the end of March.

Q: How is the School Board progressing with its Master Board certification?

A: The board has completed professional development and all requirements for Master Board Certification. Six of the

seven board members participated in the workshops which equipped participants with the skill set to be an effective board.

Q: What can you tell us about the Chamber of Commerce trip you took to Toronto recently and what did you learn that you can bring back to District 7?

A: The Chamber trip emphasized the importance of a strong public education system. Toronto, like Jacksonville, is a diverse community and faces similar challenges that we do. There is a lot of community support for public education there. District 7 recognizes the strength in our neighborhood schools. While we are a “B” district, we are also points away from being an “A” district and that’s going to be a game changer.

Q: Do you have other updates for District 7?

A: Greenland Pines Elementary was the recipient of the Haskell’s Company Green Apple Day. The Haskell Company provided plants and mulch to beautify the campus. The day was led by a team of volunteers from the Haskell company. Community volunteers, students, parents, staff and Principal Jackie Sneddon worked hard on a Saturday morning to update the landscape.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

A: They can email me at HersheyL@duvalschools.org or call me at (904) 316-3609.



Photo courtesy Duval County Public Schools

Twin Lakes Academy Elementary honors veterans

Twin Lakes Academy Elementary School held its annual Military Appreciation flag raising ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 9. Fifty parents, grandparents and military heroes celebrated with the students who were all waving little American flags.

FYI Contact Numbers

Duval County Local Government (coj.net)

Sheriff’s Office: Sheriff Mike Williams, (904) 630-2120
 Patrol Zone 3: Assistant Chief Mat Nemeth, (904) 828-5463
 Property Appraiser: Jerry Holland, jholland@coj.net; (904) 630-2011
 Supervisor of Elections: Mike Hogan, mhogan@coj.net, (904) 630-1414
 Tax Collector: Michael Corrigan, taxcollector@coj.net, (904) 630-1916
 Clerk of Court: Ronnie Fussell, (904) 255-2000
 Jacksonville City Council
 District 11: Danny Becton, dbecton@coj.net, (904) 630-1383
 At Large, District 3: Tommy Hazouri, thazouri@coj.net, (904) 630-1396

Duval County School Board (www.duvalschools.org)

District 7: Lori Hershey, hershey@duvalschools.org, (904) 390-2375

State of Florida Elected Officials

State House District 12: Representative Clay Yarborough, (904) 723-5300
 State House District 16: Representative Jason Fischer, (850) 717-5016
 State Senate District 4: Senator Aaron Bean, (904) 346-5039

Federal Elected Officials

U.S. Congress District 4: Representative John Rutherford, (202) 225-2501
 U.S. Senate:
 Senator Bill Nelson, (202) 224-5274
 Senator Marco Rubio, (202) 224-3041

From Photoshop to photo ops, so much to do at Southeast Regional Library

By Kaylee Burke
mail@floridanewsline.com

Get techy this December. If Santa is bringing you a new camera or you're still not sure how to use the one you got last year, the library offers several programs to get entry level photographers started. Digital Photography Basics on Dec. 9 from 2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. will

take the fear out of using a DSLR camera by guiding you through the principles of digital photography and camera fundamentals.

The library's Adobe Photoshop 1 class can help you make great photos even better. On Dec. 30 from 2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m., this course will introduce you to the basics of Photoshop, explain how to use common tools, and teach you how to make small changes to an image.

Head to the library this month to meet the man himself - Santa Claus! Jolly old St. Nick will be stopping by on Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Santa Stops and Photo Ops is a favorite library program that brings holiday spirit to all with stories, songs and fun. In addition to meeting Santa, kids will have an opportunity to create holiday ornaments.

The library's Art for Early Literacy pro-

gram brings together early literary skills and interactive art for children from birth to five years old. The program begins with a story and songs that promote language development, vocabulary building and comprehension. Story themes are further explored through art



Photo courtesy Jacksonville Public Libraries

Who knew you could paint with an ice cube? Children and parents had a blast learning this fun style of painting in one of the Art for Early Literacy programs, which will be held on most Fridays in December.

28 in the Jax Makerspace Gallery. Using mixed media art forms, eight local artists from diverse cultural backgrounds convey their stories of migration to Jacksonville, along with the traditions and culture they brought to the place they now call home.

All library locations will be closed on Dec. 24, 25 and 26 for Christmas and on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, 2018 for New Year's. The library's digital library is open 24/7 for a variety of e-books, audiobooks, movies and music. All programs are free and open to the public. Find information about additional upcoming events for Southeast Regional Library at jaxpubliclibrary.org/events or call (904) 996-0325.

using different tools and techniques to express creativity. Art for Early Literacy will be held Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 29 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Main Library's newest art exhibit, Living History: A Cultural Mosaic, will run through Jan.

Local women's tennis teams place at USTA National Championships

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photos courtesy USTA

8.0 Women's first place team: Carol Whitmire, Kelly Groce, Diane Smowton, Mary Armstrong, Nina Appleby, Terri Borchelt, Susan Walters. Back: Pamela Tyler, Robin Albaneze, and Sharon Anderson.



6.0 Women's second place team: Barbara Smith, Michelle Abner, Karen Sayre, Nancy Blacker, Coach Kris Gouin, Judith Peace, Bonnie King, Janet Daechsel, and Donna Bernard.

The women's tennis team from Jacksonville's Southside Tennis Complex, representing the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Florida Section, captured the national title at the USTA League 8.0 National Championships. Another women's tennis team from Jacksonville's Deercreek Country Club finished second at the USTA League 6.0 National Championships. Both events were held at the USTA National Campus in Orlando.

The 8.0 Women's first place team is captained by Mary Armstrong and features team members Carol Whitmire, Kelly Groce, Diane Smowton, Nina Appleby, Terri Borchelt, Susan Walters, Pamela Tyler, Robin Albaneze, and Sharon Anderson.

The 6.0 Women's second place team is captained by Barbara Smith and Donna Bernard and features team members Michelle Abner, Karen Sayre, Nancy Blacker, Judith Peace, Bonnie King, and Janet Daechsel.

Happy Holidays
from your friends at
Southside NewsLine

Southside Newcomers host "Antiques Roadshow" themed luncheon

The Southside Newcomers Club welcomed Barbara Langston and Anthony Grogan from Langston Antiques and Salvage at their monthly luncheon at Marsh Landing Country Club on Oct. 18. Grogan and Langston appraised and gave a brief history of many articles brought in by members at the "Antiques Roadshow" themed luncheon. Pictured are Silvia Stahnke, vice president of programs; Anthony Grogan; Barbara Langston; Lisa Gengler, president; Jean Pilkington, vice president of luncheons; Shirley Sowa, secretary; and Kathy Adams, treasurer.



Photo courtesy Paula Horning

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with Jacksonville City Council Member Tommy Hazouri (At Large District 3)

Q: Now that Mayor Curry has named six people for the board of directors of the Kids Hope Alliance, what is the next step?

A: Probably by the time this paper is in mailboxes, the six people he nominated, Nat Glover, Rebekah Davis, Kevin Gay, Joe Peppers, Tyra Tutor, and Marvin Wells, will have been presented for approval to City Council. One more nominee is still needed for a total of seven.

Q: Do you have an update on hurricane debris collection?

A: As of today, Nov. 9, the city has completed both the first and second pass of collections for a total of 1,469,477 cubic yards. Going forward, any missed storm debris collection or newly generated yard waste will be picked up on the regularly scheduled pickup date. Any yard waste issues should be directed to 630-CITY.

Q: What is the latest information on the toll express lanes currently under construction?

A: The Florida Department of Transportation is adding two-lane toll express lanes on Interstate 295 — from the Buckman Bridge to Interstate 95 and from J. Turner Butler Boulevard to State Road 9B. The tolling will be done electronically, with no toll booths and existing lanes will remain toll-free. A barrier will be installed to keep the free and toll express lanes separate. The Mandarin portion, from the Buckman Bridge to Interstate 95, is projected to have tolls in

place on the express lanes in spring 2018. The JTB to State Road 9B portion will have widening completed and toll express lanes open in spring 2019.

Q: What is happening with the Marbon Road property?

A: There is still no buyer to date. According to the JTA's timeline, they project to have an update on potential buyers to present to the local city council member and at large council member by early December. By mid-December, JTA expects to request permission to negotiate a sales agreement with any prospective buyer.

Q: Will there be additional opportunities for community input?

A: The community meetings have already taken place during the creation and determination of how the property would be rezoned. The community came up with the compromised development plan that has been approved by City Council. We don't have any plans at this time to go back out to the community but would certainly be happy to do so. I will, however, keep the community in the know regarding the plan to expand the park behind the library.

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

A: They can email me at THazouri@coj.net or call (904) 630-1396.

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Holiday Gift Guide 2017

Choose your Nutcracker

By Martie Thompson
 editor@floridanewslines.com

“The Nutcracker” is believed by many to be a time-honored holiday tradition. In Northeast Florida, the tradition continues with five productions of the ballet this December.

Since each performance is unique, following is a guide highlighting the dates, times and locations of each to help you choose “your” Nutcracker.

Community Nutcracker
Dec. 8 at 8 p.m.
Dec. 9 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Florida Theatre
www.jaxnutcracker.org

The retirement of Founding Director Beth Marks led Artistic Directors Dulce Anaya, Debra Rankin and Mark Spivak on a search for new choreographers to help continue this holiday tradition which began in 1992. Heather Stevenson Loveland of Heather Loveland Dance Academy and Suzanne Saltmarsh of Saltmarsh Dance of Jacksonville are guest choreographers for the 2017 performance. In the past 25 years, Community Nutcracker

has donated more than \$600,000 to local charities including Dreams Come True. In an effort to promote the arts in schools, Community Nutcracker also offers performances on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8 at 10:30 a.m. for school groups.

Christ Church Nutcracker Ballet
Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.
Lazzara Theater, UNF Fine Arts Department
www.missfeliciasdance.com

This year marks the 22nd performance of the Christ Church Nutcracker, directed by Felicia Rhoden of the Christ Church Dance Ministry as well as owner of Miss Felicia’s Dance. Nearly 300 performers, aged two and a half to 90 years old, will take the stage. Proceeds from the performance support children with life threatening illnesses in the Dreams Come True Foundation, Community PedsCare and the Amistad Orphanage in Bolivia.



Photo courtesy 123RF.com

Jacksonville Symphony’s First Coast Nutcracker
Dec. 15 at 8 p.m.
Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Dec. 17 at 2 p.m.
Moran Theater at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts
www.jaxsymphony.org/first-coast-nutcracker/

Jacksonville Symphony’s First Coast Nutcracker has been a tradition in North Florida for more than 40 years. Under the direction of choreographer and artistic director, Rhonda Stampalia, the First Coast Nutcracker showcases internationally renowned principal dancers, the area’s finest young dancers, and Tchaikovsky’s best-loved melodies performed by the Jacksonville Symphony.

The Nutcracker 2017 by the Florida Ballet
Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Lazzara Performance Hall, UNF Fine Arts Center
www.floridaballet.org

The Florida Ballet’s Nutcracker features swirling snowflakes, waltzing flowers, and dancing bonbons. From the captivating

dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy to the iconic snow scene, this enchanting classical ballet – set to the beloved music of Tchaikovsky – features guest artists from Cincinnati Ballet along with more than 100 local dancers.

St. Augustine Ballet Nutcracker
Dec. 16 at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Dec. 17 at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College
www.saintaugustineballet.com

This year’s production of “The Nutcracker” features guest artists Joseph Gatti, formerly of the Cincinnati Ballet, Corella Ballet principal dancer and Boston Ballet and Andrea Harvey, who has performed as an exhibition ballroom specialist at Blackpool 2017 and Millennium 2017. The St. Augustine Ballet, under the artistic direction of Luis Abella, is a non-profit organization with a mission to involve community members of all ages in meaningful dance experiences.

All of these performances are designed to enchant, enthrall, and bring families and community members together for the holiday season. Which one is right for you?

Hear for the Holidays winner: Robert Groves

By NewsLine Staff
 mail@floridanewslines.com

Dr. Leslie Newmeyer, Au.D of Jax Audiology and Hearing Aid Center partnered with Florida NewsLine to make a difference in a deserving individual’s holiday season this year with the gift of hearing. Through the generosity of Oticon’s donation of a pair of Oticon OPN Hearing Aids, Robert Groves was selected as the winner in the Hear for the Holidays contest.

Groves was born in Gastonia, N.C. in 1928 and moved with his wife of 41 years to Jacksonville to start a real estate business. He retired in 2008.

Groves is very sociable and enjoys the company of others. Every morning he takes a long morning stroll around his apartment complex, but he feels he has



Photo courtesy Linda Gay

Dr. Leslie Newmeyer, Robert Groves, and Hart Felt Ministries volunteer Rod Lee.

been missing a lot of what’s going on around him due to not being able to hear. Groves has wished for a hearing aid, but his income restricted him from pursuing such a costly device.

Groves was overjoyed to hear he would be the recipient of the Oticon Hearing Aid and is looking forward to enjoying this holiday season with the gift of hearing.

Visit www.jaxaudiology.com for more information.

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Get to Know . . .

By Elaine Omann
mail@floridanewslines.com

Cory Weissman



Photo courtesy Cory Weissman
Cory Weissman

Cory Weissman is the new store manager at Baymeadows Winn Dixie near Interstate 295N. His past experiences in other Winn Dixie store locations and prototypes over the last nine years have provided an excellent fit for this concept store. He worked in two of the kosher Winn Dixie stores and has experience in operations and training development within the state of Florida.

Weissman earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Colorado. He and his wife and three children are enjoying the move here from South Florida locations, Naples and Marco Island, and now live near the World Golf Village.

1. What are some of the reasons you are now at this store?

I have been relocated by Winn Dixie for previous opportunities with the company and now to this one. The previous store manager did a fantastic job and we will continue to build on what is working. The team is fantastic and it is the people that make a difference. It is a lot of fun and I want to continue to do some more fun stuff!

2. What visions do you have for more store and community involvement?

I plan to continue with the monthly calendars of themes and events that had been in place. Events are on the back of weekly store flyers and calendars get handed out at the registers. They can also be found on the

website where there is also a place to make comments or suggestions. There are bingo, flower workshops, and other special product and tasting events. These events bring in more community and are fun for families.

The store continues to have the red chips earned from sales to place in the community fund raising bins. We celebrate events happening the community and the center.

3. Could you share a few innovations or changes customers can anticipate?

There are three ideas being worked on to be in place in the near future.

One is a big push to develop more catering services. We have excellent food, beverages, and floral, which we plan to offer to our clients. Catering is steadily increasing. A second is e-com with online ordering and service delivery at the front curb of the store. This is becoming more in demand and a successful service for our customers. And, the third one, which is in planning and development, is a Sip and Shop where customers will be able to order beverages including wine and beer to enjoy with their shopping experience.

4. With all the new traffic is there consideration for creating easier access and exit?

It is a concern brought to our store's attention and to other stores in the center. It is being looked at for possible solutions by the property management.

5. Could you tell the readers something they might be surprised to know about you?

I am an avid golfer, but do not have much time with work and three children aged 14, seven, and four. I like to volunteer with my daughter in soup kitchens. What may surprise people the most is that I am a handyman and like to fix things. I like to problem solve and do the repairs!

Get to Know . . .

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

IKEA from pg. 1

Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry's office, who spoke of the economic growth IKEA meant to the city.

IKEA's U.S. president, Lars Peterson, wished success for the store and community. A \$10,000 check for value in furnishings was presented to the Jacksonville Zoo Education Center as part of community outreach.

Confetti was thrown by the IKEA workers after the ceremonial log cutting and they led the way to the store entrance. As people in line followed they were handed gift bags. Children received the hand and heart plush pillow.

The restaurant and bistro were opened and began serving the famous Swedish meatballs. Festivities continued through the week with prizes, discounts and special prices for the Swedish meatballs.

"When is IKEA going to open?" has been part of the neighborhood buzz for a long time. But no longer — IKEA is open!

Toys for Tots from pg. 1

have contributed one or more toys. The staff is hoping for at least 100 residents to spread kindness this holiday season through Toys for Tots. The Uptown at St. Johns has a total of 220 apartments and the generosity of the staff and residents is evident.

"I'm new to the community and I'm so thankful to be a part of giving back," said resident Jennifer Sewell.

Spending decades making the Christmas season special for children, the Toys for Tots program was founded in 1947. The program is run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve, which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas.

"I'm so glad that everyone is bringing gifts to contribute for these kids," said Pablo Maya.

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Southside talent and support is part of annual **Gingerbread Extravaganza**

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Gingerbread House Extravaganza, a local holiday tradition, opened 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.

E.J. McIntyre, a Southside resident and frequent Best in Show winner, returns to the show with two exciting gingerbread entries. She's modeled her dog, Taffy, and Taffy, in turn, is shown creating a gingerbread dog house. McIntyre also crafted the city's iconic Memorial Park statue, "Life" and part of Memorial Park from gingerbread and confection.

Many visitors to the Extravaganza recall McIntyre's other gingerbread structures, including the old downtown Cohen Brothers Department Store, Fire Station Number One and the beaches' Red Cross Lifeguard Station, among others.



Southside residents Amanda and EJ Brown are new to the show and have created a fantasy gingerbread exhibit. Their gingerbread creation, as others in the Extravaganza, are all at least 85 to 100 percent edible.

Dozens of gingerbread entries can be seen at the 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



Photos courtesy Jacksonville Historical Society

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

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.

"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 or call (904) 665-0064 for more information.

Nutrition Check: Portion distortion

By Kristen Hicks Ph.D., RDN, LDN and Paige Chaffin
mail@floridanewslines.com

Holiday festivities are generally filled with large, delicious feasts with extensive options of meats, sides, breads and desserts. Research has shown that when there is more food available, the average person will take advantage of this and overconsume calories.

More than likely each person will be faced with a huge variety of traditional holiday favorites and it is important to savor them; however, overindulging can lead to bloating, heartburn, upset stomach and potential weight gain.

To prevent eating more than our stomachs can handle, it is just as easy as two words: portion distortion. This means you can enjoy the foods that you want to around the holidays, but be mindful on the quantity of each choice you select. Some tips you can use this holiday season for portion control include the following:

If available, use smaller serving utensils. It has been shown that larger plates and utensils encourage us to take more than we need, because a half-filled large plate looks bare. Try selecting small plates, cups and bowls to enjoy your favorite foods.

Don't skip meals. Around the holiday time, we have vivid memories of our favorite pumpkin pie or stuffing that is a family tradition. You are going to enjoy at that family party later, but if you don't eat all day, you might be tempted to overeat once you start, so have healthy snack options to munch on during the day while cooking — like a vegetable tray, fruit and cheese platter or bite-sized appetizers. Consuming foods during the day will make the chances less likely that you will overconsume at the big meal.

Lastly, think when you are eating. We all want to hear the stories of our friends and family, but getting distracted can cause mindless eating. Listen to your body when it's telling you that you are full. It takes approximately 30 minutes for signals to move from our full stomach to our brain to let us know that we are full, so eat slowly and mindfully.

Kristen K. Hicks Ph.D., RDN, LDN is an assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Brooks College of Health, University of North Florida.

The Pantry Raiders

Host a delicious holiday brunch

Holiday dinners may garner the bulk of hosts' attention, but overnight guests need to eat breakfast and lunch as well. Brunch can save hosts some work and give families a great opportunity to break bread without some of the formalities that may accompany holiday dinners. This holiday season, consider serving this ideal brunch recipe for "Farfalle with Crabmeat, Asparagus, Scrambled Eggs, Garlic, and Herbs" from Norman Kolpas' "Buongiorno! Breakfast and Brunch, Italian Style" (Contemporary Books).

Farfalle with Crabmeat, Asparagus, Scrambled Eggs, Garlic, and Herbs

(Makes 4 to 6 servings)

1 pound farfalle
½ pound asparagus, trimmed and sliced diagonally,
¼-inch thick
10 extra-large eggs
4 tbsp. unsalted butter
1 garlic clove, minced
¼ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for serving
2 tbsp. heavy cream
½ pound cooked lump crabmeat, picked over to remove any bits of shell or cartilage
¼ cup finely chopped fresh chives
2 tbsp. finely chopped fresh Italian parsley
Freshly ground black pepper



Photo courtesy MetroCreative
Farfalle with Crabmeat, Asparagus, Scrambled Eggs, Garlic, and Herbs

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add the farfalle and cook until al dente, following the manufacturer's suggested cooking time. About two minutes before the pasta is done, add the asparagus.

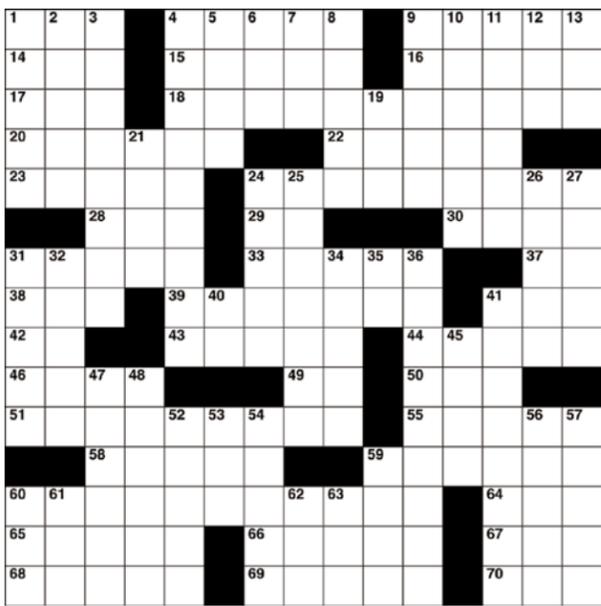
Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl, beat the eggs with a fork or whisk until slightly frothy. Set aside.

When the pasta and asparagus are done, drain and set aside. Immediately melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and sauté until fragrant, about one minute. Add the pasta and asparagus and toss briefly to coat them with the butter mixture. Pour in the eggs, add ¼ cup Parmesan and the cream, and stir and toss the mixture until the eggs just have begun to form moist curds, about two minutes. Add the crabmeat, chives and parsley and continue cooking and tossing until the eggs have formed more solid curds that cling to the farfalle, one to two minutes more.

Serve immediately with freshly grated Parmesan and black pepper for guests to add to taste.

Puzzles

Answers on page 2
Puzzles courtesy 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

- 42. Morning
- 43. Leonard __, famed Swiss mathematician
- 44. Capital city of Buenos Aires province
- 46. Snouts
- 49. Of I
- 50. Swiss river
- 51. Perplexes
- 55. Made angry
- 58. Precious stone
- 59. Type of envelope
- 60. One who believes in reason and knowledge
- 64. Monitors brain activity (abbr.)
- 65. Get __ of
- 66. Actress Zellweger
- 67. Spinal muscular atrophy (abbr.)
- 68. "Inferno" author
- 69. Puts together in time
- 70. Silvery-white metal

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 A 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
 S A M H O O W S W T T L L E H S M E C H

WORDS

- BLOUSE
- BUTTONS
- COAT
- COLLAR
- CORSET
- COTTON
- COUTURE
- CREASE
- CUFF
- 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

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

Salt Water Fishing

Holiday thoughts

By Capt. Kirk Waltz
mail@floridanewslines.com

Whether you are an outdoor enthusiast or not you have to love Northeast Florida and the First Coast in December. Our climate is appealing to many and I truly get why that holds true. Last December, as I recall, it was warm enough for shorts most of the month. I settled here almost 35 years ago and I get why people make the transition from points north to make this their home.

As a long time fisherman, I feel we are truly blessed with some of the most spectacular fishing opportunities and diverse water habitat anywhere in this great country. Whether it's back country shallows, river fishing, fishing huge rocks at the mouth of the St. Johns River, fishing the area's beaches, or offshore, Jacksonville is really second to none in world class opportunities.



Photo by MetroCreative

December is a favorite among many and I look for last month's fishing quality to continue in December. Look for reds from the Intra-coastal Waterway shallows north and south of the St. Johns to hold lots of redfish, trout, and sheepshead. Check the Mayport Rocks for much of the same with ringtails, margates, and black drum to take up the feedbag along with their aforementioned pals. Try the docks, piers, and bridges for much of the same this month too. Offshore

this month can be really good for snapper, seabass, ringtails, grouper, and triggerfish. Try working all the natural bottom wrecks and reefs in the party grounds.

Now it wouldn't be right to talk about fishing without a mention of my top

ten Christmas gift ideas for the fishing enthusiast. Here's Capt Kirk's list:

- 1) A new Penn 3500 Slammer spinning reel
- 2) Penn Allegiance Two 7 ft. spinning rod to match
- 3) Spool of 30lb SpiderWire Ultracast braided line for the above reel
- 4) A pair of stainless hook outs for pulling hooks
- 5) A pair of Salt Life Sports Optics Sunglasses (you gotta see 'em, right?)
- 6) A pair of Soft Science shoes (really cool shoes for fishing or styling)
- 7) A gift certificate for a fishing charter (best possible gift!)
- 8) Long sleeve Columbia fishing shirt with wickaway technology
- 9) Pair of quick drying shorts

- 10) A spa treatment for your significant other. Pick a good one. Hey, guys go to the spa too!

Remember to unwind this month during the holidays, spend some time in the outdoors, enjoy your families and your loved ones and have a Happy Holiday and a Merry Christmas. And as always, remember you can't catch any fish from the couch.

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

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Golf Tips from T Shot Ranch "Doo Bee" a better golfer

By Janie C. Farina
mail@floridanewslines.com

"Doo Bee Doo Bee Doo you make me feel so happy"... Aka Snuggle Bunny/Schnuffel

Growing up on the golf course, hitting balls was a challenge, since Nick Stoner Golf Course was minus a driving range. Summers we lived in an apartment above the pro shop.

My dad, the pro, would take us beside the green of the par 5, 18th hole at the crack of dawn, and hit towards the tee box until we saw golfers approaching.

Timing was important so we could "shag" the balls before the group came down the fairway to hit their second shots.

Dad would say "You made me feel so happy when I can throw a blanket over what we hit," not only because they were good target shots, but then we could "shag" the balls in record time and not scavenge around looking to pick them up.

So what does it take to "Doo" all the right things and become a "Doo Bee" golfer that can lay a blanket over the



Photo by MetroCreative

balls you hit?

There are two ball flight laws we have to conquer to avoid that scavenger hunt for your golf balls: Path and Clubface.

Path is the road the club takes to the ball.

Imagine playing darts from the side, instead of face on, and hitting the bullseye? That's basically what golfers are required to do. Since golf is played from the side, not face on, our perception to the target is compromised by eye dominance. Therefore it's critical to look at the desired target with both eyes, while lining up your shot, as in darts. Only then place the club, plant your feet, and settle before each swing to be on the proper path. (Taking a practice swing may be done before we make our final lineup to keep the target fresh in our mind's eye.) Alignment sticks, videos, and partners are all great resources to keep in check with proper alignment, and target awareness.

In addition to Path, "Better Doo Bee Players" make sure the Clubface is perpendicular to the desired target.

If a player has a great golf swing, proper path, and a crooked clubface, the ball will not go to the intended target. Be aware: grip (how we place our hands on the handle of the club) and lie angle (the angle of the shaft and the head off the club to the ground) are important factors that contribute to making contact on the sweet spot of the clubface, and subsequently getting the ball to the desired target. (Proper club fitting with a good instructor will facilitate a player into the right grip, posture, and set up to the ball).

Just as "Doo Bee Doo Bee Doo" Snuggle Bunny sings, when we put the two ball flight laws into effect, "feeling happy" happens with good timing, like setting words to music.

So "Don't Bee a Don't Bee" and make the same mistakes over and over again, hunting for balls like Easter eggs; be a "Doo Bee Doo Bee Doo" and put all your eggs in one basket.

Stay feeling happy in golf!

Janie C. Farina is a 26-year teaching professional recently who relocated to the St. Johns area. She is now available for golf instruction at two local golf courses. Email her at hitthedirt2@gmail.com with comments or questions.

Travel

Finding the jewels of Jordan

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

Americans generally don't include the Middle East on their bucket list, but I'd like to change your mind about Jordan. The Hashemite Kingdom, Jordan's official name, is the safest country in the region and extremely welcoming to



Jerash

tourists. Jordan offers incredible historic sites, attractions, and adventures for luxury to budget travelers.

Petra, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, stands out as the favorite. The ancient city flourished as the strategic crossroads for spice and silk trade some 2,300 years ago, but routes changed

and earthquakes twice ravaged the area. By the 13th century, only local Bedouin tribes remembered Petra. In 1812, Swiss explorer Jean Louis Burckhardt disguised himself as an Arab wanting to make an offering. He convinced a guide

to take him to the area. Burckhardt rediscovered Petra's tombs, but couldn't fully inspect the ruins. His guide became suspicious, forcing Burckhardt to leave. He wrote about his findings, but they, too,

remained off limits for decades.

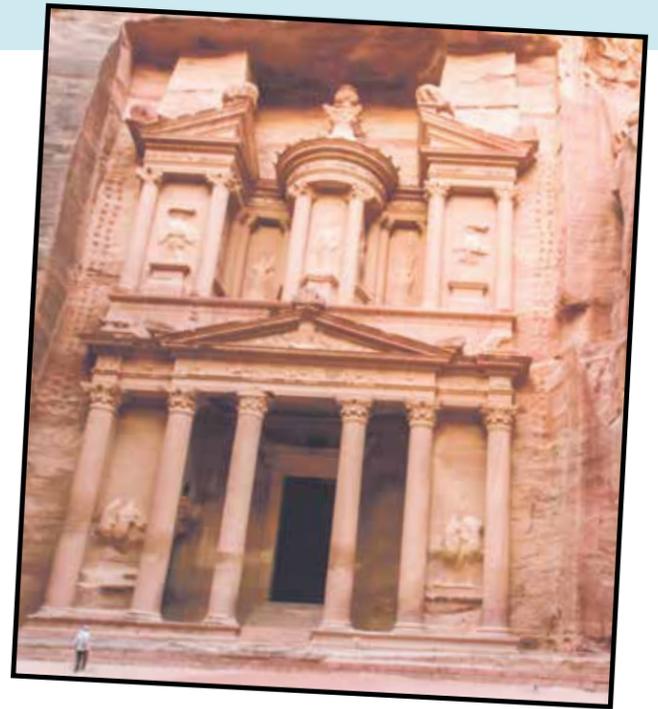
The Treasury, a delicate and beautifully chiseled stone structure, lies hidden at the end of a mile long walk between massive 10-story high boulders. The movie "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" features Harrison Ford and Sean Connery in a miraculous escape from the location.

Reaching the Monastery takes a climb of 900 rough, worn steps unless you'd prefer a donkey ride. The reward at the end more than justifies the arduous trek opening up views of the most intricate architectural shrine. Petra includes many more temples, tombs, an amphitheater and streets within the vast World Heritage site.

Wadi Rum, about an hour from Petra, is also part of the cinematic legend, providing locations for the movie "Law-

rence of Arabia," highlighted by British Intelligence Officer T.E. Lawrence's epic battle. Camel and jeep tours into the desert offer overnight camping. The more budget conscious still have a dazzling choice — sleeping under the crystal clear starry sky. Slightly splurging turns an already fantastic experience to "glamping" (glamor camping) in rooms with ensuite bathrooms. Accommodations include Zarb, a delicious Bedouin dinner cooked in a sand-covered pit.

Aqaba, a famous harbor on the Red Sea, offers boating and great snorkeling or scuba diving. Farther up the coast, Dead Sea luxury resort hotels sparkle



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Petra Treasury

in Rome, as they haven't been overly visited. You'll need at least a half-day to explore the expansive archeological destination. Recently, opera star Andrea Bocelli gave a concert in the amphitheater.

Other than Israel, no other country has more biblical sites. Bethany Beyond the Jordan attracts as the site of Jesus' baptism. It's common to see Christians being dunked in the River Jordan during their baptismal ceremony. Nearby, at Mt. Nebo, stand where Moses first gazed upon the Promised Land.

The accommodating Jordanians offer farm-fresh, colorful and American friendly food, but don't expect burgers and fries. Meals begin with salad, fresh bread and an array of toppings like hummus, tabbouleh or mou-tabel, similar to baba ghanoush.

Direct flights from New York City arrive in Amman, the capital. Western-friendly hotels and local-run establishments alike

await. My suggestion is to sign on for a five – seven day tour of the country and prepare yourself for the thrill of a lifetime.

Visit www.bylandersea.com to read more of local travel writer Debi Lander's stories and travel tips.



A Bedouin and his camels

next to the often-iridescent water. Relax on the beach and give yourself the mud treatment and dip in the salty brine. My skin never felt better!

The Romans were no strangers to Jordan. Jerash, called the City of a Thousand Columns, displays the best ruins outside of Italy. In some ways, I found them superior to their counterparts

Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church

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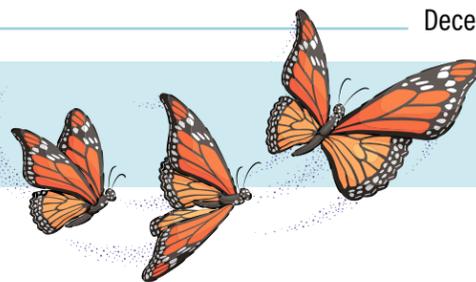
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Gardening

Planting for beneficial insects

By Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewslines.com



With the mild — actually exceptionally warm! — temperatures we've been experiencing, we can continue planting some hardy perennials and bulbs in December, as well as shrubs and trees. Bear in mind, though, that we are now in a dry season, and be prepared to water newly installed plants to get them well established.

Neonicotinoids (neonics) are a class of systemic insecticides that can be used on many types of plants. Briefly, there is evidence to show that, in combination with other stressors, bees can suffer from these chemicals because they spread throughout treated plants, and are found in both the nectar and pollen ingested by bees and their brood. It makes sense, therefore, when choosing flowering plants that encourage insects to enhance our gardens, we need to consider whether they may unintentionally be harmful. Growers of native plants will avoid the use of neonicotinoids, as do Bonnie Plants, growers of vegetables and herbs. Proven Winners' plants are produced without neonics, but they also sell liner plants to nurseries that then grow them to sale size, and not all of those nurseries will necessarily avoid neonics. So do your research, ask questions of the nursery staff where you buy plants, and choose wisely. Large

bees and small bees are attracted to different types of flowers; those with short tongues collect nectar from ray flowers, or typical daisy-like flowers, whereas larger bees have longer tongues and can handle tubular flowers. Unlike hummingbirds, which are readily attracted to red flowers, bees prefer flowers in shades of blue, purple, white or yellow.

Aim to find a range of plants that bloom at different times of the year. Early bloomers include the native spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohiensis*. It has one-inch, pretty blue to purple triangular flowers, which are clustered at the top of 12 – 18 inch stems; they open briefly, but sequentially. It self seeds readily and spreads by rhizomes, so make sure it will fit with your plans. Other spring-blooming native flowers include violets, wild petunia (*Ruellia humilis* — not the Mexican type) and coreopsis. Many of our trees that bloom in spring, like the redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), are invaluable to pollinators. Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) is a particularly important source of nectar for honey bees, as well as a cheerful reminder that spring is on the way. For inspiration, check out The Florida Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design at http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_

[Selection_Guide_2015.pdf](#). Bloom times are given to help you achieve a colorful garden year round.

Now the clocks have changed, our lawn watering schedules have been adjusted to once a week. To ensure you have the correct schedule, please see <http://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/environmental-quality/irrigation-and-fertilizer>.

As grass gradually becomes dormant in cooler weather it will need less water and you may find that rainfall is adequate. Remember that overwatering, at any time of year, can cause problems with diseases. Cut down on mowing and cut the grass high so it has a strong root system going into winter. Hand pull cool season weeds, or spot treat with an herbicide suitable for your grass species, to keep them under control. If your grass is still recovering from damage caused by debris from hurricane Irma laying on it for weeks, check out the November/December issue of "A New Leaf" for recommendations: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/nleafNovemberDecember.17.pdf>. As always, you will find timely articles on vegetable growing, what to plant in December, and upcoming classes. Happy floriferous Holidays, One and All.

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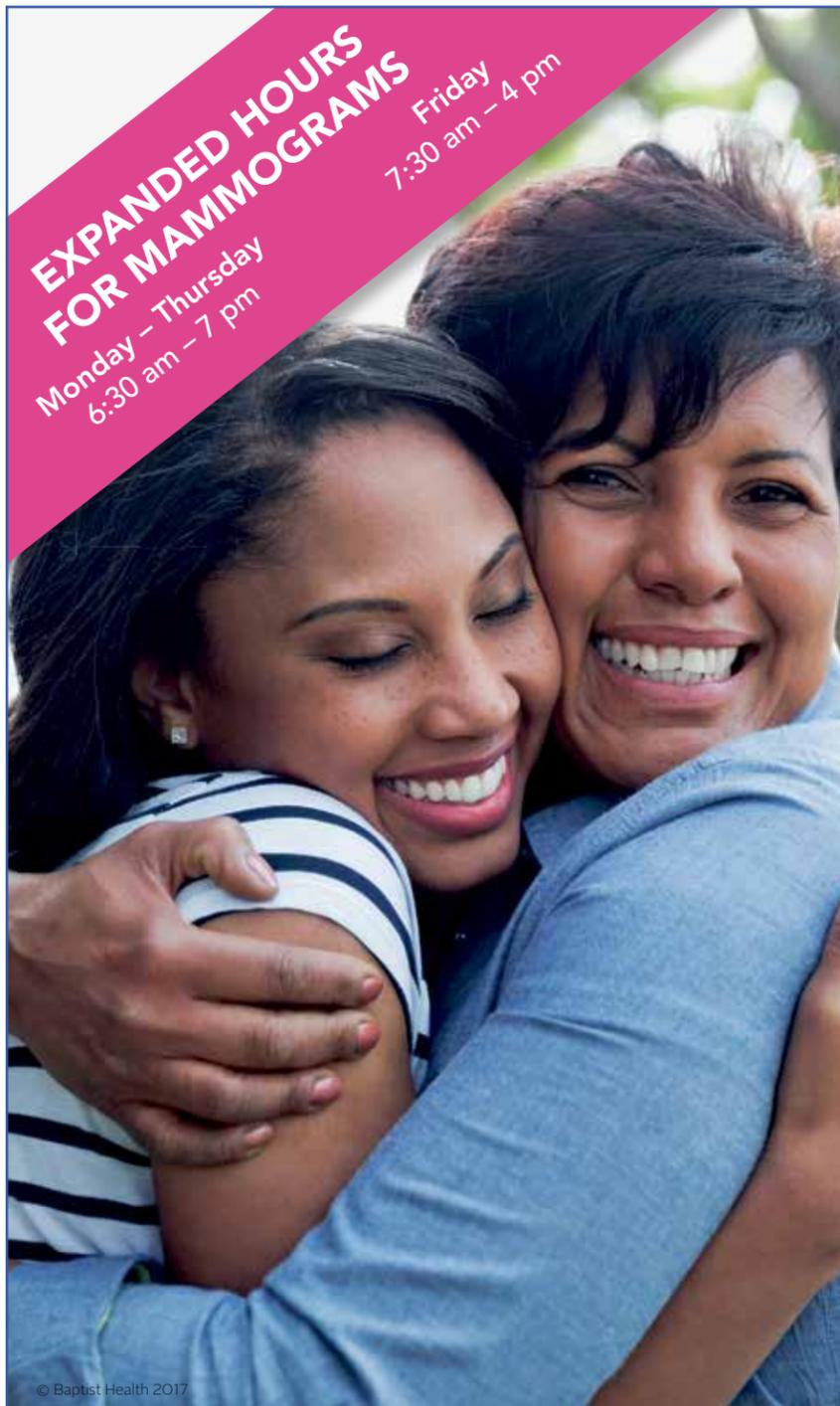
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