

Ponte Vedra NewsLine

FEBRUARY 2018 Volume 5 Issue 2

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

A Florida NewsLine Publication



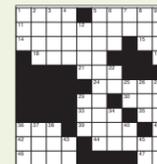
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drum major
Ryker Jett



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Tackling student hunger — One SOUPer Bowl at a time

By Atharva Palande
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Atharva Palande

The third annual SOUPer Bowl will be held on Feb. 1, 2018, at Nease High School from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

On Feb. 1, 2018, the Nease High School cafeteria will be transformed into an epicure's delight when the school welcomes the community to its third annual SOUPer Bowl from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Accomplished chefs from across the area are joining forces to serve some of their finest creations in a memorable soup-tasting event. In addition, every guest can pick a specially handcrafted bowl made by a St. Johns County student to take home as a memento from the event.

The proceeds from the evening support First Coast Blessings in a Backpack, a program that benefits students in St. Johns County School District who are on free and reduced price lunches in school. While dependent on the school meals for their nutrition during the week, a lot of these children do not have guaranteed meals waiting for them at home over the weekend. First Coast Blessings steps in to fill that gap by sending food home with these students who are at risk for hunger. Often, this is the only nourishment available to them during

SOUPer Bowl cont. on pg. 9

Josh Heinz Foundation celebrates improvements to Paws Park Dog Park

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewsline.com

The Josh Heinz Foundation is committed to making a difference in the community. The foundation recently celebrated the improvements to Paws Park Dog Park, thanks to the generous donors over the past year. Through the generosity of supporters, family, and friends, a dream has become a reality.

Shade shelters, benches, paved sidewalks, improved irrigation, overhead lighting and a K-9 turf were all improvements made to better accommodate visitors to the park. The memory of Joshua Heinz, a 31-year old Jacksonville resident who was tragically killed in January of 2014, lives on through this park



Josh Heinz and Jackson.

enjoyed by so many dogs and their owners.

Josh Heinz had a love for animals, especially for his own dog, Jackson. Heinz rescued Jackson as a puppy from a Gainesville animal shelter and he spent time training Jackson to be a United States service animal. The two spent many hours volunteering at the Jacksonville Humane Society, as well as Paws Park. Heinz felt passionate about bettering the lives of both animals and their owners. He often gave advice to other pet lovers, as well as helping owners train their pets to become service animals.

"A horrific tragedy has been turned into a wonderful community asset. Josh's dog, Jackson, was the first dog inside the gate," said



Photos courtesy Josh Heinz Foundation

The Heinz family cuts the ribbon on the new improvements at Paws Park.

Mary Ann Heinz, Josh Heinz's mother. "We are thankful for the city and the help we received in putting in the lights quickly and also for the monument remembering Josh that will be installed soon."

The memory of Joshua Heinz, a 31-year old Jacksonville resident who was tragically killed in January of 2014, lives on through this park.

Paws Park Dog Park is a membership playground and is located at 468 Penman Road South in Jacksonville Beach. All

owners and dogs are welcome to join and enjoy this wonderful asset to the city. Additional fundraisers will be held in the future as more improvements and needs arise.

Visit www.facebook.com/JoshHeinz-Foundation/ for more information about the Josh Heinz Foundation.

Ocean Palms WELCOMES ROCKET SCIENTIST

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Fourth grade students at Ocean Palms recently had a very special visitor to teach them about rockets, satellites and space. Tyler Strickland, brother of fourth grade teacher Katie Byrd, is a flight design and mission engineer for United Launch Alliance (ULA).

During Strickland's visit, the students had the opportunity to use virtual reality viewers to watch a recent rocket launch and were inspired to learn more about space and improve problem solving skills through teamwork. Strickland encouraged the students to be sure to do their math and science homework if they want to be a rocket scientist.

Many of the fourth graders commented how they wanted to be a part of space exploration when they grow up. One student asked Strickland what planet would be explored after Mars.

He said, "...it will take decades to explore Mars, but it is always good to plan for the future."

Students also learned about laws of motion, what satellites are used, and how math and science are used to plan a rocket's destination.



Photo courtesy Pam Riley

Tyler Strickland, ULA Mission Engineer and fourth grade students from Katie Byrd's class at Ocean Palms Elementary.

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Adopt-A-Shelter-Pet



Meet Thunder!

Thunder is poised for that ball! He's a great catcher and retriever. Only two years young and rescued from the islands after Hurricane Irma, he's waiting for a loving family. Good with other dogs. He 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 heart worms.



Meet Arnold!

Arnold is a five-year-old cat that was brought in as a stray. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to their new environment. Be sure to reinforce house-training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

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MYSTERY PHOTO



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

There were no correct guesses for the Mystery Photo last month, which was of the concession stand at Davis Park.

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in the next issue of

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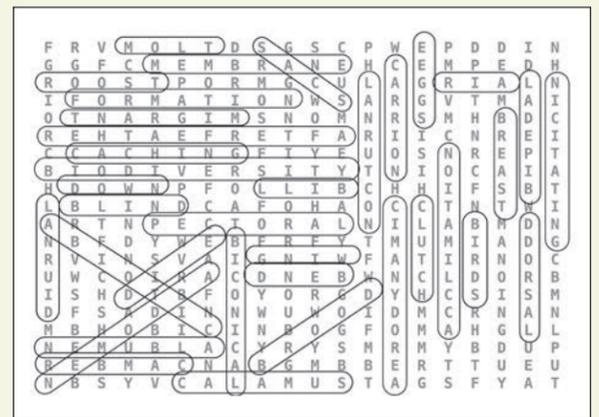
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answers to puzzles on page 10



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
CRYPTO FUN
 Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. wings B. beak C. flight D. soar

Answers to Puzzles

take 5

Taking the Plunge job workshop scheduled

J. Dianne Tribble, Certified Professional Life Coach, motivational speaker, published author and business start-up consultant, will present innovative ways to approach a job search at the Taking the Plunge: Faith to Override Fear workshop, hosted by Christ Episcopal Church on Thursday, Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Following the workshop, Buddy Webster, with LEADERS Professional Recruiting, Inc., will review attendees' resumes. This workshop, to be held at 400 San Juan Drive in the second floor Parish Center Conference Room, is free and open to the public. Email Pam Ottesen at pottesen66@gmail.com to register.

St. Johns Reads activity at Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library



Photo by Metro Creative

The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library will host a discussion of this year's St. Johns Reads selection, "Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania" by Erik Larson on Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. The book tells the tragic story of the sinking of the HMS Lusitania in 1915. The ship was sunk during World War I by a German U-boat. Larson tells the story of the doomed ocean liner through the ship's passengers as well as the U-boat's crew. Visit www.sjcpls.org or call the library at (904) 827-6950 for more information.

Gala scheduled for Cummer Beaches

Cummer Beaches, a support group of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, will hold its third annual gala, Celebrate! Gala: Love and Romance on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018 at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse. The evening starts with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing at 7 p.m. to the music of the Jacksonville University Jazz Orchestra. The dress is black tie and the parking is complimentary. This is a fundraising event in support of the Cummer's educational programs. Call Wendy Mayle at (904) 899-6007 or visit www.cummermuseum.org/event/cummer-beaches-gala-love-and-romance to get your tickets (\$150 member, \$175 non-member) online.

Ancient City Cat Club to host cat show

The Ancient City Cat Club will hold its annual Cat Show on Saturday, Feb. 24 and Sunday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day. The event will be



Photo courtesy Ancient City Cat Club
The Ancient City Cat Show will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24 and Sunday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day.

at the Solomon Calhoun Community Center, located at 1300 Duval St. in St. Augustine. More than 125 pedigreed cats and kittens will be judged each day and many exotic and new breeds will be on display, along with multiple cat vendors, raffles, food and free parking. Visit the club's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ancientcitycatclub, for more information.

Centrist Project forms

The Centrist Project, which is based on the premise that the two party political structure of the nation is broken, has a new Jacksonville area chapter. Nationwide the Centrist Project has more

than 21,000 members; the local chapter began with one person in the spring of 2017 and now has more than 35 members in a 25 mile radius of Jacksonville. Members will be meeting in January and February to share ideas for how to grow the chapter and increase local awareness of the Centrist Project. Visit www.centristproject.org/jacksonville or contact atcentristprojectjax@gmail.com for more information about upcoming meetings and events. The group is also on Facebook and Twitter.






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Feb.

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

around town

save the date!

1st
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7
 7:30 p.m.
 St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse
 (904) 460-0243

2nd
GTM Research Reserve new volunteer orientation
 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
 Environmental Education Center, 505 Guana River Road
 (904) 823-4500

3rd
Character Counts! 6 Pillars 6K/3K Run/Walk
 9 a.m.
 Palencia Elementary School
www.racesmith.com/races/CHARACTERCOUNTS.html

5th
Caregiver support meeting
 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center, 1048 A1A N.
 (904) 297-0061

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

6th
Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Ponte Vedra Chapter meeting
 10:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
pontevedrachapternsdar@aol.com
 February 6
 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.pontevedravalle.com/grief-support

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

8th
Palencia Bridge Club plays Party Bridge
 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
 Donovan's Irish Pub, 7440 US Highway 1
 Diane Tamplin, (904) 808-7326

Shorebird Walk at Matanzas Inlet with St. Johns County Audubon Society
 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
 Matanzas Inlet West Parking Lot, 8655 A1A S., St. Augustine
www.stjohnsaudubon.com

9th
Food Truck Friday
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 Nocatee's Splash Waterpark

10th - 11th
Katz 4 Keeps cat adoptions
 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 935B A1A North
 (904) 834-3223 or katz4keeps.org

11th
Cummer Beaches Celebrate! Gala: Love and Romance
 6 p.m. cocktails/7 p.m. dinner and dancing
 TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse
www.cummermuseum.org/event/cummer-beaches-gala-love-and-romance

March 3 Faithful Servant Missions Run with a Mission 5K, 10K and 1 mile fun run
 8:30 a.m.
 Nocatee Greenway
www.runsignup.com/runwithamission

March 8 G.R.I.T. WBO 2018 Signature Event, featuring keynote speaker Amy Pope Wells
 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 UNF University Center
www.wbonfl.org/signature-event

March 17 Vilano Bridge 5K and 10K
 8 a.m.
 North Shores Community Center, Vilano Beach
www.1stplacesports.com/races/vilanobridgerun

March 17 St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival
 10 a.m.
 Francis Field, St. Augustine
<http://lionsfestival.com/tickets/>

March 31 - April 1 50th annual Mandarin Art Festival
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road
www.mandarinartfestival.org

April 14 Relay for Life of North St. Johns
 12 p.m. - 10 p.m.
 Bartram Trail High School
http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY18SER?pg=entry&fr_id=86383

12th
Beaches Toastmasters Club
 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Repeating event on Mondays)
 Baptist Hospital Beaches, Wilson Epstein Building
cgsml3@yahoo.com

Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Meeting
 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
www.pvmsd.org

13th
Lilies of the Valley widow support group
 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Valley, 4750 Palm Valley Road
www.pontevedravalle.com/grief-support

14th
St. Johns CARES Kids meeting
 6:45 p.m.
 Primrose School, 785 Crosswater Pkwy, Nocatee
www.stjohnscares.org

17th
Nocatee Farmers Market: Pirate Invasion
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Town Center Field, Nocatee

20th
St. Johns CARES meeting
 7 p.m.
 Bartram Academy, 164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1
www.stjohnscares.org

Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon featuring comedian/magician Mark Alan
 11 a.m.
 Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive
 RSVP by Feb.12, sjaird@comcast.net

Feb. 20 - March 27
Northeast FL. AHEC Quit Smoking Now class
 Tuesdays, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
 Flagler Hospital Wellness Center
 Free; call (904) 482-0189 to register

22nd
Adult Coloring Club
 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

24th
Project SOS - Boys and Girls Club Grand Anchor Gala
 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, black tie/masks optional
www.bgcnf.org/events/

Chocolate and Beyond, sponsored by RSVP
 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 First Coast Technical college, 2980 Collins Ave., St. Augustine
www.rsvpstjohns.com or (904) 547-3952

26th
Ponte Vedra Beach Library Book Talk Cafe: John Capouya
 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

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Briefs

Faithful Servant Missions Run with a Mission and Family Festival announced

The fifth annual Faithful Servant Missions Run with a Mission 5k, 10k and 1 mile fun run will be held on Saturday, March 3 at 8:30 a.m. through the Nocatee Greenway Trails. Presented by Happy Trails 4x4, this race helps support programs of Faithful Servant Missions in Costa Rica.

The race will be followed by a free family fun festival including a bounce house, balloon artist, food, prizes, silent auction, vendors and more. Register at runwithamission.com.

Founded in 2006 by members of the Jacksonville community, Faithful Servant Missions has built recreation and education facilities, a church and a parsonage in Costa Rica. Faithful Servant Missions works in conjunction with many local churches in Jacksonville and the Beaches including Beach Church, Church of Eleven22, Ponte Vedra United Methodist and Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church. Visit www.faithfultservantmissions.org for more information.

Comedian/magician to entertain Newcomers of North St. Johns

Newcomers of North Saint Johns will host its February luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 11 a.m. at the Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive. Mark Alan, a professional comedian/magician will

perform funny, interactive magic, comedy, mentalism, and hilarious escapes. All St. Johns County residents are invited to attend.

This luncheon will feature a choice of cabernet short ribs or blackened mahi with cinnamon pecan butter, served with house salad, roasted vegetables, sweet potato mash, sea salted caramel gelato for dessert, and freshly brewed coffee, hot and iced tea and sodas with a cash bar available. The total cost for the February luncheon is \$30 for members or \$32 for guests; reservations are non-refundable and must be received by Feb. 12.

Contact Sue Aird at sjaird@comcast.net for a registration form for this luncheon, membership information, or information about other upcoming activities. The Newcomers of North Saint Johns offers a wide variety of activities including lunch groups, wine socials, golf, Mah Jongg, Bunco, day trips, and cultural events.

Beach driving passes now on sale

St. Johns County Beach Driving Passes are now on sale. Resident passes are \$50, non-resident passes are \$100, and handicap passes are \$40. Passes will be available during normal business hours at the following locations through March 1, 2018:

Tax Collector's Ponte Vedra Office – 5430 Palm Valley Road.

Tax Collector's Main Office – 4030 Lewis Speedway.

Tax Collector's DuPont Center – 6658 US Highway 1 South.

Tax Collector's Julington Creek Office – 725 Flora Branch Blvd.

St. Johns County Beach Services Office – 901 Pope Road.

St. Johns County Ocean and Fishing Pier Gift Shop – 350 A1A Blvd. Residents must present a valid I.D. with a St. Johns County address or present proof of property tax payments in St. Johns County to purchase a resident pass. When requesting a handicap pass, a handicap hang-tag or proof of qualification must be presented. Disabled military are eligible for a free annual pass by presenting military I.D. or a letter from Veterans Affairs verifying 100 percent disabled status.

Vehicles accessing the beach do not need a beach pass until March 1, 2018.

Call the St. Johns County Beach Services Office at (904) 209-0331 for more information about annual beach driving passes, or visit the Reach the Beach Mobile App or www.sjcf.us/Beaches for current beach access updates and beach driving conditions.

Library's Food for Fines program collects items for families in need

With the support of the community, the St. Johns County Public Library System collected 7,527 donated food items for local families in need with its popular Food for Fines initiative.

In its 10th year, 2017's Food for Fines program offered patrons an opportunity to eliminate library fines and stock the Health and Human Services Food Pantry at the same time. Patrons could bring in one non-perishable food item to the library and \$1 of library fines would be waived from their record.

"Our community's generosity is inspiring as we noticed an increase in food donations from patrons who didn't even have fines on their library account," said Library System Director Debra Rhodes Gibson.

Hastings Branch Manager Brad Powell said, "With so many local families still recovering from Hurricanes Matthew and Irma, it was wonderful that the library could help others right before the holidays."

Visit sjcpls.org for more information about this program and other services of the St. Johns County Public Library System.

Your Vote Counts!

By St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

The Supervisor of Elections Office now has a new service available on our website due to a recent law change. This new service is convenient, simple and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Did you know you can now register to vote or makes changes to your voter information online? On Oct. 1, 2017, Florida joined 35 other states and the District of Columbia which also have on-line voter registration available. Register to voteFlorida.gov is mobile friendly and accessible through our website, votesjc.com, by selecting Register to Vote.

To submit a registration online, applicants will need a Florida driver's license or state identification (ID) card and the last four digits of their Social Security Number to complete and submit the voter registration application electronically. Once the individual's identity is verified and the application is deemed complete, a voter information card will be issued by the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Office.

The website has multiple safeguards in place to verify and protect a person's identity and personal information, including a state-of-the-art firewall, data encryption, CAPTCHA boxes, session timeout after inactivity and the use of multi screens. The website requires information that only the person seeking to register or change an existing registration should know. All of this information is verified in real-time in order for a person to complete the application process online. If the information cannot be verified, a person is not able to move forward with submitting the application electronically. Additionally, there is no retention of data within the website because it is securely transmitted to an internal system.

My staff and I are always here to serve you and we will make it easy for you to register and vote. Please call the office at (904) 823-2238 or use our online forms and resources to help you prepare for Election Day.

FYI Contact Numbers

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

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

Ponte Vedra Field Office: (904) 209-2215

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

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

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

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

St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

District 1:
Jimmy Johns, bcc1johns@sjcf.us, (904) 209-0301

District 2:
Jeb Smith, bcc2smith@sjcf.us, (904) 209-0302

District 3:
Paul Waldron, bcc3pwaldron@sjcf.us, (904) 209-0303

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

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

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

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

State of Florida Elected Officials

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

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

Federal Elected Officials

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

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



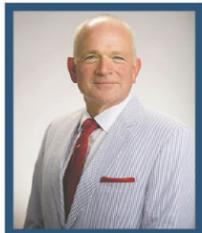
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WWW.SJCPA.US

Or file in person at
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Saint Augustine, FL 32084
904-827-5500

Deadline to file is
March 1, 2018




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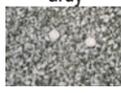
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Q&A with St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer

Q: Based on the time of the year, can you please go over the basic exemptions to ad valorem taxes that are available?

A: First of all, we are presently in the period where homeowners need to file for all exemptions. The deadline for filing is March 1 for the 2018 tax year.

1. Homestead: To qualify for any of the other exemptions, a homeowner must qualify for this one. You must own and live in the property as of Jan. 1 of the tax year and you cannot have homestead benefits in Florida or any other state.
2. Widow/widower: This allows for an exemption of \$500 if you are a widow or widower.
3. Disability: This allows for an exemption of \$500 if you are disabled.
4. Total Civilian Disability: If you are totally disabled, you pay no ad valorem taxes (subject to a maximum gross income requirement.)
5. Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran: This allows for complete exemption of ad valorem taxes with no income restrictions. Also, the surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran receives the same benefit.
6. Combat Related Disability: This exemption is based on a percentage of disability, as certified by the Veterans Administration (VA).
7. Deployed Military: Since our area is the headquarters for the Florida National Guard, we have some deployed service members taking advantage of this exemption, which allows for the exemption of ad valorem taxes for the portion of the year that they are deployed.
8. Totally and Permanently Disabled First Responders: This is a new exemption for 2018 and exempts these people from all ad valorem taxes. The caveat is that they must have been a Florida resident at the time they became disabled.
9. Senior: If you are over the age of 65 and have an adjusted gross income of less than \$28,841 (this amount is subject to change), you will receive a \$500 exemption. If you meet these requirements and if your house has qualified for homestead exemption for 25 years or more, then you receive a complete exemption.

Q: How should people apply for these exemptions?

A: We have streamlined the process. All you need for homestead exemption is a valid Florida driver's license showing the address of the property. Other exemptions require additional documents, which can be found on our website. Applications can be made online at www.sjcpa.us or in our office at 4030 Lewis Speedway. Of course, if you have any questions about qualifying, please call our office at (904) 827-5500.

Q: We are also in the time period to pay 2017 taxes. What is the latest date they may be paid without penalty?

A: We have passed the first and largest discount period of Nov. 30. The discount gets smaller each month, ending with Dec. 30, 2017, Jan. 31, 2018, Feb. 28, 2018 and finally, March 31, 2018 is the last day to pay 2017 taxes.

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

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

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

Q: What can you tell us about the pilot program with Motivational Coaches of America?

A: We have entered into a pilot program where this group will provide licensed therapists to provide mental health counseling to identified students in a total of five middle schools and high schools in St. Johns County. Feedback from other school districts who have used this service has been excellent and we are excited to offer this at no cost to the school district, since the company works with insurance companies for payment. Basically the counselors will meet with students between January and June of this year on an ongoing basis. They become a part of the school culture. After the pilot program, we will take time to reassess and determine if we want to move forward and add additional schools; at this time the only northern St. Johns County School included is Fruit Cove Middle School.

Q: Can you give more information on the Collegiate High School Program offered by St. Johns River State College?

A: This is a new option that will be available next year at all high schools, where a specific track will allow students to earn their Associate of Arts degree while still in high school. This doesn't eliminate dual enrollment, which will remain in place; this program focuses more on General Education requirements than electives for the AA. Students are required to have a 3.0 unweighted GPA. Information sessions will be held on Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. at Nease; on Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. at Pedro Menendez; and on Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. at Creekside. Interested ninth graders must attend one of these sessions.

Q: Is it almost time for Programs of Choice applications?

A: Following the High School Showcase in January, Academy Nights will be held at the various high schools in late January and early February. Applications for Programs of Choice will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Feb. 8. Visit the Career Academies website, <http://academies.stjohns.k12.fl.us/registration/>, for all the details.

Q: Do you have any other district news to share?

A: We are now in the Florida Legislative Session. The Florida Association of School Administrators had its advocacy dates in January and our school board members will be in Tallahassee Feb. 7, 8, and 9. If people are at all interested in keeping up with our district's legislative priorities, they should check with Beth Sweeny, Coordinator of Government Relations for the school district, (Beth.Sweeny@stjohns.k12.fl.us) to determine the best way to advocate. Parents' voices are very powerful in addition to the roles that School Board Member Bev Slough, Beth Sweeny and I take on behalf of the district.

Q: Do you have any good news from Ponte Vedra area schools?

A: First, I would like to congratulate Tiffany Cantwell, who was recently recognized as the county's Assistant Principal of the Year. She will be the new principal of Ocean Palms Elementary. Also, the week of Jan. 22 will be Celebrate Literacy Week. District 4 schools plan to celebrate in numerous ways and Florida First Lady Ann Scott is scheduled to read to students at Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley Elementary and Ponte Vedra High School.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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

Nocatee Farmers Market celebrated the season



Photo courtesy Nocatee

The Nocatee community and community guests enjoyed a Winter Festival themed Nocatee Farmers Market on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017. The annual Winter Festival market featured special holiday performances by the Ramona Quimby Band, visits with Santa, a petting zoo, bounce houses and crafts. The festive and beautiful day at Nocatee was filled with warm Florida sunshine, shopping, entertainment and crafts.

MarketInsight



Why should I invest in the stock market?

Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

Over the years, people have frequently asked me this question. I have also heard them tell me a lot of reasons that they should not — too much risk, it is rigged, not enough money, they have lost in the past, or my favorites: they are scared of the economy, climate, the President or some foreign power. Interestingly, those last four fears change over the years. It was not always the same President, same foreign power or even the same climate issue that had would-be investors in a debilitating panic.

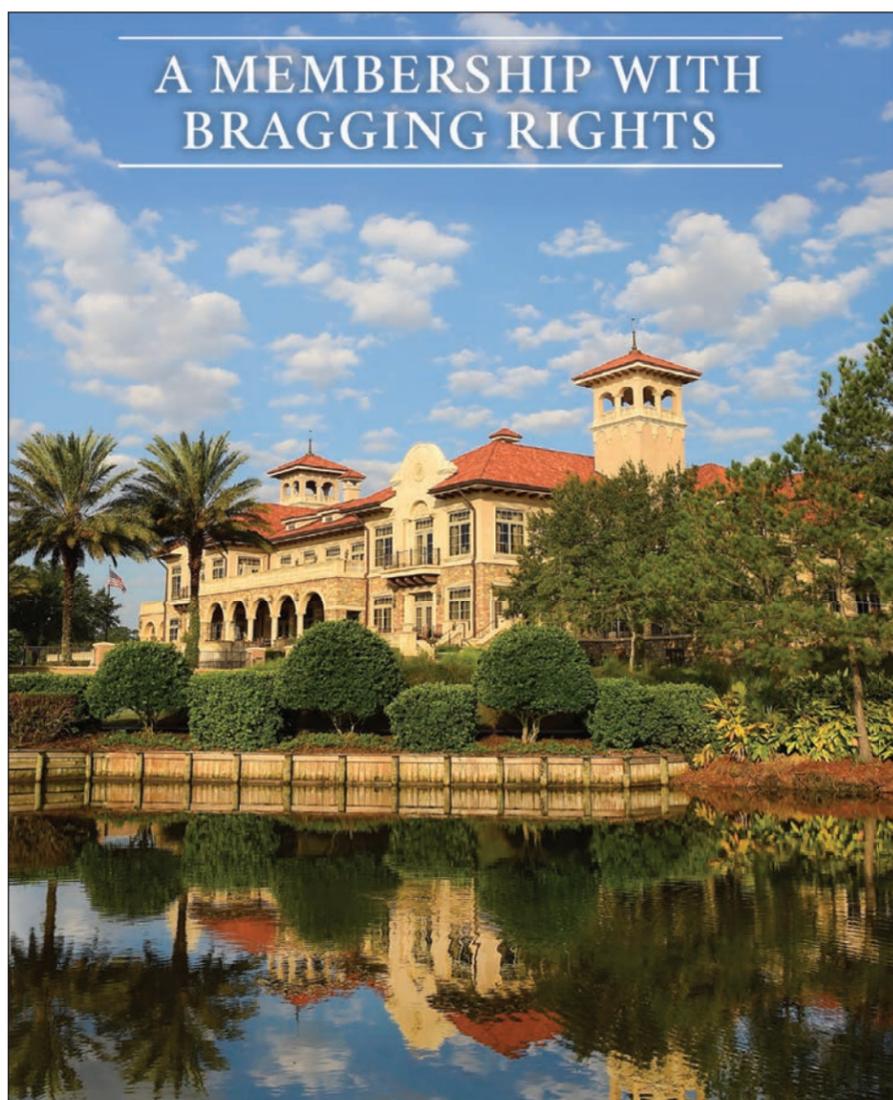
So, let me tell you now why you should invest. First, let's start with a basic concept: "The value of an investment is what it pays you." This is the first thing they teach you in finance class. It is a pretty simple concept really; any investment can be valued based on how much income it pays its owner. For instance, a commercial property might be worth 10 times its annual rent. Therefore, a strip mall with annual rental income of \$200,000 per year is worth \$2,000,000. The 10 multiplier is called the Gross Rental Multiplier and it varies over time and by area. Obviously, there are other factors. As any Realtor will tell you, location is so important that they mention it thrice.

Other assets can be valued the same way. Suppose you owned a pizzeria and you wanted to sell it. You would want to know how much your business is worth. Once again, you would use a multiplier. For argument, let's just say that you sell \$1,000,000 worth of pizza and pasta. If we assume the multiplier is two-times revenue, your pizzeria is worth \$2,000,000 plus the value of the fixtures. A second way to value would be to multiply the actual earnings. Any business can be valued this way, from a pizzeria or a dry cleaner to a major corporation like Microsoft or Apple.

Both Microsoft and Apple pay a dividend. Many of the big-name corporations you have heard of pay a cash dividend to every shareholder. United States companies usually pay that dividend quarterly. So, if you owned 100 shares of Microsoft, then last quarter they would have sent you a check for \$42. Now that might sound like a small amount of money, but there is a trick. The amount of money you get every quarter tends to go up over time. Ten years ago, the same shares would have paid you only \$11. It is this growth in income that makes stocks so attractive. Stocks go up in value because they represent ownership in an underlying business with growing revenues and earnings. We often value those stocks based on an earnings multiplier called the price/earnings ratio. But, in the end, it is not the earnings growth we want as much as the potential increase in dividends that those larger earnings will afford. Remember, "the value of an investment is what it pays you."

Obviously, growing revenues and earnings is not a guarantee that a company's price will increase, particularly in the short term. The price-earnings multiplier changes the more or less enthusiastic investors become about the market as a whole or about the prospects of a particular company.

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



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This 'n That

By Mims Cushing
mail@floridanewslines.com

IKEA has landed and Jacksonville is all over it

By the time you read this, IKEA will have been open for a couple of months. The 10-foot high signage went up on Aug. 18 of last year. Hundreds of permanent employees and part timers were hired to work in its 290,000 square foot building.

Did you break out your comfy shoes and wait in line two days before the opening, Nov. 8, 2017? Did people bring sleeping bags and sleep in the parking lot to be early in line for the opening?

You may not need or want major furniture, but the store sells different and unusual kitchen utensils and storage items for closets and drawers. With its 50 decorated rooms, don't be surprised if IKEA jogs your creative mind and lures you into changing your living space. Here's my own little IKEA story which took place at another of the 46

IKEA stores in the U.S. a few years ago:

Many months before my oldest granddaughter went off to college, my daughter and family made a trek to the Connecticut IKEA, which is like a mini vacation for the three girls because they usually return home with something cool for their bedrooms: a framed photograph of a city, a pot of fake flowers, maybe a jazzy throw rug, or even a snazzy garbage pail. Today's mission: to get the "middle bear," Kallie, a badly needed dresser. After an hour, they agreed on the perfect, classic one and, after picking up a few more things, headed home. They could have had an IKEA assembler come and put it together (the husband was drooling over that idea) but the wife decided the husband could do it. Wife had forgotten the hideous time when the husband tried to put together a crib so many years ago.

The gigantic box of disassembled dresser made it up the stairs to Kallie's room. The husband pried open the box — no small task — and started dumping screws, nails, handles, and other bafflements on the floor.

He went to work and in one hour he steamrolled down the stairs saying, "Good God! This thing is a nightmare." And plopped himself on a couch to read the paper.

Mackenzie, in high school at the time, said, "Let me give it a try, Dad."

And so, try she did. Spreading out all the various bits and pieces and slabs of wood she made a stab at the directions. She twisted and turned the pieces of her sister's dresser-to-be as though she were dealing with a huge jigsaw puzzle. She paid close attention to the little images of men on the direction sheets, inserting this, and nesting that, screwing in that over there, and pounding in this over here, and after three hours she was done.

She went downstairs and said, "Dad, I did it. Come see."

After the news got around the neighborhood, people called to ask if she could put together baby cribs and end tables, which she considered doing.

Dad is thinking of having some business cards made up with her name and "Furniture Midwife" on it. Mom lobbied for her to finish up her homework. Mom won.

Good for IKEA for planting a nest here in our town. It's bound to be a hit, and make us shed what can't qualify as shabby chic in our home any more.

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Get to Know . . .

Elizabeth Panduro

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Avid runner Elizabeth Panduro and her husband Adrian Panduro moved to Nocatee from Kentucky in October 2016. Although she was born and raised in New Jersey, she followed in her older brother's footsteps and matriculated at the University of Kentucky after visiting him and becoming enamored with the area. After she earned her bachelor's degree in psychology, she continued on to the University of Louisville, where she attended law school and earned her juris doctorate.

Panduro met her husband after mutual friends set them up.

"It took about a year and a half of convincing for us to give in and meet each other," she said. "But we finally did and were married in 2015."

The Panduros recently returned from a trip to Iceland, where they celebrated their second wedding anniversary. Elizabeth Panduro admits to not being much of a traveler, but says the beauty of Iceland, including ice caves and geothermal pools, might change her mind and lead to more trips.

The couple has two dogs: a lab named Blue and a Boston terrier named Bitsy, who "runs the house."

1) How did you come to live in Nocatee?

Adrian took a job with Florida Blue. He is in health care analytics and this was a great opportunity for him. I had always wanted to practice law in Florida. Nocatee is located between where both of our extended families lived at the time, so it seemed like a convenient location.

2) What do you like most about living in Nocatee?

We are both runners and both love the outdoors, so this is a perfect fit. I run about 30 miles a week and find it very therapeutic to leave my phone at home and just be outside. Plus, you can't beat the proximity to the beach yet still live in a well designed community.

3) What is your area of specialty with your legal practice?

My specialty is estate planning and probate. I'm a big planner, so I enjoy helping people plan to take care of their families. I'd like to be someone that people feel comfortable calling for advice. Estate planning is for everybody. I think the biggest misconception is that you only have to estate plan if you have

a lot of money — and nothing could be further from the truth.

4) Where do you see yourself in five years?

I see myself still living in Nocatee and practicing law. I'd like to meet more community members and grow with Nocatee. Our neighborhood is so friendly and we don't want to live anywhere else.

5) If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Pizza! Just cheese pizza. Or maybe soft serve vanilla ice cream. You can't go wrong with either of them.



Photo courtesy Elizabeth Panduro
Elizabeth Panduro with husband Adrian.

SOUPer Bowl cont. from pg. 1

the 65 hours between lunch at school on Friday and the start of school on Monday.

The consequences of hunger in schools range from the inability to concentrate to poor academic performance. Extensive studies have shown that grades are better, and morale higher, when students do not have to worry about an empty belly.

"Hunger should not be a worry or challenge for today's youth," says Kimberly Ward, Managing Director, First Coast Blessings in a Backpack. "It is important that, as a community, we do everything we can to feed them. I have seen the direct and powerful impact that this program has on the students, as well as the families and school as a whole."

The hope that no child in St. Johns County should go hungry has been the driving force behind the SOUPer Bowl event. Nease students have been packing food for school children at Webster Elementary for more than seven years in the only student-led and organized program in the area; however, about two years ago, matters came to a head when it was discovered that the available funding would be insufficient to feed the rising numbers of students in need at Webster Elementary.

Accordingly, the SOUPer Bowl event was envisioned and implemented by a group of parents, students and administration at Nease to cover the deficit. More than 100 students now combine talents from the Hospitality & Tourism, Digital Design, International Baccalaureate and Television Production academies at Nease to tackle hunger in the county schools. The event has successfully raised more than \$60,000 for Blessings in the last two years.

Tickets for the event are \$25 per person. Both ticket purchases and donations are accepted and can be made on the website or Facebook page. Business sponsorships are still available by contacting info@studentstacklehunger.org

Visit www.StudentsTackleHunger.org for tickets, information and participating restaurants.

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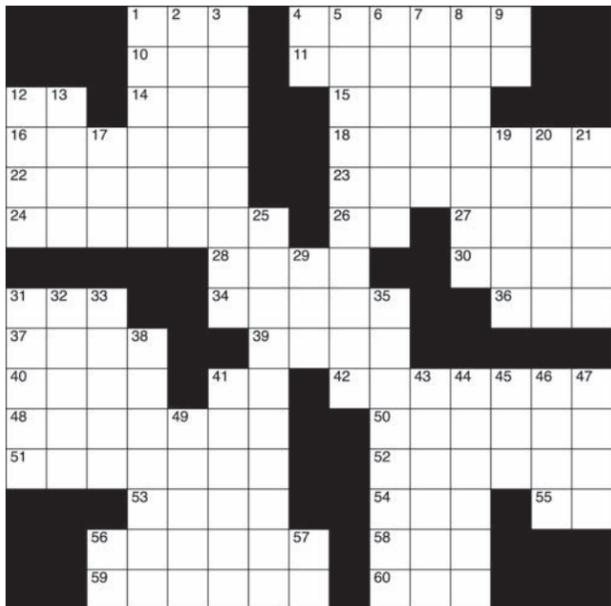


*Source: CVC audit 2015

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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 2
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Plural of be
4. Dress
10. Nothing
11. Relating to apes
12. They protect and serve
14. Swindle
15. Show's partner
16. Lift
18. Raise up
22. Do something to an excessive degree
23. Occupies
24. Power-driven aircraft
26. Indicates position
27. Matchstick games
28. This and ___
30. No longer here
31. Health insurance
34. Spore-producing receptacle on fern frond

CLUES DOWN

1. Enrages
2. Capital of Saudi Arabia
3. Uses in an unfair way
4. Cesium
5. Written works
6. Breakfast item
7. Found in showers
8. A way of fractioning
9. Unit of measurement
12. Sailboat
13. Indian goddess
17. For each
19. Farewell
20. Ethnic group of Sierra Leone
21. German industrial city
25. Measures intensity of light
29. Small, faint constellation
31. Promotes enthusiastically
32. Malaysian inhabitant
33. Ancient units of measurement
35. An unspecified period
38. Frame house with up to three stories
41. Lassie is one
43. Martinis have them
44. Rant
45. Famed journalist Tarbell
46. Opening
47. Round Dutch cheese
49. Archaic form of do
56. Once more
57. Registered nurse

36. Monetary unit
37. Sweet potatoes
39. Tropical Asian plant
40. Guilty or not guilty
41. Carbon dioxide
42. Able to arouse intense feeling
48. Earl's jurisdiction
50. Omitted
51. Heartbeat
52. Albania capital
53. Fashion accessory
54. Interaction value analysis
55. Symbol of exclusive ownership
56. More promising
58. ___ student, learns healing
59. Nonresident doctor
60. Midway between east and southeast

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to birds.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 17 = i)

A. 1 17 8 9 21
Clue: Feathered limbs

B. 14 25 18 2
Clue: On bird's face

C. 11 23 17 9 3 10
Clue: Process of flying

D. 21 24 18 6
Clue: Coast in air

ORNITHOLOGY WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

ABDOMEN
ABIOTIC
ACCLIMATION
AERODYNAMIC
AFTERFEATHER
AIR
ALBUMEN
BEND
BICONICAL
BILL
BIODIVERSITY
BIPEDAL
BIRDS
BLIND
BREAST
BROOD
CACHING
CALAMUS
CAMBER
CARRION
CLUTCH
DIURNAL
DIVE
DORSAL
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Meet Ocean of Sound drum major *Ryker Jett*

By Jesse Hagy
mail@floridanewslines.com



Photo courtesy Caitlyn Ortiguera
Ponte Vedra High School Ocean of Sound drum major Ryker Jett.

Ponte Vedra High School senior Ryker Jett leaves the football field dripping sweat under his heavy uniform, but feeling good about his leading his team to success. Before he ever stepped foot on the field for the first football game of the fall he had put in many hours of hard work in the sweltering Florida heat.

times dance moves that are performed in sync with the other members of the band.

Most people know and expect this of the football team itself, but what about the other competitive team that takes to the field at half time? The members of the marching band spend hours practicing under the blazing Florida sun, and like their football counterparts, they invested a lot of that time into learning to perform as a whole rather than as an individual in order to compete effectively.

Jett has been involved in band since sixth grade and has been a part of the marching band since his freshman year at Ponte Vedra High School. Since his beginnings as a percussionist, he has worked his way up to the top as drum major. It wasn't an easy path. He broke his ankle before his junior year; this was a tremendously difficult obstacle to overcome when marching practice began that summer. Jett feels through his involvement in band he has benefited in many ways.

And compete they do. We all know the marching band plays during the games and performs at halftime, but they also go to tough competitions where they engage in a battle of the marching bands against high schools from across the state.

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“Through band and leadership positions I have learned that it is better to earn respect, than expect it,” he said.

Just as a quarterback leads a football team, so does the drum major lead the band. Jett, one of the Ponte Vedra High School Ocean of Sound's drum majors, is quite like the quarterback of the football team — a leader, a motivator, and one who holds the band together. The members of the marching band not only have to spend hours practicing their instruments, but also have to learn complicated steps and some-

During football season he says it is hard to keep up with both school and marching band. The band would often travel to other high schools, which led to many late nights. The marching band also spends a lot of time practicing after school. At home Jett would practice his technique in the mirror or have his sister, Riley, who is the co-drum major, watch him. He also says that he jokes around with his sister before and during games to help calm his nerves. This year with Jett leading the way, the PVHS marching band placed ninth at the state competition.

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