

# Ponte Vedra NewsLine

JANUARY 2019 Volume 6 Issue 1

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

A Florida NewsLine Publication



*new contest*  
page 3  
BFF Best Furry Friend



page 5  
Take Five



page 11  
Get To Know...  
Peggy Campbell-Rush



page 12  
Puzzles

## Meet new St. Johns County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

Recently elected St. Johns County Commissioner for District 4, Jeremiah Blocker, has attended two Board of County Commissioners meetings and is endeavoring to learn as quickly as he can.

"I was sworn in on Nov. 20 and just had my second meeting on Dec. 4," Blocker said. "I think it's important to take the time to learn the lay of the land."



Photo courtesy Jeremiah Blocker  
The Blocker family.

Blocker said he and wife Lauren made the conscious decision to move to St. Johns County from Jacksonville because they wanted to start a family and find a great community, and then would find jobs. They settled in Nocatee shortly after they were married in 2010 and now have two children under the age of three.

Despite loving St. Johns County, Blocker said he and his wife felt that though the area has great potential, there are some important challenges.

**Jeremiah Blocker** cont. on pg. 9



Photos courtesy Nease High School  
SOUPer Bowl IV is primarily a soup tasting event.

Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, will mark the return of the SOUPer Bowl at Nease High School for the fourth consecutive year. The event, which runs from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., will be graced by some of the finest chefs on the First Coast, who will join forces to offer their signature creations in an evening guaranteed to delight the taste buds.

Primarily a soup-tasting event, the SOUPer Bowl is planned, organized and hosted by the Nease students with two goals: to raise funds needed to run the Blessings in a Backpack program in St. Johns County schools and to create more widespread awareness about student hunger in our community.

Blessings in a Backpack is a program for students on free and reduced-price lunches in school who are dependent on school meals for nutrition during the week. Many 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 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," said Kimberly Ward, executive director of 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



Patrons enjoy soup at a previous SOUPer Bowl.



SOUPer Bowl IV will be held at Nease High School, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2019.

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 eight years in the only student-led and organized program in the area; however, four and a half years ago, it was discovered available

## SOUPer Bowl IV aims to combat hunger

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

funding would be insufficient to feed the rising numbers of students in need at Webster Elementary, which included more than 200 children on a waiting list.

As a result of the needs of these children, the SOUPer Bowl event was envisioned and implemented by a group of parents, students and administration at Nease to raise the necessary funds to cover the deficit. Today, more than one hundred Nease students combine talents from the Hospitality and Tourism, Digital Design, International Baccalaureate and Television Production academies to tackle hunger in the county schools. The response of participating restaurants has been overwhelming.

Returning this year will be Sawgrass Country Club, the People's Choice Award winner at the 2018 SOUPer Bowl, as well as steadfast supporters like The Restaurant Medure, The Ice Plant, Trasca & Co., Palm Valley Fish Camp, Fifth Element, Sysco and Publix Cooking Schools. Also participating in the event for the first time will be South Kitchen & Spirits, MAA Kitchen, Treylor Park & Hitch and Fionn MacCools.

Over the past three years, this undertaking has raised more than \$90,000 for First Coast Blessings in a Backpack.

The goal for SOUPer Bowl IV is to raise \$40,000, which will support 400 students for one school year. Seventeen schools in St. Johns County, depend on the program to support their students. The cost to cover a single student is \$100 per year. Tickets for the event are \$25 per person.

To purchase tickets, obtain information or sign up as a participating restaurant, visit [www.StudentsTackleHunger.org](http://www.StudentsTackleHunger.org).

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# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

## Meet Oscar!

**BREED:**  
Morkie

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**  
Loves car rides, going to the park, chasing lizards, riding on the kayak

**FAVORITE TREAT:**  
Blueberry cookie treats or chicken in his Kong

**FAVORITE FRIEND:**  
Me

**HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**  
When I saw this tiny little Morkie for the first time I knew he was my Oscar!



**This month's sponsor:**  
**Nease Animal Hospital**  
10440 US Highway 1 #101  
[www.neaseanimalhospital.com](http://www.neaseanimalhospital.com)

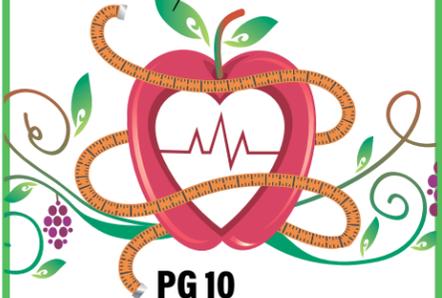
Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answers to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and you could win a Gift Certificate!  
**Does your business cater to pets? Would you like to sponsor our contest?**  
Email [editor@floridanewslines.com](mailto:editor@floridanewslines.com) to enter your pet or sponsor the BFF contest.

## February's Enhanced Section Love & Marriage

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## JANUARY Special Section



**PG 10**

## HEALTH & WELLNESS GUIDE

### Table of Contents

- 4** Around Town
- 6** Q & A with R.J. Larizza
- 6** Inquiring Minds
- 8** This 'n That
- 9** St. Johns Business Monthly
- 13** Community Marketplace
- 15** Saltwater Fishing

## MYSTERY PHOTO



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

Last month's Mystery Photo was Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church.  
Our winner was Megan Lee. Congratulations!

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### Advertisers' Index

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Ackerman Cancer Center.....	6	Ponte Vedra Animal Hospital.....	15
Affordable Water.....	5	River Garden .....	16
Anytime Fitness PV .....	16	Silver Creek.....	2
Baptist Primary Care Nocatee .....	10	Smiles by Glenos.....	4
Bishop Kenny High School .....	5	Tailored Living.....	14
Dan Armstrong, Attorney.....	9	The Right Cleaners.....	13
Donna Mancini Interiors.....	15	Travel Leaders.....	2
Edward Jones - Karsten Jacobson .....	9	United Way of St. Johns.....	11
Encore Decor.....	2	Westminster Woods.....	7
JJ's Liberty Bistro.....	11	Wild Birds Unlimited.....	5
Kitchen Design Cabinets .....	4		

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

# around town

**Feb. 2 - Character Counts! 6 Pillars 6K/3K Run/Walk**

9 a.m.  
Palencia Elementary School, 355 Palencia Village Drive  
Register at [www.racesmith.com/races/Character Counts.html](http://www.racesmith.com/races/Character Counts.html)

**Through Feb. 3 - St. Augustine Nights of Lights**

[www.visitstaugustine.com](http://www.visitstaugustine.com)

**February 14 - Shorebird Walk at Matanzas Inlet with St. Johns County Audubon Society**

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Matanzas Inlet West Parking Lot, 8655 A1A S., St Augustine  
[www.stjohnsaudubon.com](http://www.stjohnsaudubon.com)

**March 2 - 26th annual Chocolate and Beyond, sponsored by RSVP**

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
First Coast Technical college, 2980 Collins Ave., St. Augustine  
[www.rsvpstjohns.com](http://www.rsvpstjohns.com) or (904) 547-3952

save the date!

**Jan. 3**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7**  
7:30 p.m.  
St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse  
(904) 460-0243

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

**Jan. 4**  
**GTM Research Reserve new volunteer orientation**  
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Environmental Education Center, 505 Guana River Road  
(904) 823-4500

**Jan. 8**  
**Newcomers of the Beaches luncheon**  
11 a.m.  
Sawgrass Country Club  
RSVP: [www.newcomersofthebeaches.com](http://www.newcomersofthebeaches.com)

**Jan. 7**  
**Current Events Discussion Group**  
10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)  
New location: Fionn MacCool's Irish Pub, 145 Hilden Road  
[adsilby@yahoo.com](mailto:adsilby@yahoo.com)

**Jan. 10**  
**Shorebird Walk at Matanzas Inlet with St. Johns County Audubon Society**  
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Matanzas Inlet West Parking Lot, 8655 A1A S., St Augustine  
[www.stjohnsaudubon.com](http://www.stjohnsaudubon.com)

**Jan. 7**  
**Beaches Toastmasters Club**  
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Repeating event on Mondays)  
Baptist Hospital Beaches, Wilson Epstein Building  
[cgsml3@yahoo.com](mailto:cgsml3@yahoo.com)

**Jan. 14**  
**Caregiver support meeting**  
12 p.m. - 1 p.m. (repeating event on Mondays)  
Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center, 1048 A1A N.  
(904) 297-0061

**Jan. 8**  
**Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Ponte Vedra Chapter meeting**  
10:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
[pontevedrachaptersdar@aol.com](mailto:pontevedrachaptersdar@aol.com)

**Jan. 14**  
**Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Meeting**  
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Ponte Vedra MSD Offices  
[www.pvmsd.org](http://www.pvmsd.org)

**Jan. 8**  
**Toastmasters Club #5199 Ponte Vedra Beach**

**Jan. 15**  
**St. Johns CARES meeting**  
7 p.m.  
Bartram Academy, 164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1  
[www.stjohnscares.org](http://www.stjohnscares.org)

**Jan. 19**  
**Nocatee Farmers Market**  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Town Center Field, Nocatee

**Jan. 22**  
**Ponte Vedra Woman's Club luncheon meeting featuring Jeanette Tooney, "Growing your Mind"**  
11 a.m.  
JJ's JJ's Liberty Bistro, 330 A1A North  
RSVP: [www.pontevedrawomansclub.com](http://www.pontevedrawomansclub.com)

**Jan. 25**  
**Food Truck Friday**  
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Nocatee's Splash Waterpark

**Jan. 31**  
**SOUPer Bowl to combat hunger**  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Nease High School  
[www.StudentsTackleHunger.org](http://www.StudentsTackleHunger.org)

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# take 5

## “Tree-cycling” program announced for St. Johns County residents

St. Johns County is hosting its annual Christmas “Tree-cycling” Program for those who wish to recycle Christmas trees after the holiday. Residents are encouraged to bring Christmas trees Wednesday, Jan. 2 to Friday, Jan. 4 between 2 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays, Jan. 5 and Jan. 12 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to the following northern St. Johns County locations: Mills Field, 1805 Race Track Road and Cornerstone Park, 1046 A1A North. Artificial trees will not be accepted and trees should be free of decorations and debris. Designated areas and signage will direct participants where to drop off their trees. Call (904) 209-3740 for more information.

## Newcomers of Beaches announce luncheon

The Newcomers of the Beaches invites new members to attend its luncheon on the second Wednesday of each month; this month’s will be held Jan. 9 at the Sawgrass Beach Club, 9795 Summer Pl. This social club consist of a fun and diverse group of women who have recently moved to the beaches and or have gone through a major life event. Those looking for new friends and

interesting activities should visit [www.newcomersofthebeaches.com](http://www.newcomersofthebeaches.com) for more information and to make a reservation for the luncheon.

## Interactive college admissions workshop coming to Ponte Vedra High School

The Ponte Vedra High School PTO will host an interactive college admissions workshop entitled “The Admissions Game” on Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the school’s auditorium. Speaker Peter Van Buskirk, who is the former dean of admissions at Franklin & Marshall College and author of “Winning the College Admission Game,” will present strategies to help families navigate the college admission process as they engage in a simulation during which they are members of an admissions committee and reviewing the applications for four fictional candidates. The program is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required at [RevolutionPrep.com/workshops/22749](http://RevolutionPrep.com/workshops/22749). Contact [pto4pvhs@gmail.com](mailto:pto4pvhs@gmail.com) for more information.

## Character Counts! run/walk registration open

The Character Counts! 6 Pillars 6K/3K Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 9 a.m. at Palencia Elementary School located at 355 Palencia Village Drive. Walkers and runners will enjoy

a course running through the neighborhoods of Kensington and Las Calinas and can choose to participate in the 6K (3.73 miles) or 3K (1.86 miles) distance. Registration fees for the 6K are \$30 until Feb. 1 or \$35 on race day and for the 3K, \$25 until Feb. 1 or \$30 on race day. Race proceeds will support Character Counts! initiatives throughout the St. Johns County School District. Visit [www.racesmith.com/races/CharacterCounts.html](http://www.racesmith.com/races/CharacterCounts.html) to register or for more information.



Photo by NewsLine Staff

## Feline rescue group announces adoption schedule

Love Me True Rescue, located at 5150 Palm Valley Road, #403, provides a home for kittens and cats before they before they find their forever home. Adoptions are held every Saturday between 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. The group is

looking for adult volunteers (aged 18 and older). Contact Peggy Hatfield at [peggyhatfield63@comcast.net](mailto:peggyhatfield63@comcast.net) if you are interested or visit [www.LoveMeTrueRescue.com](http://www.LoveMeTrueRescue.com) for more information.

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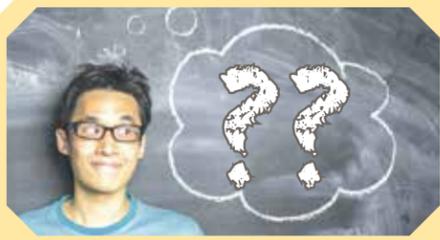
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**SESSION I: 10 A.M. SESSION II: 12 P.M. • RSVP [www.bishopkenny.org](http://www.bishopkenny.org) or 904-398-7545**



## Inquiring Minds want to know!

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

Are you puzzled about something going on in Ponte Vedra or wondering about whatever happened on a topic from a previous issue? Email your question to us at editor@floridanewsline.com by the fifth of the month and we will do our best to track down the information for you.



with State Attorney, 7th Judicial Circuit,  
R.J. Larizza

**Q: What is one of the priorities of your office?**

A: One of the things our office is focusing on is domestic violence. I formed a domestic violence initiative because of the disturbing statistics that I don't believe are limited to the 7th Circuit: one of four murders that we prosecute are domestic related, to include husband/wife, brother/sister, parent/child and boyfriend/girlfriend. The recently sentenced Colley case is an example of how domestic disagreements can escalate to violence quickly.

**Q: What does your domestic violence unit do?**

A: One thing is we are trying to educate prosecutors and law enforcement about the correct way to question domestic violence victims including techniques to interview and explain their options. We offer free training for law enforcement in all four counties in the circuit. I often participate in this along with members of the domestic violence unit. If nothing else, even if we end up not prosecuting, we want victims to get help, whether it is mental health, medical, or housing. We work closely with Betty Griffin House in St. Johns County and keep an open communication with them.

**Q: How difficult is it to prosecute these cases?**

A: Domestic violence cases are very difficult to prosecute. It often depends on whether we have a participating victim (who cooperates with law enforcement and with testimony). But oftentimes, these victims are going through a lot. Sometimes, they truly love the perpetrator or have to depend on them for financial support. It's hard to understand why a spouse would continue to return to a violent partner, but it happens. We try to make the victims feel that we are

not judging them in this regard, but are willing to help.

**Q: Are you able to prosecute if you have a non-participating victim?**

A: Victimless prosecutions are when we don't have the victim's participation to prove the case. This is difficult. We encourage law enforcement to find witnesses, security camera footage or even use their own body cameras to try to get evidence.

**Q: How is your domestic violence unit set up?**

A: The 7th Judicial Circuit covers St. Johns, Flagler, Putnam and Volusia counties. Each has a different number of employees assigned. In St. Johns County, we have two prosecutors who handle all misdemeanors, not just domestic violence. So we are using existing staff. Putnam County, however, has the dubious distinction of being the number one county in the state in number of domestic violence instances, so we have one prosecutor who only handles these cases.

I have requested the Florida Legislature to fund our domestic violence initiative. I'm committing existing resources to it and hope they will fully fund the entire circuit.

**Q: What advice would you give to someone who is suffering from domestic violence?**

A: If someone is a victim of domestic violence, and that can include emotional abuse or controlling behavior as well as physical abuse, I would recommend reaching out to the Betty Griffin Center. They have trained counselors who can help victims make plans to get away and become financially independent. Their 24-hour hotline is (904) 824-1555.



Photo courtesy Nocatee

## Nocatee Farmers Market features animals

The Nocatee Farmers Market: Animal Encounters was held on Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Swim Club Green. There was a petting zoo, local pet shelters doing onsite adoptions, and The Alligator Farm. Plus, Wild Wonders did two interactive animal shows. In addition to this theme, there was shopping from more than 80 vendors, face painting and crafts, bounce houses, and the bar was open.

## Eat, Drink, Shop *Locally*

Ackerman has the missing piece.

Time



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AckermanCancerPuzzle.com

San Jose Blvd. & I-295  
904-257-5205



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

**Q: Can you give us an update on school safety officers?**

A: On the first day back to school after winter break, which will be Jan. 7 for students, the district will add 16 sheriff's resource officers. We will still have the school security officers, so some schools will have both. There will be a total of 31 sheriff's resource officers among our 39 schools, so some will be roving. Every year, we are asked by our legislative delegation for our legislative priorities and this year, I think our message to them is "thank you." We appreciate all we were able to do so quickly to keep our schools safe in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy.

**Q: What is happening of note in District 4?**

A: I have recently attended several events featuring our students that have left me so excited about the future. First was Project Innovation, a Career Academy district competition that encourages students to apply skills developed in their Career Academy programs in new and unique ways to benefit society or the environment. It was on Nov. 15 and the first place team was from the Nease High School Stellar Academy of Engineering, with their project, Agua Engineers, a water collection device that aims to absorb humidity from the air and transform it into potable water for people in third world countries.

Also, the SPARK presentations at Mayo Clinic were held in early December. This is like a science fair with mentoring as students begin in the summer and are paired with doctors from Mayo for projects including cancer research. There were approximately 15 students presenting from Duval and St. Johns counties and several were from Nease and PVHS.

I also attended Rep. John Rutherford's military academy nominations ceremony and the sheer joy, pride and amazement I felt at the talent of these young adults — who are also willing to serve — was remarkable.

**Q: What about STEM for younger students?**

A: The district has partnered with MOSH to provide all fifth graders the

opportunity to participate in a robotics program. This is funded through a federal Title IV program and the local STEM2 hub. The students use math, block coding and scientific standards in applied learning. Did you know that 16 of the St. Johns County elementary schools and K – 8 schools now have robotics clubs?

**Q: Do you have anything else to share?**

A: On Thursday, Dec. 13, we notified the finalists for the St. Johns County Teachers of the Year and Rookies of the Year. Congratulations to Danny Erb (Pedro Menendez High School), Natasha Kohlmann (Otis A. Mason Elementary School), Regan Ashker (Creekside High School), Matt Ostrowsky (Freedom Crossing Academy) and Joy Durst (Bartram Trail High School). The Teacher of the Year Banquet will be held on Jan. 17, 2019 and one of these educators will be named the St. Johns County Teacher of the Year.

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

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



Photo courtesy Lisa Grabeman

**Newcomers volunteer with holiday decorating**

The Newcomers of the Beaches recently volunteered to help with decorating the interior of the Foreman's House at the Beaches Museum History Park.



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Ponte Vedra Field Office: (904) 209-2215

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

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

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

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

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District 2: Jeb Smith, [bcc2jsmith@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc2jsmith@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0302

District 3: Paul Waldron, [bcc3pwaldron@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc3pwaldron@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0303

District 4: Jeremiah Blocker, [bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0304

District 5: Henry Dean, [bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us](mailto:bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us), (904) 209-0305

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

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

**State of Florida Elected Officials**

Governor Ron DeSantis

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

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

**Federal Elected Officials**

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

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





## This 'n That

By Mims Cushing  
mail@floridanewslines.com

### 1966: The \$5 Hot Dog

I was always fascinated with advertisements. Print ads, TV ads ... it didn't matter. While some people use TV ads to take a bathroom break or grab a snack, I used to memorize the jingles.

So when I graduated from college in 1966, I put up with being a bridesmaid in my roommate's wedding in June. All I wanted was a job! I set my sights on Young and Rubicam which, in the '60s, was, I believe, the second biggest ad agency in the world. It was near Grand Central Station — 295 Madison Avenue — so I could easily catch a train to and from Rye, New York, where I would live with my parents. Mother wanted me to hunt for a husband, not a career!

It wasn't hard to get an interview with personnel, which was not called human resources then. I put on my best Peck and Peck A-line dress, and took a train in. I had to get this job!

Back then college graduates could pretty much only hope for a secretarial job there, which was fine with me. The young, beautiful, slender, blonde personnel lady took me into The Typing Room, and told me to start when the bell dinged and stop when the bell dinged again. Off I went. It was just me and the huge manual typewriter in a lonely, grey, stark room.

When I was done, she glanced over my typing test, and said, "Well, I'm sorry but that really isn't good enough." I remember pleading, "Could have another try?"

"I tell you what. Go have lunch, and come back in an hour and try again."

I was ecstatic and took off to a nearby drug store with a lunch counter — was it Liggett's? Rexall? Ordering a hot dog,

I sat there and practiced on my lap: "ASDF ASDF JKL: JKL." I bought a Modern Romances magazine and pretended to type pages of words in the articles. I was going to be late getting back for my second test! I fished a \$5 bill out of my bag, slapped it on the table and fled. I forgot to wait for the change, leaving the five dollar bill behind — a pretty hefty tip for a \$1 hot dog.

The end of the story is that I tried again and did do well enough to work at the company. But the story doesn't end here. I was told there was a job up in research, so up I traipsed and found myself among stacks of musty books, newspapers, and magazines. Well, heck! It wasn't glamorous at all! I was looking for glamour! Holding my stomach in, which Mother told me to do 10 times a day, I had the audacity to traipse down to Personnel and say it wasn't what I had in mind, thereby potentially ruining my chances to work at my dream corporation.

She raised an eyebrow and said, "Well, there IS a job in TV Production." I'd be working with four other secretaries, each of us helping as many as three TV ad producers. We had four days where our lunch break was two hours, so we could go shopping or go to the movies. The fifth day one of us would stay in to answer the phones. And think of it: I'd get paid \$80 a week to do this. A fortune!

Yes, it was my dream job and well worth a \$5 hot dog.

Six months later I married one of the fellows I met in my roommate's wedding (that made mother happy). I only lasted at Young and Rubicam two years because I became pregnant and had all-day morning sickness.

## RiverLife Ministries hosts third annual youth fishing tournament

By Jim Whitley  
mail@floridanewslines.com

RiverLife hosted its third annual youth fishing tournament at Palm Valley Outdoors on Sept. 30, 2018. Twelve boats and 20 teen anglers took to the Intra-coastal in search of redfish primarily, but trout, flounder, sheepshead, and black drum could also put them on the scoreboard.

Some teams chose to fish the early morning low tide, while other teams focused on the afternoon flood tide, and some fished both tides.

There were five winning categories: bait, artificial, fly rod, overall, and largest fish. The total number of legal-sized fish caught were 22 redfish, 11 trout, and four flounder.

Andrew Worman caught a total of six red and four flounder, the largest being a 29" red caught by Worman. Their winnings included two Penn reels and hats from Strike-Zone and \$50 for Ruth's Chris. Worman won a pair of Costa sunglasses from Oyster Creek Outfitters for the largest fish.



Photos courtesy Jim Whitley  
Teen anglers standing and captains kneeling.

The Fly Division was easily won by Wes Davis guiding angler Chris Hofacker. They scored with an amazing four reds of legal size on fly. Both anglers won a personalized signed Redfish print from artist Vaughn Cochran of Blackfly Outfitters, hats from Oyster Creek, and \$50 towards Ruth's Chris.

In addition to the winning categories, other notable catches were angler Topher Wolf nabbing his first red on fly rod, guided by Gabe Lefebvre. We had the first all-girls teams with dad Perry Bechtel guiding his daughter Elizabeth and Isabella Frase. Also, young Jack Heuschkel and his fishing bud Brett Houston, who won big last year, fished in their own boat and although not on the leaderboard this year caught two



Chris Hofacker, a junior at Nease, winner of the fly division with one of his several caught on fly.

The team led by Capt. Matt Chipperfield (Chip's Coastal Charters) had an exceptional day with six reds and eight trout. Angler Eric Tomaszewski landed a monster 25" trout and his personal best red (27") on topwater. Beginner angler Alex De Almeida also had a great day catching five of the total 14 fish. Chipperfield's team won the overall category and the artificial category bagging three full lure boxes from Strike-Zone Fishing and \$100 towards Ruth's Chris steak house.



25" trout caught by Eric Tomaszewski, a junior at Ponte Vedra High School

The team led by Capt. James Dumas (Drum Man Charters) also had a great day winning the bait category and just narrowly winning the largest fish category. Anglers Campbell Parker and

red and one trout. RiverLife Ministries created this tournament to help teens improve their angling skills and provide positive role models for the Ponte Vedra community. To keep tabs on future events look for us on Facebook under RiverLife Youth Fishing Tournament. Tight lines!

## Briefs

### Florida Chamber Music Project wishes Mozart a Happy Birthday

The Florida Chamber Music Project will celebrate Mozart's birthday on Sunday, Jan. 13 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. The Florida Chamber Music Project will perform Mozart's "Divertimento for String Trio" and Dohnanyi's "Serenade for String Trio."

"There's no better way to celebrate Mozart's birthday than to play his monumental string trio," said Susan Pardue, artistic director for the Florida Chamber Music Project. "The Dohnanyi is a wonderful contrast to Mozart with its energy and drive."

Mozart wrote the Divertimento in 1788, the year he completed his last three symphonies. It is his only finished composition for string trio. Mozart was born Jan. 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria and died on Dec. 5, 1791.

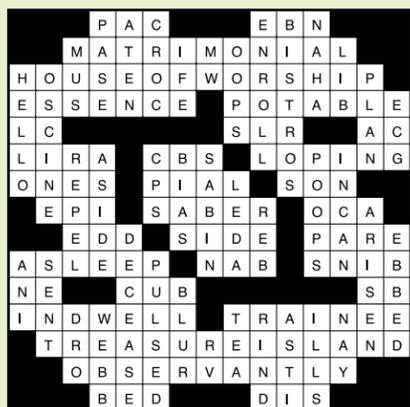
Ernst von Dohnanyi was a Hungarian composer, conductor and pianist. He had ties to North Florida since he taught at Florida State University's School of Music from 1949 to 1959.

Show tickets may be purchased at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Offices,

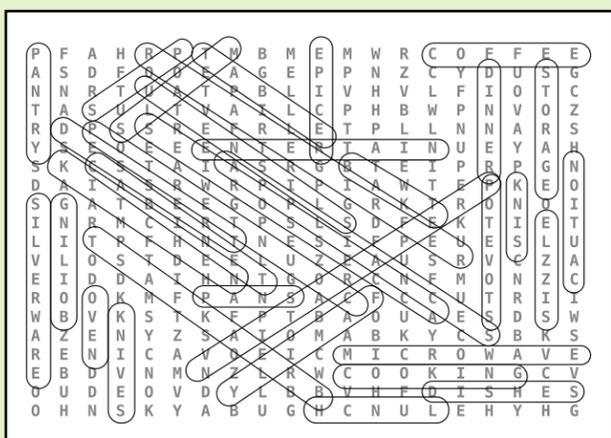
Briefs cont. on pg. 12

Answers to puzzles on page 12

# Answers to our Puzzles



Answers: A. logs B. hearth C. mantle D. flue



# ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

## MarketInsight



### What Would Tiger Do?

By Scott Grant  
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

A Jacksonville legend passed away recently. His name was Rogers Baldwin “Tiger” Holmes. Holmes was a World War II veteran. He served in the Army Air Corps and retired, years later, as a colonel in the Air Force Reserve. Tiger flew planes. He wrote an account of his service entitled “The World’s Greatest Pilot,” something he admitted he was not, although it was his firm aspiration. After the war, Holmes owned a local hardware store. He was very successful.

Tiger is best known for swimming. He is a member of the University of Florida Sports Hall of Fame. He set swimming records throughout a long lifetime. In his 90s, Holmes and three other buddies with a combined age of more than 360 years were still setting records. Tiger loved the water and he was responsible for teaching more than 1,200 Jacksonville youths to swim.

I had the good fortune to interview Tiger earlier this year. His apartment was festooned with pictures of his accomplishments, both in and out of the water, including pictures of himself with five presidents. He told me a bunch of interesting stories, including the story I had come to hear. Tiger was on the beach the night that the U-123 sank the Gulfamerica a few miles off our coast in the spring of 1942. That was the story I wanted, the others were a bonus.

According to Tiger, he was working at the Inn & Club as a Cabana boy on that fateful Friday night in 1942. He was in the locker room, having finished work, when someone came in and announced, “The ocean is on fire.” Of course, they all ran out to

look. When they got there, they found a man in his underwear, obviously a little inebriated. The man was from the North and on his honeymoon. He kept saying how he couldn’t just stand there and watch those poor men dying and not do something. He convinced the boys to help him drag a row boat from the lagoon to the surf. He then paddled out toward the burning wreck.

The ill-fated rescue went awry. His new bride was scared to death and more than a little angry. She consoled herself with room service gin and tonics. When her husband finally came home the next day, he was sunburnt and sore. Five days after the event, the local paper of record identified that man as R. McCollum, a “Winter visitor...with more gallantry than wisdom.” According to the reports, he was rescued 20 miles out to sea after noon of the next day, some 14 or 15 hours after setting out.

I guess that the moral of the story is that when you find yourself in troubled waters, just keep swimming (or rowing if that is the case.) When Gertrude Edlerle was swimming across the English Channel, the waves kicked up. Someone in the chase boat suggested she get out of the water. Her classic response: “What for?” It takes some grit to keep going. The market has turned choppy and many of us might be getting a little seasick. The best advice is to stick to your plan and keep going. I’d like to think that’s what Tiger would do.

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

Jeremiah Blocker cont. from pg. 1

“I prayed about it, and felt it was important for me to step up and try to be a problem solver rather than a complainer,” Blocker said. “I’m not a politician, but I thought maybe we needed someone who wasn’t a politician.”

He said deciding to run for County Commissioner was the “craziest” thing he had ever done, but believed he had the experience and most importantly, the right attitude, to be successful. His wife encouraged him and with her support decided to run.

“I do have concerns as a citizen,” he said. “So I put on my citizen hat and consider the issues and problems, and now I can put on my county commissioner hat and attempt to solve them.”

His top three priorities are safety, to include crime and road safety (overdue infrastructure repairs and improvements); the beach renourishment; and growth.

Regarding the beaches, Blocker said, “Our beaches in St. Johns County are special and affect the entire county. We are unique in that we don’t have a beach renourishment program, so we need to catch up — and try not to burden the taxpayers. We need to try to get state and federal tax dollars.”

He believes growth is a major challenge. “There’s a balance,” he said. “Everyone wants to live in our county, but our citizens are concerned that the growth is too fast. We can’t have ‘no growth,’ but we can scrutinize projects and make sure we are growing at the right time and in the right areas.”

Blocker was born and raised in Ocala, one of five boys and a sixth generation Floridian. He received his undergraduate degree at the University of Florida, where he was also a member of the Army ROTC. He joined the Army Reserves and it was after his first semester of law school that he was deployed as a Company Commander of 200 troops, four platoons, to Iraq. He spent a year there living and working with the Iraqi police. He described it as a tough but necessary and important mission. He came home and returned to law school. Wife, Lauren, is an attorney as well, whom he met at the University of Florida. She clerked for federal judges for five years and presently is in-house counsel for a company in Jacksonville.

After his law school graduation, Jeremiah Blocker worked as a prosecutor, first for the 4th Circuit in Jacksonville and then in the 7th Circuit which includes St. Johns County. In 2015 he went into private practice with some colleagues from the Army and specializes in business and real estate law. Continuing his priority of service, he is also a JAG attorney with the Air Force Reserve.

Faith is important to the Blocker family and they are very involved with their church, St. John Paul II.

“I think one of the great things about St. Johns County is that so many people are involved with volunteering — with their church, synagogue, in schools and in the community,” Blocker said. “It sets us apart from many other places in the state I’ve lived.”

## ST. JOHNS Business Monthly



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# HEALTH & WELLNESS GUIDE

## Nutrition Check: Starting the Year off SMART

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

The start of each New Year is always a bittersweet time in terms of judging our health. At this time, new goals are starting to be made and goals from the previous year are assessed for success or failure. Each year around 41 percent of Americans make New Year resolutions, over half of which set out to lose weight or eat healthier. Yet only 9 percent of those individuals feel that they were successful in achieving their goals. (Statisticbrain.com, 2017). Why is this?

People tend to set goals that are unfeasible in hopes that a wave of motivation will arise with the New Year. Although this is a great concept and shows that individuals want to better themselves, it often leads to disappointment when the high expectations are not met.

SMART goals are an effective goal setting strategy that helps set Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic goals in a Timely manner. For example, a basic goal would be "In 2019, I want to be healthier." This goal is hard to reach because it doesn't define what "being healthier" means to you. Vague goals can become overwhelming and often result in a sense of failure.

A SMART goal style could be either "In January, I want to consume at least two

vegetables each day" or "In 2019, I plan to limit going out to eat to less than twice per week for the next three months." Setting more specific goals sets a more realistic foundation to complete them.

When setting your goal(s), make sure they are meaningful and clear in regard to your desired outcome. This will make achieving your goals more rewarding. More importantly, share your goals with your friends and family. Having social support may be beneficial towards completing your goal, and who knows, maybe one of them will want to join in on the fun.

Lastly, reward yourself! The path to reaching your goals doesn't have to be a miserable one. When you have hit milestones, or are simply feeling accomplished, it's okay to schedule some "you time" or treat yourself to something you've been wanting. This can keep you motivated to set and complete more goals.

Setting SMART New Year's resolutions will ensure that the outcome is more effective and positive.

*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.*



Photos courtesy Marianne McNee

Flight Two winners of the 2018 PLGA Member - Member - 3rd Place - Pat Flynn and Magi Jones; 1st Place - Regina Antretter and Laura Snook; 2nd Place - Penny McCullagh and Sandra Hudson.



Flight One winners of the 2018 PLGA Member - Member - 2nd Place - Anne DeNonna and Karen Benoit (in back); 1st Place - Cynthia Brink and Marianne McNee; 3rd Place - Debbie Davidoff and Molly Feldman.

## The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach Ladies Golf holds Member - Member Tourney

The Plantation Ladies Golf Association (PLGA) held its annual 36 hole Member - Member Tournament, one of the major competitions of the PLGA year, on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at the Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach. Cynthia Brink and Marianne McNee won Flight One while Regina Antretter and Laura Snook captured Flight Two honors.



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# Life

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## Get to Know . . .

*Peggy Campbell-Rush*

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Peggy Campbell-Rush  
Peggy Campbell-Rush

As a lifelong educator, Ponte Vedra Beach resident Peggy Campbell-Rush has touched the lives of thousands of students and teachers, both in the classroom and as an author of seven books. A key leader at the Bolles School, she serves as Head of Lower School at the PVB campus, a Pre-K through fifth grade school with 200 students coming from across the country and beyond. Her Bolles leadership role is a high point of more than 42 years in the profession. She's proud to say that her three children have followed her teaching path.

Prior to arriving at Bolles she was a senior administrator in a unique program sponsored by the University of Virginia called "Semester At Sea." This highly selective, fully accredited experience offers the opportunity for some 700 students, professors, and staff to sail around the world while attending college-level classes on board and hands-on cultural immersion in port. In all, Campbell-Rush travelled to 15 countries and four continents over a four month span. She has lived in, travelled to, and worked in a total of 55 different countries.

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

A: My time at sea helped me clarify where I wanted to go professionally over the next few years. Wanting a change from many years living in New Jersey I cast a wide job search net up and down the east coast. Bolles

responded and flew me to Jacksonville. Mutual attraction was immediately apparent and I was extended an offer of employment within a week. My Florida-based father was thrilled and my husband was supportive of this big move as well. We moved to Ponte Vedra Beach and my husband and I invited my mother to leave the northeast and join us here. Prior to my parents' passing I was so fortunate to enjoy their close companionship and unending support.

**Q: As a career educator with interest in brain/body research what are some teaching techniques you utilize to get the best out of young students?**

A: One learned insight is what is called the "7/70 Rule." Research shows that when a student remains seated after seven minutes brain sharpness declines as much as 70 percent. So after this interval of sit time our Bolles teachers ask students to stand, take deep breaths, and move around. As physical reinforcement I've introduced a number of classroom seating options including rocker chairs and stand up desks.

**Q: Any suggestions for parents of young students to support learning at home?**

A: A few: Boys especially need to physically be on the move, so sitting while doing homework may not be best. Instead try encouraging them to stand

while working, perhaps at the kitchen counter. Also, when talking with your son or daughter, avoid sitting directly across from them; it's better to sit by their side. Lastly, for parents concerned about too much at home screen time, consider limiting it to one hour. Immediately after that hour, interact with them in some sort of fun physical activity such as throwing a ball or running outside. Having a regular fun routine that follows screen time makes it easier for a child to break away from the device.

**Q: Over your career you've inspired countless students and teachers. Has there been anyone in your own life who has inspired you?**

A: I've served under some 35 different administrators/supervisors in the teaching field, and one stands out, a Catholic nun from Ireland. She ran a parochial school in Los Angeles during the time while I was a newbie teacher of third and fourth grade students. She was very thankful for the gifts that each individual teacher brought to the classroom. She would ignore the 5 percent that might be less effective in a teacher and focus on, and compliment them on, the 95 percent that was going right. She was so amazing and encouraging. I've tried to model myself after her.

## Hugs Across the County hosts food drive

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Holly Ross

Hugs Across the County, a local all-volunteer nonprofit organization, hosted a "No Hungry Holidays" food drive for local kids who depend on free school-based breakfast and lunch programs in order to provide these meals over winter break. As early December, Hugs Across the County provided 1029 "No Hungry Holidays" food bags to the neediest students in the county. Hugs delivered food bags to 35 of the 38 schools; two schools had no need and one school had its PTO provide for their students in need. Hugs Across the County works closely with the St. Johns County School District to confidentially identify children in need of assistance and provide them with necessities such as food, shoes, clothing and new school supplies. Visit [stjohnshugs.org](http://stjohnshugs.org), email [info@stjohnshugs.org](mailto:info@stjohnshugs.org) or call (904) 580-4847 for more information.

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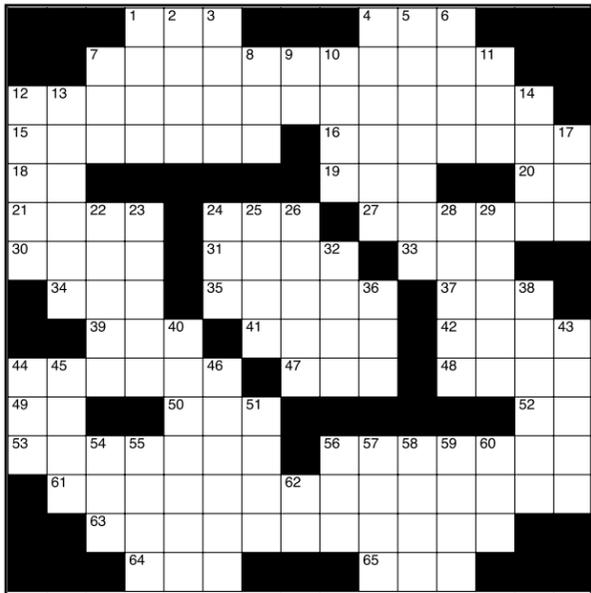
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# Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 8  
Provided by MetroCreative



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Political action committee
- 4. One point north of due east
- 7. Marital
- 12. Religious building
- 15. Intrinsic nature of something
- 16. Safe to drink
- 18. Letter of credit
- 19. Single Lens Reflex
- 20. Keeps you cool in summer
- 21. Monetary unit
- 24. The Eye Network
- 27. Moving with a bounding stride
- 30. Figures
- 31. Of the pia mater
- 33. Male offspring
- 34. Indicates near
- 35. Calvary road
- 37. South American plant
- 39. Doctor of Education

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Bullfighting maneuver
- 2. Egyptian Sun god
- 3. Predatory semiaquatic reptile
- 4. Register formally
- 5. Eating houses
- 6. Japanese port
- 7. Genus of rodents
- 8. Nigerian city
- 9. Milliwatt
- 10. Mistake!
- 11. Women's \_\_ movement
- 12. Greeting
- 13. Songbirds
- 14. An arrangement scheme
- 17. Heartbeat test
- 22. Push back
- 23. Intended for the audience only
- 24. Cycles per second
- 25. Impartiality
- 26. Polio vaccine developer
- 28. Bowel movements
- 29. South American Indian
- 32. Queen of Sparta
- 36. Confederate soldier
- 38. Emerged

- 40. Death
- 43. \_\_ and flowed
- 44. Folk singer DiFranco
- 45. Email folder
- 46. Throbbled rhythmically
- 51. English rockers
- 54. Disaster relief operation
- 55. American model and TV personality Katherine
- 56. Potable
- 57. Tough outer layer
- 58. \_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Troubles
- 60. Negative
- 62. Camper



Solve the code to discover words related to fireplaces.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 9 = e)

- A. 25 22 19 10**  
*Clue: Fuel sources*
- B. 7 9 3 21 18 7**  
*Clue: Floor of fireplace*
- C. 24 3 23 18 25 9**  
*Clue: Fireplace surround*
- D. 5 25 17 9**  
*Clue: Vent or pipe*

## KITCHEN COOK WORD SEARCH

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

**WORDS**

- ACCESSORIES
- APPLIANCES
- BAKE
- BOILING
- BREAKFAST
- CABINET
- CAUTION
- COFFEE
- COOKING
- COUNTERTOP
- DESSERT
- DINNER
- DISHES
- ENTERTAIN
- FAMILY
- KITCHEN
- KNIVES
- LUNCH
- MEALS
- MICROWAVE
- OVEN
- PANS
- PANTRY
- POTS
- PREPARATION
- RECIPE
- REFRIGERATOR
- SILVERWARE
- SINK
- SIZZLE
- STORAGE
- STOVETOP
- TABLE
- UTENSILS

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

## Adopt-A-Shelter-Pet

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Briefs cont. from pg. 8

all Ticketmaster outlets, and by phone at (800) 745-3000. Florida Chamber Music Project was founded five years ago. Violist Susan Pardue serves as the artistic director and joining her are violinists Patrice Evans, Anna Genest and Annie Hertler and cellist Laurie Caseday. All are members of the Jacksonville Symphony. Visit [flchambermusic.org](http://flchambermusic.org) for more information.

**Opportunity for local residents to get back in touch with Jewish roots**

Join Beth El The Beaches Synagogue for its new thought-provoking series "Tell Me Why?" Beth El's membership committee has created this program to help answer questions and solve the mysteries of the Jewish religion.

The "Tell Me Why" series with Rabbi Matuson will run quarterly and will include topics such as "What I thought I knew about Judaism," "The December Dilemma" and "Why are there no vowels in the Torah?"

The first in the series will take place on Jan. 15, 2019 at 7 p.m. and will focus on "What I thought I knew about Judaism. What I used to know and have simply forgotten. What I never knew but was too embarrassed to ask." Seating is limited and reservations are available

by emailing [elissa@bethelbeaches.org](mailto:elissa@bethelbeaches.org) or calling (904) 273-9100.

Call the synagogue office at (904) 273-9100 or visit [bethelbeaches.org](http://bethelbeaches.org) for more information about the current membership campaign.

**Ponte Vedra Woman's Club update**

The holiday general meeting of the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club was held at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club. The Episcobells performed holiday songs and the School for the Deaf and Blind Culinary Program gave an overview of their talents in this area.

Many thanks to the volunteers and participants in the Oh What Fun Sawgrass Christmas Saturday fundraiser. Money was raised for the charities the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club supports. Visit [www.pontevedrawomansclub.com](http://www.pontevedrawomansclub.com) for a list of charities; new members and volunteers are always needed.

The next meeting is Jan. 22 at JJ's Liberty Bistro on 330 A1A North. Sign up at [www.pontevedrawomansclub.com](http://www.pontevedrawomansclub.com) or contact any member to sign up for you. Jeanette Toohey will be the speaker on "Growing Your Mind." All are welcome. Contact [membership@pontevedrawomansclub.com](mailto:membership@pontevedrawomansclub.com) for more information.

Briefs cont. on pg. 13

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Briefs cont. from pg. 12

**Church to break ground in Nocatee**

Crosswater Community Church will break ground on its new worship center in Nocatee on Jan. 6, 2019 from 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. at 211 Davis Park Road. The event will include food trucks, live music, inflatables and games and will be open to the public.

The new building will include a 1,200 seat, state of the art auditorium, new lobby space and full cafe. Construction of the \$7.3 million project is scheduled to begin Jan. 12 with a completion date of February 2020.

Crosswater Community Church, its members and leadership have been working and praying to reach this day.

“Crosswater is extremely excited to continue this amazing journey in serving our community of Nocatee and the Greater Jacksonville Area,” said Jack Millwood, senior pastor.

The new facility was designed by Live Design Architectural Associates and construction will be managed by Johnson and Kreiss Construction and use all local subcontractors.

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

JANUARY 2019				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

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

## School Briefs

### Palm Valley Academy first annual Bobcat Bolt raises \$119,000

Palm Valley Academy students ran their hearts out recently, despite chilly weather and a wet and muddy track. Kindergarten through sixth grade students ran more than 20,678 laps, which is approximately two miles per student and 2,481 miles overall — roughly the distance from the Atlantic Ocean in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. to the Pacific Ocean in Malibu, Calif.

The money raised in the 2018 Bobcat Bolt has been earmarked for a new playground and shade structures as well as a middle school resource room.

The 2018 top earner was Grayson Jones



Photo courtesy Palm Valley Academy

Sixth-graders at Palm Valley Academy bolted through the starting line banner at the first annual Bobcat Bolt.

from Mrs. Giampetro's second-grade class, who earned a Bravoz Entertainment Center Up Package for him and friend. The 2018 top fundraising class was Mrs. Bell's Kindergarten class earning them a VIP class party at Bravoz Entertainment Center.

On Friday, Nov. 16, the Alice B. Landrum Middle School held its annual science fair. More than 100 Landrum students representing 80 projects presented their original scientific research spanning a wide range of topic areas. Categories included Behavioral Science, Life Science, Environmental Science, Physics and Chemistry. Thirty-two projects were awarded prizes.

### Students present projects at Landrum Science Fair



Photo courtesy Alexis Magnano

In the Environmental Science category, second place was awarded to Megan Landis and Alexis Magnano for their study entitled "Big Things Come in Small Packages: Can Nanotechnology Be Used to Clean Our Oceans?"

Eighth graders Ella McCarthy and Lily Darnell's project "Hear the Rainbow" won first prize in the Behavioral 1 Category. For the Behavioral 2 category, Mina Saloni (eighth grade) won first place with her study "Time to Emote: Girls vs. Boys." In the Life Science Category, first place was awarded to Carli Smith (eighth grade) for her study entitled "Is Blue My Dog's Favorite Color?"

Environmental Science winners included Sai Pranati Prakash (eighth grade) who won first place for her study, "The Menace of Microplastics and How to Eliminate It." Sixth grader Foster Keebaugh won first place in the Physics Category for his project "Does Distance Matter: Implications of Inductive Charging Technology to Recharge Implanted Medical Devices." For Chemistry, the final category, eighth graders Emmerly Harrington and Aubrie Ricchini won first place with their study "The Effects of the Concentration of Hydrogen Peroxide on Tea Stained Egg Shells."

Category winners and other selected high-scoring projects will advance to the Regional Science Fair that will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019 at First Coast Technical College in St. Augustine. Winners from this competition could earn the opportunity to compete in the 64th State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida on March 28 – 30 at the Lakeland Center in Lakeland.

## Ponte Vedra Band makes history

By Dawn Roberts  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Ponte Vedra High School Ocean of Sound marching band made history on Nov. 17 with its best finish ever at the FMBC State Championship competition in Tampa. Dazzling the crowd with its 2018 show, "The Mistress of All Evil," the Ocean of Sound was the only band in Northeast Florida to make it to state finals this year, ultimately placing fifth in class 4A.

Preliminaries on Saturday morning featured performances by 89 Florida bands, with only 15 bands (five from each class) progressing to finals at Tropicana

Field later that day. This year was just Ponte Vedra's third year competing at state, having placed ninth in 2017 and 12th in 2016.

"This year was a dream come true for this hard-working bunch of kids, and I'm pretty certain I blacked out for a moment when they announced we had made it to finals," Band Director Jermaine Reynolds said. "I'm so incredibly proud of how much this program has grown in such a short period of time. Our show this year featured some of the toughest music in the competition and we really pushed the kids both physically and as musicians. I promised them it would pay off, and it did."

State competition is the toughest of the year, and the judges are marking against

a very high standard. Taking critiques from each regional competition during the season, the band pushed to perfect the show leading up to FMBC State Championships. The band defended their Grand Champion status at the Golden Eagle Classic and placed second at both the Echoes of Excellence and the First Coast Marching Invitational

regional competitions earlier in the season, while honing the complicated music and visuals in preparation for state.



Photo courtesy Robert Leverock

The Ocean of Sound placed fifth in class 4A at the FMBC State Championship.

Senior and band captain, Hope Headrick,

said, "I was absolutely euphoric at state and so proud of everyone. I can't believe that it was just my freshman year when there were less than 70 of us and we were marching in jeans. We've come a long way and I know all 27 seniors will miss this band family next year."

The Ocean of Sound is comprised of 107 musicians and 13 color guard. In his third year as PVHS Band Director, Reynolds acknowledged that the band's success is not only the result of a lot of hard work by his students, but also the contributions of the parents, his amazing staff, the Band Boosters and the program's generous sponsors. The band's new marching season will begin in July 2019.

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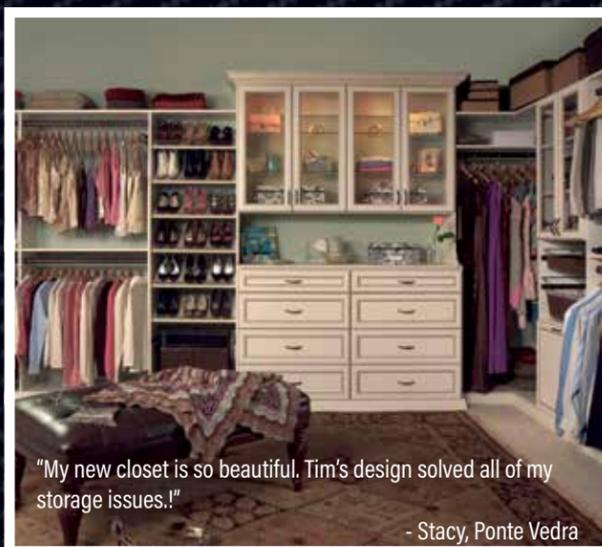
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# Saltwater Fishing

## Northeast Florida's Top Ten Fishing Spots

By Capt. Kirk Waltz  
mail@floridanewline.com

Northeast Florida has been a fishing destination and a well-kept secret for many years for those in the know. Our unique watershed has all the right combinations to produce trophy redfish, kingfish, speckled trout, sheepshead, flounder, black drum, and a host of others. Here are my favorite spots as well as those of other local anglers:

The Mayport Jetties. The local rocks that border our main shipping channel are by coincidence the largest artificial reefs on the

coast for more than 50 miles in either direction. This large rock formation provides a habitat for small fish, crabs, shrimp and crustaceans which in turn are food for hungry predators — any fish going north, south, east or west. Trophy redfish, trout, sheepshead, tarpon, sharks and black drum call this home at some point during the year.

The ICW or Intracoastal Waterway is a large river system that has myriad creeks and flats that adjoin it and can provide unprecedented action for trout, reds, drum, and flounder all during the year.

Hannah Mills/Clapboard Creeks. This creek system is part of the areas Timucuan Preserve and is north of the St. Johns River and runs west of the ICW. This natural ecosystem is a breeding ground for crabs, shrimp, and small fish that in turn provide food for all of our local fish.

Chicopit Bay is north of the ICW at the St Johns River and has an extensive series of flats and shallow creeks. This great locale is host to trophy reds, trout, flounder, and black drum.

Mill Cove. The Cove was once the Tarpon capital of the East Coast and played guest to many a famous angler looking for a trophy. The St. Johns River has been slightly altered to bypass this spot along the River to accommodate the large ships that move up river, but it still continues to be a go to area to catch trophy trout, reds, and flounder. It is a very large shallow area that tends to be warmer during the cooler months and teems with life all throughout the year.

St. Johns River. Our lifeblood for all our waterways from Orlando, where the headwaters are, to the Mayport Jetties is the main reason our fishing is world class. From huge Bull Reds that weigh upwards of 50 lbs. to trophy speckled trout, tarpon, giant black drum — even huge schools of Virginia Croakers inhabit these waters.

The Southeast Hole is an area just south of the Mayport Jetties that starts approximately one mile off the beach, east of the old Sea Turtle Hotel and runs out five miles. Almost like a large bowl, it is a well used area during the summer months to catch kingfish, sharks,

tarpon, bonita, cobia, jack crevalle, and occasionally a sailfish or two.

Red Tops is another inshore summer trolling spot for big sharks, kingfish, jacks, cobia, and bonita. Located east of the red roof of The Ponte Vedra Inn and Club (hence the name), it is another spot easily accessible from the inlet.



Photo courtesy Capt. Kirk Waltz  
Anglers of all ages enjoy fishing.

Ponte Vedra Grounds is located east of the Red Tops outward of 10 to 15 miles and can be a poke from the rocks at Mayport, but can provide excellent opportunities to catch red snapper, grouper, trigger fish, sea bass, kingfish, amberjack, cobia, sailfish, bonita, barracudas and many others from May through December.

The Jacksonville Beach Pier was rebuilt just a few years ago and extends into the ocean right off Jacksonville Beach — a fishing mecca for those wanting to have a quiet day on the water for some tasty whiting, trout, redfish, sheepshead or during the warm month's kingfish cobia and even a shark or two. It has a great shop where you can buy bait or tackle and get tips for what's biting best.

The fishing locally for the next few months should be great. Look for the windows of warm seasonal weather to fire up the sheepshead, trout, redfish, black drum, and ring tailed porgies. It's a great time of the year to target the flats or jetties for some action on light tackle. Small crabs or shrimp will put you into the action as these fish forage during lower tides for a tasty meal. Remember you can't catch 'em from the couch!

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



Photo courtesy Landrum Middle School

## Landrum hosts Remembrance Walk

Landrum Middle School hosted its 10th annual Remembrance Walk on Monday, Nov. 19, presented by the school's I.M.P.A.C.T Team. It was a beautiful day for so many charitable organizations and families as students walked in memory of loved ones, with names written in memory on signs that lined the back fields. Dean Anthony for organized this event and The Donna Foundation, Joshua Frase Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project, Child Cancer Fund and Community Hospice & Palliative Care were part of the special day.

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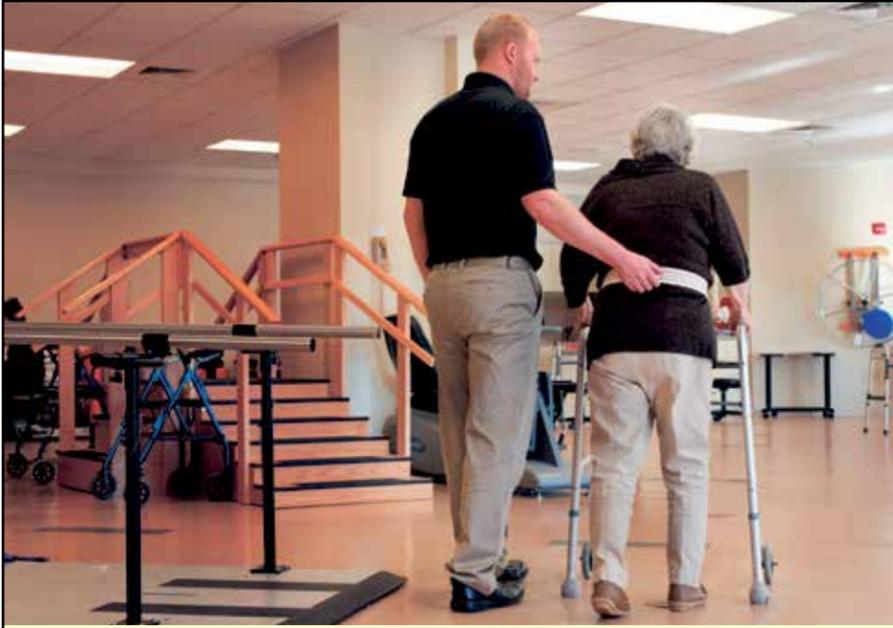
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