

Ponte Vedra NewsLine

NOVEMBER 2019 Volume 6 Issue 11

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

A Florida NewsLine Publication



page 3
BFF Best Furry Friend



page 5
Take Five



page 11
Get To Know ...
Sam Peluso



page 16
Puzzles

Ocean of Sound begins 2019 marching season with strong performances

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

On Saturday, Oct. 5, the Ocean of Sound began its own odyssey when it traveled to Leesburg, Fla. for the Central Florida Marching Arts Invitational and performed its 2019 show, "Odyssey," for the first time in competition.

Despite having a young band (40 freshmen joined this year), the Ocean of Sound's hard work and dedication over the past several months paid off and the band put on a very strong performance.



Photo courtesy Joanna K Aman
The Ocean of Sound performs "Odyssey."

Competing against 12 other bands from around the state, the band won its division and placed second overall for the entire competition, including beating two larger Division 5A schools. Ocean of Sound received both "Superior" and "Best in Class" scores for Visuals, Music, General Effect, Percussion and Color Guard at the Central Florida Marching Arts Invitational, a Florida Marching Band Championship (FMBC) event.

Next, the Ocean of Sound traveled to Fleming Island on Oct. 12 to compete in the Golden Eagle Classic marching band competition. Featuring 18 high school marching bands primarily from

Ocean of Sound cont. on pg. 18

Nease students plan Veterans Day race to benefit K9s for Warriors

By Cassy Fiano-Chesser
mail@floridanewslines.com

Students at Nease High School are launching a fundraiser for wounded warriors that will have a direct impact right here on the First Coast. The Fun Run and 5K for K9s will take place on Nov. 11 — Veterans Day — and raise money and awareness for K9s for Warriors, a local non-profit organization that has grown into the largest provider in the country of service dogs for disabled American veterans. According to one of the student sponsors, Anna Hampton, the race will be run in and around the grounds of Nease High School and will include booths set up from sponsors and K9s for Warriors.

Nease International Baccalaureate (IB) students reached out to K9s for Warriors when they began planning the event, which was perfect for K9s for Warriors: Veterans Day is one of the most significant days of the year for them. The K9s for Warriors program is 100 percent free for veterans, and in addition to a service dog, provides them services for the rest of their lives.

"We provide service dogs for veterans with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs), or military sexual trauma," Elizabeth Reeser, community relations coordinator for K9s for Warriors, said. "We use 90 percent rescued service dogs, so we're actually saving two lives."

The dogs they train are taken from kill shelters to work with veterans, and get a second chance at a new life — just like the veterans they serve.

"We go to places all over Florida, all over the country, and then they're transported to Ponte Vedra to begin their training,"

Reeser said. "We actually just opened a new campus in San Antonio, Texas, and our goal there is to bring in rescue dogs. We won't have any warriors going to that location; we're just bringing the dogs to that location, vetting them, and getting them ready to go to

Ponte Vedra to be there for the warriors."

Dogs are trained to help with issues typical to the veteran community, like anxiety, depression, and hypervigilance.

"They learn to alert their warrior if someone is coming up behind them, so they can go out in public without constantly checking over their shoulder and scanning their surroundings," Reeser said. "Another big thing our service dogs do is be motivating; if you want to lay in bed all day because you're struggling with depression due to your PTSD, you can't, because you have to get up to let your dog out and feed them and take care of them — so that's a motivator. And it's someone that's not ever going to judge you or turn away, so it's kind of a constant companion."

In addition to the emotional support they provide, the service dogs learn several physical commands as well.

"They learn one called 'brace,' where they help a warrior, say, stand up from a chair because they're feeling dizzy because of their TBI; they can brace on their dog so



Photos courtesy Anna Hampton,
Nease students Elkhan Bagirov, Virginia Peery, Anna Hampton, Lindy Gostage, and Taylor Hampson organized the Fun Run and 5K for K9s.



K9s for Warriors is the largest provider in the country of service dogs for disabled American veterans.



Photos courtesy K9s for Warriors
K9s For Warriors trains the dogs and matches them with soldiers.

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FLORIDA NewsLine

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Louis ("LOO-ee")!

BREED:
Standard Poodle

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:
He loves to meet new doggies and their people, playfully torment his older dogmate, Roxie, and considers water a magnet.

FAVORITE TREAT:
A counter surfing score of unintended food

FAVORITE FRIEND:
Kim

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:
Kim looked at him as saw the long black curls and said he looks like King Louis XIV of France.



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

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



Pgs 12-14

Senior NewsLine

Table of Contents

- 4 Around Town
- 6 Q & A with R.J. Larizza
- 6 Q & A with Kelly Barrera
- 7 Q & A with Vicky Oakes
- 7 Q & A with Jeremiah Blocker
- 8 Q & A with Eddie Creamer
- 9 St. Johns Business Monthly
- 10 Briefs
- 17 Community Marketplace

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DECEMBER Ad Deadline is NOVEMBER 19th

MYSTERY PHOTO



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

Last month's Mystery Photo was the VyStar building in Ponte Vedra Beach. Our winner was Ellen Paladino. Congratulations!

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Jeremy Moriarty
Marketing & Sales
904-228-7118 cell
Jeremy@floridanewline.com

Don't miss our first edition!

December Issue deadline November 15th

Advertisers' Index

Ackerman Cancer Center.....7	Quality Eye Care12
Affordable Water.....10	River City Roofing.....4
Anytime Fitness20	River Garden14
Century 21 First Coast.....5	Sea Serpent Tours6
Claude Nolan Cadillac.....2	Silver Creek.....13
Daysi Jacobson Accounting.....9	Smiles By Glenos8
Elder Source.....13	St. Johns County Property Appraiser.....16
Enhance Psych.....15	Starling Senior Living.....12
Fionn MacCools.....15	Stetson Mansion.....18
First Coast Zerorez.....1	Tailored Living.....19
Forever Vets Nocatee.....20	The Right Cleaners16
Future Home Loans.....16	TPC Sawgrass15
Heartillery Group.....10	Travel Leaders.....10
Jax Black Car11	Vicar's Landing14
JJ's Liberty Bistro.....15	Watkins Allergy and Asthma Clinic.....5
K&D Roofing & Construction Co.....11	Westminster St. Augustine.....12
Kenneth Gorman.....7	Wild Birds Unlimited.....16
Millenium Physician Group.....2	your850, LLC6



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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	29	30

around town

Nov. 1
GTM Research Reserve new volunteer orientation
 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 Environmental Education Center, 505 Guana River Road
 (904) 823-4500

Nov. 2
Boating Safely class, US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-04
 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Palm Valley Community Center
 RSVP: (904) 200-9409

Nov. 4
Current Events Discussion Group
 10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 Amenities Annex, 625 Market St., Palencia
 adsilby@yahoo.com
Beaches Toastmasters Club
 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Repeating event on Mondays)
 Baptist Hospital Beaches, Wilson Epstein Building
 cgsm13@yahoo.com

Nov. 5
Palm Valley Farmers Market
 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. (repeating event on Tuesdays)
 Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd.
 www.facebook.com/PalmValleyFarmersMarket/
Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Ponte Vedra Chapter meeting
 10:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 pontevedrachaptersdar@aol.com

Nov. 6
Newcomers Alumnae monthly luncheon featuring guest speaker
 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Marsh Landing Country Club
 RSVP: brookemeister@msn.com
Toastmasters Club #5199 Ponte Vedra Beach

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

Nov. 7
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7
 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse
 pa@mysafeboating.com

Nov. 8
Food Truck Friday
 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 Nocatee's Splash Waterpark

Nov. 8 – 9
Dixie African Violet Society Show and Sale
 Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Lexington Hotel and Conference Center, 1515 Prudential Drive
 www.davs.org

Nov. 9
Family seining
 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
 Guana Dam, 505 Guana River Road
 (904) 823-4500
Beth El's Havdalah service
 6 p.m.
 Mickler's Beach, Ponte Vedra Beach
 (904) 273-9100

Nov. 12
Boutique at Vicar's Landing
 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Vicar's Landing, 1000 Vicar's Landing Way
Navy Band Southeast performance
 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

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

Nov. 12 – Dec. 17
Free Quit Smoking Now Class
 Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Flagler Health+ Wellness Center, 120 Health Park Blvd., St. Augustine
 Call Florida AHEC to register (904) 482-0189

Nov. 13
PVB Division Chamber Before Hours
 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
 Sawgrass Beach Club, 9797 Summer Place, Ponte Vedra Beach
 RSVP: Sjcchamber.com
Newcomers of the Beaches luncheon
 11 a.m. (repeating event, second Wednesday of each month)
 Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Pkwy.
 RSVP: www.newcomersofthebeaches.com

Nov. 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

Nov. 15 – Jan. 15, 2020
Stetson Mansion Holiday Tours
 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 5 p.m. daily except Sunday mornings
 1031 Camphor Lane, Deland
 Reservations required: www.stetsonmansion.com

Nov. 16
Children's Author Symposium (Eileen Erikson, Sharon Goldman, Colleen Hoffman and Krista Keating-Joseph)
 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 Presented by Friends of the Ponte Vedra Library
Nocatee Farmers Market: Shakespeare at the Market
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Town Center Field, Nocatee

Nov. 18
Caregiver support meeting
 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center, 1048 A1A N.
 (904) 297-0061

Nov. 19
St. Johns CARES meeting
 6:30 p.m.
 Celebration Lutheran Church, 810 Roberts Road
 www.stjohnscares.org
Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon featuring line dancing with Phyllis and Jerry Casper
 11 a.m.
 Guy Harvey Resort, 860 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine
 RSVP by Nov. 11: sjaird@comcast.net

Nov. 20
Aging Parent Support Group
 6 p.m.
 First Atlantic Bank building, 100 Corridor Road S., Ste. 280
 Limited space; RSVP to Karen Feliciano, (904) 907-7880
Ponte Vedra Beach Wednesday Book Club: "A Spark of Light" by Jodi Picoult
 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950
Jacksonville Camera Club
 6:45 p.m.
 Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6595 Columbia Park Ct.
 www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com (repeating event, first and third Wednesdays)
Balance, Dizziness and Vertigo Workshop
 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 John Goetze Physical Therapy, 1400 Marsh Landing Pkwy., Ste. 112, Jacksonville Beach
 Register: (904) 280-2001

Nov. 21
Adult Coloring Club
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

Nov. 26
Ponte Vedra Beach Tuesday Book Club: "Secrets of a Charmed Life" by Susan Meissner
 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950
Free Tools to Quit Smoking Class
 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
 Wildflower Healthcare Clinic, 268 Herbert St., St. Augustine
 Call Florida AHEC to register (904) 482-0189

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take 5

Beaches Art Fest returns

The sixth annual Beaches Art Fest, a two-day art extravaganza, will be held on Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 425 Pablo Ave., Jacksonville Beach. Pablo Avenue will transform into an art lover's paradise with nearly 100 outdoor art galleries featuring top-notch artists and craftsmen from Northeast Florida and around the country. This is a juried art and fine craft event where each exhibitor is carefully selected with only the best work being accepted in each category. The Beaches Art Fest is presented by the Beaches Museum and Driftwood, Jacksonville Beach and produced by Holiday Art Shows of St. Augustine. Visit www.TheBeachesArtFest.com for additional information.

Fall into good health by becoming tobacco free

Northeast Florida AHEC will hold a free Tools to Quit Tobacco class at the Wildflower Healthcare Clinic in St. Augustine on Tuesday, Nov. 26, from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Attendees will receive free patches, lozenges, and gum as well as a free quit plan, workbook, water bottle, stress ball and more. Call Northeast Florida AHEC at (904) 482-0189 to register and learn more about classes near you.

Beth El Sisterhood to hold annual Fashion Show

On Thursday, Nov. 14, the Beth El Sisterhood will hold its annual Fashion Show. A'propos Boutique of Ponte Vedra Beach will donate the fashions for this year's runway show and Carla's Shoes will donate fashionable footwear. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and a Prosecco bar will be available at the evening's festivities. The Fashion Show will be held at Beth El The Beaches Synagogue, 288 N. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach. The entrance fee is \$18 in advance or \$20 at the door. In-kind donations will be collected as well for a yet to be named charity. Registration is available at <https://beth-el-fashionshow.eventbrite.com>. This event is open to all. Call (904) 273-9100 for more information.

Lawson Ensemble to perform

The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Library will be presenting The Lawson Ensemble on Tuesday, Nov. 19. The Lawson Ensemble is composed of Nick Curry, cellist (Associate Director of UNF School of Music and Associate Professor of Cello), Aurica Duca, Principal Violin section Jacksonville Symphony and Clinton Dewing first violin section of the Jacksonville

Symphony. D.J. Cheek, principal violist with the Jacksonville Symphony, will be joining them. They will be featuring Mozart, Dissonance Quartet, Beethoven String Quartet opus 59 No 3. They believe in the enduring power of chamber music and the intimacy and beauty it brings to audiences. The concert, to be held at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the concert starts at 6:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 by Dec. 12 and the group will then send them overseas and into the hands of military service members. For more information on how you can donate, visit <http://heartillerygroup.org> or call (781) 680-5553.

Holiday cards needed for soldiers

The Heartillery Group is collecting holiday cards for active duty military members to help spread holiday cheer. The goal is to collect 500,000 cards. Community members should fill out a box of holiday cards and send them to the Heartillery Group, P.O. Box 2827,



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- Sinusitis and more

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Orange Park Office:
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Suite 1
Orange Park, FL 32073

Call to schedule an appointment 904.298.1800

The EVANS TEAM

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Laterra 965 Registry Blvd #212 MLS # 1012593 - \$275,000	St Johns Golf and Country Club 1831 Cross Pointe MLS# 1004150 - \$275,000	St. Augustine 5554 A1A South MLS# 984473 - \$569,000	Cypress Lakes 4604 Legends Ln MLS # 1012717 - \$229,000

Meet Our Team "Providing more than promises, we provide solutions!"

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

Q: What can you tell us about your proposed mental health pilot program?

A: In the next session, I'll be asking the state legislature to approve, for the 7th Circuit, a pilot program to address mental health issues. These are not unique to the 7th Circuit, but exist statewide.

Q: What is some background to explain why such a mental health program is needed?

A: A lot of people who become involved in the criminal justice system have mental health issues and some are the result of co-dependent substance abuse issues. Many times the crimes are misdemeanors with no victims, especially among the homeless or panhandlers — things like disorderly intoxication. Some of these same folks might be arrested as many as 15 times in a year, which requires a lot of manpower. It is a cycle: they are arrested, go to jail for some period of time, are released, and they go and do whatever it was again because they haven't gotten the help they need. Those charged with felonies often are evaluated and get needed treatment as part of their case, but those charged with misdemeanors don't. Part of the challenge is that oftentimes, they don't necessarily want treatment. So we need to leverage something, like the threat of additional jail time, to get them to agree.

Q: So what does the pilot program propose to do?

A: We decided we needed to develop a program to leverage low level offenders and provide them with realistic treatment opportunities — possibly while they are still incarcerated or possibly while in a shelter or other community-based program. In Volusia County, approximately 40 percent of inmates could potentially qualify for this pilot program and I'm sure in St. Johns County a similarly significant percentage of individuals could be helped.

So the mental health pilot program would first identify those incarcerated with mental health issues and then hopefully get funding for a treatment system that would become an integral part of the criminal justice system. Our goal is to get these folks off the streets and into homes and then hopefully employed. We would work with organizations like EPIC Behavioral Services to develop these programs.

Q: So what is the next step?

A: I've spoken to the legislative delegation for the 7th Circuit and the pilot program will be introduced into the next legislative session for the 2020 – 2021 budget year. Funding is always an issue, but we are hopeful.

FYI Contact Numbers

St. Johns County Local Government (www.sjcl.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, sjcpa@sjcpa.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, bcc1jjohns@sjcl.us, (904) 209-0301
District 2: Jeb Smith, bcc2jsmith@sjcl.us, (904) 209-0302
District 3: Paul Waldron, bcc3pwaldron@sjcl.us, (904) 209-0303
District 4: Jeremiah Blocker, bcc4jblocker@sjcl.us, (904) 209-0304
District 5: Henry Dean, bcc5hdean@sjcl.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
Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146

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 Marco Rubio, (202) 224-3041
Senator Rick Scott, (202) 224-5274



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

Q: Can you address the issue of growth, overcrowded schools and new schools?

A: I get questions like this all the time — and as the area continues to grow we get more new people with the same questions. The school district has plans for growth, but we have to respond to growth in areas where we are able. Beyond the financial requirements, the Department of Education has to approve our five year plan and we have to have the number of students available to operate a school. The state legislature has put safeguards such as these in place in response to overbuilding of schools in the 1960s. This is why we can't build all the schools we think we will ever need at one time.

The great thing is we have a superintendent who has first hand knowledge and experience with this kind of growth and our decision process is well thought out.

Q: Do you have an update on the new Nocatee K-8 school MM?

A: We initially thought we would build at the Coastal Oaks site and we were told that the road to the other two school sites would not be open for two years. I give credit to the developer of Nocatee for coming back to us with the offer of the Pine Island site and for putting up the effort and the funds to build the road to it sooner than planned when the Coastal Oaks site didn't work out.

This Pine Island site will allow us to use our existing prototype K-8 school, with modifications for the state's construction caps and safety code updates. This site will best accommodate the growing community with the fewest delays.

Q: When will the school be zoned and when will construction be completed?

A: Zoning decisions will be made in approximately January 2021, before the school opens in fall 2021 for the 2021 – 2022 school year (contingent on

acceptable construction bids). We don't want to make zoning decisions too early and we need to consider the population of students at that time. We will look for the community's input at meetings around this time.

All feedback is heard, evaluated and considered. For example, it was the community's feedback that led to us opening Palm Valley Academy and Freedom Crossing Academy as K-6 schools with additional grades added each year. I'm not sure this will happen this time, but this is the type of suggestion that our staff will consider.

There are links on our school district website with updates on the new schools as well as information for students transitioning to a new school.

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

A: At our school board meeting in early October, we approved a new position, Director of Social and Emotional Learning for the district. Different schools are using different programs that work best for each individual school. This person will oversee all of them to ensure that students are receiving the most impactful social and emotional support. I would expect that by the next issue of Ponte Vedra NewsLine, this position will be filled.

Also, THE PLAYERS, in conjunction with Flagler Health+, committed \$1 million to facilitate youth mental health programming. I'd like to recognize Flagler Health+ and THE PLAYERS for this generous donation.

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.

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

Q: What is the date of your next Ponte Vedra office hours?

A: We will not have any office hours in Ponte Vedra Beach in November due to my out of town schedule, the library's schedule and the Thanksgiving holiday. The next office hours are scheduled for Dec. 20 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

Q: Have you rescheduled the Town Hall meeting addressing beach renourishment yet?

A: Not yet. It's been difficult to get everyone's schedules aligned. With the upcoming end of the year holidays, we will probably re-look at this in January with an early spring target date for the meeting.

Q: Can you explain your reasoning for voting to not require funding of the previously approved Ponte Vedra Beach MSTU for the next phase of the beach renourishment project?

A: I felt this was an equity issue. The county hasn't required other communities to pay for their renourishment, so why require Ponte Vedra Beach to do so? We did not rescind the MSTU, but just did not fund it at this time. Going forward, funding sources will still be needed and we may use it in the future.

Q: What can you tell us about Fire Watch?

A: Especially timely with this month including our observance of Veterans Day, the Board of County Commissioners will vote on joining a multi-county approach to help protect our veterans. Fire Watch will be a newly created regional task force to address veteran suicide. It will try to attract grant funding at the state and local levels to fund veteran suicide prevention programs. I always feel the best way to solve problems is at the local level,

but sometimes it is best to leverage our strength at the regional level.

Q: Can you give an update on your plan to provide special parking spaces for veterans at county buildings?

A: I'm excited to share this. I asked that we set aside one to two spaces at the county administration building and the Health and Human Services building for our veterans as a small way to recognize them and show our appreciation. We have 30,000 – 40,000 combat veterans in St. Johns County, which has a population of about 250,000 — so that is a pretty significant percentage.



Photo courtesy Jeremiah Blocker
There are now parking spaces set aside for veterans at several St. Johns County public buildings.

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

A: Soon, I will be asking the Board of County Commissioners to enhance penalties for clear cutting without a permit. We have processes and people need to follow them or be held accountable. I think recent events provide us the opportunity to address this issue.

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

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



with St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Q: What can you tell us about the Presidential Preference Primary?

A: The 2020 Presidential Preference Primary Election is part of the nominating process in Florida for the United States presidential elections. In the Presidential Preference Primary, voters registered with one of Florida's major political parties (Republican or Democratic) express their preference for the presidential candidate they would like to see representing their party on the General Election ballot in November.

After the Presidential Preference Primary, designated political party delegates from Florida formally nominate the preferred presidential candidate at the respective party's national convention. These national conventions are typically held in July or August. Based on the party rules governing delegate voting procedures, the party decides at the convention which presidential candidate will represent the party on the General Election ballot.

Q: When will we know the candidates' names involved in the Presidential Preference Primary?

A: By Nov. 30, 2019 the political parties must submit their list of presidential candidates to the Secretary of State. Candidates have until Dec. 9, 2019 to withdraw. No later than Dec. 17, 2019,

the Department of State certifies to the Supervisors of Elections the names for the ballot.

Q: When is the Presidential Preference Primary?

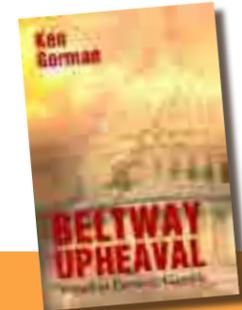
A: Florida's Presidential Preference Primary is on March 17, 2020. The deadline for voters to register to vote or update their party affiliation for the Presidential Preference Primary is Feb. 18, 2020. Eligible voters can vote in the Presidential Preference Primary by mail, by voting early, or by voting at the polls on Election Day.

Q: Who can vote in the Presidential Preference Primary?

A: Florida's Presidential Preference Primary is a closed-primary election. This means that you must be a registered voter with one of Florida's major political parties (Republican or Democratic) in order to be eligible to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary. Non-partisan voters are not eligible to vote in the party primary.

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

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



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Boutique at Vicar's Landing continues to provide scholarship funds for employees

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The highly anticipated annual Boutique at Vicar's Landing will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019. Donations, at attractive prices, bring many buyers in for a great cause. Organized and overseen by volunteer residents and associate members of the continuing care retirement center, the Boutique has helped many young students continue their education.

All funds raised from the sale are distributed as scholarships and grants to the young people who work in the dining room, as aides in the health center and employees who provide services for significant needs. Nearly 200 awards were given after the 2018 event.

Six different venues will be open for shoppers to enjoy: Jewelry, Linens and Things, Holiday, Art, Games and Puzzles, and Treasures. All donations for sale are given by generous members

or associate members of Vicar's Landing and their family members who live locally.

Nearly 150 Vicar's Landing residents and associates give their time freely to work in cashier services, organize, wrap, provide security, and assist customers during the event. Parking will be made available for shoppers in the areas in front of the main building at Vicar's Landing, 1000 Vicar's Landing Way, in Ponte Vedra Beach. Only checks and cash can be used and early arrival is highly recommended. The Boutique event will be open to shoppers from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The community is encouraged to join in on the fun and contribute to continuing the education of hard working young students.



with St. Johns County Property Appraiser
Eddie Creamer

Q: As Veterans Day is approaching, can you please clarify exemptions that apply to veterans and active duty service members?

A: Yes, this is a timely issue and one that we get a lot of questions about. Following are the disabled veterans and active duty exemptions (you must be a resident of Florida for all of them):

- **Disabled Veteran Exemption.** This is the only one you don't need homestead exemption for. This deducts \$5,000 of the taxable value of the property. Requirements: Must be a disabled veteran of 10 percent or more; must be a service related condition; must be honorably discharged and have a letter from the VA defining the degree of disability. This also extends to surviving spouses as long as they were married for at least five years and as long as they don't remarry.

- **Totally and Permanently Disabled Veterans Exemption.** This basically makes a disabled veteran's homestead property 100 percent exempt from ad valorem taxes (they would still have to pay for other fees, if applicable, like CDD fees or garbage/recycling.) Requirements: Must be honorably discharged and have a service related disability with a letter from the VA that defines this. The veteran's disability must be total and permanent and service-related. Also, if they are confined to a wheelchair or legally blind they will qualify. This also extends to a surviving spouse as long as they don't remarry.

- **Seniors Combat Related Disabled Veterans Exemption.** Requirements: Must be 65 years old or older as of Jan. 1 of the tax year; must be honorably discharged; the disability must be not only service connected but combat related. The VA will make a percentage calculation of the disability and that becomes the reduction in the homesteaded property's taxable value. This does not extend to a surviving spouse.

- **Surviving Spouse of Veterans Who Died While on Active Duty Exemption.** This makes homesteaded property totally tax exempt from ad valorem taxes. To be eligible, one must be the

spouse of a veteran who died on active duty and the deceased veteran must have been a permanent resident on Jan. 1 of the year in which they died.

Q: Are there any exemptions for deployed service members?

A: This is probably one of the least known exemptions, but in our area, might be one of the most important:

- **Deployed Service Member Exemption.** It is based on the number of days a servicemember is deployed in a qualified operation (as defined by the State of Florida). The property, which must be homesteaded, is eligible for an exemption equal to the percentage of time of deployment for the following tax year.

Q: Do you have any other tips?

A: There are two other things that are important to understand. Normally in Florida, if you rent your home you are subject to losing your homestead exemption. But if you are on active duty with orders to serve elsewhere, you can rent your home for the amount of time you are deployed as long as you don't get homestead exemption somewhere else. Also, deployed service members may give permission to someone to apply for exemptions on their behalf. This is the only case in which we will accept an application from anyone other than the applicant.

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.



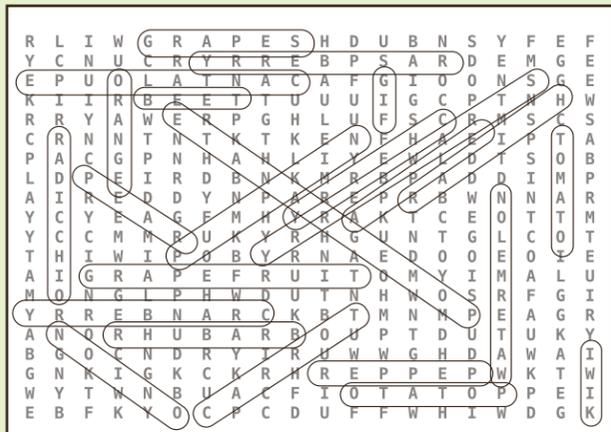
Answers to puzzles on page 16

Answers

to our Puzzles



Answers: A. fruit B. vegetable C. harvest D. produce



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2019 - 2020 St. Johns County School Calendar

November 2019				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

- Teacher Optional Planning
- 8 Teacher Planning (non-student day)
- 2 Teacher Inservice (non-student day)
- Classes Resume
- Student/Teacher Holiday
- End of Quarter
- Days in question

ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

MarketInsight



The Umbrella

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

I like umbrellas. I like the way that they keep me dry and I love the sound that the rain makes as it patters over my head. It is very soothing. I am also aware that, to this day, umbrellas are considered effeminate. They say that Clark Gable destroyed the undershirt when he did not wear one in the film, "It Happened One Night," co-starring Claudette Colbert. The scene from the 1934 film was considered racy at the time. Gable strips off his dress shirt and exposes his bare chest.

Gable epitomized masculinity at the time and his lack of an undershirt "suddenly made all sorts of men realize," according to Geoffrey Beene, "why do I have to wear an undershirt if Clark Gable doesn't wear an undershirt?" The downfall of the men's umbrella can similarly be traced to one man, Neville Chamberlain.

Chamberlain was prime minister of England. In 1938, he flew to visit Hitler at his Wolf's Lair in Berchtesgaden. While he was there, he acquiesced to Hitler's demand for a hunk of Czechoslovakia called the Sudetenland. Hitler, who had already gobbled up Austria, agreed to not ask for anymore. Chamberlain came home in his bowler hat, with an umbrella over his arm and triumphantly announced that he had achieved "peace in our time!" As we all know, the peace claim was premature. "Appeasement" did not work. The Nazis grabbed all of Czechoslovakia and then most of Europe.

After that event, men all over the world and particularly politicians

refused to be seen or photographed carrying an umbrella. President Richard M. Nixon was adamant on the subject. Even today, you will often see someone else holding the umbrella for the president. The umbrella in the hands of a man, a symbol of appeasement in the hands of a prime minister named Neville, became a symbol of weakness.

On the day that John F. Kennedy was shot in Dallas, a man stood in Dealey Plaza as the presidential motorcade passed dressed in a black bowler hat and tails, standing under an open umbrella. Conspiracy theorists call him "Mr. Peanut" and ponder what nefarious purpose his presence portends. The man, Louie Steven Witt, told the police and the FBI that he was there to protest JFK's appeasement of Cuba after the Communist takeover led by Fidel Castro.

He had purposefully dressed like Chamberlain for the event. Kennedy's father, Joseph Kennedy, was ambassador to Great Britain and a supporter of Chamberlain's ill-fated attempt at appeasement. The protest made sense, but the modern eye can easily see the opening of the black umbrella as a signal to would-be assassins.

Diplomacy, umbrellas, and undershirts come off badly in this story. Of course, so does mindless aggression. Perhaps there is an allegory there.

Scott A. Grant is a local author, historian, columnist, and speaker. He is president of Standfast Asset Management in Ponte Vedra Beach. He welcomes your comments or questions at scottg@standfastic.com.

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Not too soon for end-of-year financial moves

By Karsten Jacobson
mail@floridanewsline.com

We've still got a couple of months until 2019 draws to a close, but it's not too early to make some end-of-the-year financial moves. In fact, it may be a good idea to take some of these steps sooner rather than later.

Here are a few suggestions:

- **Boost your 401(k) contributions.** Like many people, you might not usually contribute the maximum amount to your 401(k), which, in 2019 is \$19,000, or \$25,000 if you're 50 or older. Ask your employer if you can increase your 401(k) contributions in 2019, and if you receive a bonus before the year ends, you may be able to use that toward your 401(k), too.

- **Add to your IRA.** You have until April 15, 2020 to contribute to your IRA for the 2019 tax year, but the more you can put in now and over the next few months, the less you'll have to come up with in a hurry at the filing deadline. For 2019, you can put up to \$6,000 in your IRA, or \$7,000 if you're 50 or older.

- **Review your portfolio.** It's always a good idea to review your investment portfolio at least once a year, and now is as good a time as any. But don't make any judgments based solely on your results over the past 10 months. Instead, look carefully at how your portfolio is constructed. Is it still properly diversified, or has it become overweighted in some areas? Does it still fit your risk tolerance, or do you find yourself worrying excessively about short-term price swings? These are the types of factors that might lead you to make some changes, possibly with the help of a

financial professional.

- **Don't forget about your RMDs.** Once you turn 70½, you generally need to start taking withdrawals — the technical term is "required minimum distributions" or RMDs — from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar plan. After the first year in which you take these RMDs, you must take them by the end of each year thereafter. If you don't withdraw at least the minimum amount (calculated based on your age, account balance and other factors) you face a penalty of 50 percent of what you should have taken out — a potential loss of thousands of dollars. So, take your RMDs before Dec. 31. The financial services provider that administers your IRA or 401(k) can help you determine the amount you must withdraw.

- **Think about next year's opportunities.** Can you afford to ratchet up your investments in your retirement plans? If you have children or grandchildren, have you started saving for college? Have you considered ways to protect your financial independence if you ever need some type of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay? If these or other items are on your financial to-do list, start planning now to get them done next year.

Time goes quickly — so don't get left behind without having taken the steps to keep moving toward your financial goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Karsten Jacobson. Email Karsten.Jacobson@edwardjones.com for more information.



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Photo courtesy PGA TOUR

THE PLAYERS and Flagler team up to sponsor youth mental health program

On Sept. 30, THE PLAYERS Executive Director Jared Rice presented \$1 million to the Flagler Health Care Foundation to help fund a youth behavioral and mental health program in St. Johns County Public Schools. This amount was a part of the total \$9.25 million that the 2019 tournament generated for Northeast Florida charities. Rice was joined at Allen D. Nease High School for the announcement by First Lady of Florida Casey DeSantis, Flagler Health+ CEO Jason Barrett, St. Johns County Superintendent of Schools Tim Forson, St. Johns County School Board Chair Kelly Barrera and 2019 tournament chairman Adam Campbell. B.R.A.V.E. — Be Resilient And Voice Emotions — is a program designed to address the mental health stigma that prevents youth from seeking support for themselves and/or their peers experiencing mental distress.

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Briefs

Convenient ways to pay tax bill

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Payment options online include E-checks and credit cards. To pay by E-check, simply have the routing and account numbers for your financial institution on hand. E-checks have a \$1 convenience fee. Payment by credit card is also available online, for a 2.45 percent convenience fee.

Please note the convenience fees are collected by and transmitted to the financial institution that process the transaction; the St. Johns County Tax Collector's office does not retain any portion of the fee.

Anyone who prefers personalized service is welcome to visit any of the Tax Collector's four offices. All locations are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. The St. Augustine main office at 4030 Lewis Speedway is also open until 6 p.m. every Friday.

The Main Office in St. Augustine will be open on Saturday, Nov. 30 from 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Note that the branch offices will not be open on this day. All locations will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

For your added convenience, there is a drop box for payment by check only (do not place cash in the drop box) on the east side of the St. Augustine Main Office location.

Visit www.sjctax.us or call (904) 209-2250 for more information.

Friends of GTM holds another successful Oceanwise event

The Friends of the GTM Reserve held its annual Oceanwise fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 28. This year's celebration was especially meaningful as GTM celebrated its 20th anniversary as a designated National Estuarine Research Reserve.

"The money we raised will help fund GTM's education programs for local youth, research by local and visiting scientists and stewardship of the reserve's unique and precious landscape," said Ellen Leroy-Reed, executive director of Friends of the GTM Reserve.



Photo courtesy Heather Blackwell
Oceanwise fundraiser also celebrated the 20th anniversary of GTM as a designated National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Friends raised more than \$47,000 this year through ticket sales, generous donations, a silent auction and interactive games. As the 10th year hosting Oceanwise, this signature fundraiser has become a staple occasion in the Ponte Vedra and St. Augustine communities. More than 200 guests who attended this sold-out event enjoyed food from local restaurants serving sustainable seafood and other locally-sourced dishes, as well as fine wine and beer. Attendees also enjoyed live music and participated in unique games like migration plinko and flip flop fishing, all while the sun set over the scenic Guana River.

Land donated for K9s For Warriors expansion in Nocatee

K9s For Warriors is expanding in Nocatee. The nationally renowned program is the country's largest provider of service dogs for veterans. K9s For Warriors is dedicated to providing service canines to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and/or trauma as a result of military service post-9/11.

Jed Davis, president of D.D.I., Inc., and Roger O'Steen, founder and chairman of The PARC Group, recently donated an additional 5.5 acres in Nocatee to K9s For Warriors to build the largest canine training center of its kind.

In 2014, the Davis family and The PARC Group donated the land for the organization's current nine-acre training facility. K9s For Warriors serves veterans from around the country by pairing them with service dogs that will assist them in making the transition back into civilian life — and it all happens in the heart of Nocatee.

The training facility will be located in western Nocatee, at the intersection of U.S. Highway 1 and Nocatee Parkway, near Race Track Road. K9s For Warriors has not released a construction timeline yet.

Founded in 2011, K9s For Warriors is a not-for-profit organization committed to providing service dogs to disabled veterans suffering from PTSD as a result of military service. K9s For Warriors trains the dogs and matches them with soldiers who participate in a three-week residential training program to learn how to work with their service dog. Visit www.k9sforwarriors.org for more information.

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Get to Know . . .

Sam Peluso

By Cassy Fiano-Chesser
mail@floridanewsline.com

Born and raised on the Jersey shore just a mile from the ocean, Sam Peluso has embraced life in Ponte Vedra Beach. With a life that includes service in the Navy, a 44-year career in finance, writing his first book, and working on a golf course, Peluso seems to have done it all. He has been married for 51 years to a middle school teacher and has four children. With his life in the military and his job in finance, he lived all over the country before settling in the Jacksonville area, and coming to call Ponte Vedra Beach his permanent home.

Q: What brought you to the First Coast?

A: I worked for Merrill Lynch on Wall Street for 44 years, with 23 of those here in Jacksonville. I was asked by my company to take a position in Merrill's new mortgage department, so I got to thinking about my commute in New Jersey — it was almost two hours door to door. And I commuted by train, by car, by bus, even by ferry boat. I got tired of that, and I got tired of the cold weather, too. So my wife and I decided, I'm going to take this job in Jacksonville. At the time we had two young children, and four total, and we brought the younger two with us, so they grew up in the Ponte Vedra area, going to local schools.

Q: What made you choose to live in Ponte Vedra Beach?

A: Well, I got advice from different people who had lived here, and they said, "Sam, you really want to find

something in Ponte Vedra." And there was a natural attraction to wanting to be close to the ocean. That was our original thought. But more than that, it's the people that we met here, and still meet here. The area is so diverse, it's so welcoming. By diverse, I'm talking about very young families that we enjoy working with and seeing at church, as well as retired people. And when you think about it, the people here in Ponte Vedra are just so friendly, so outgoing and so welcoming. The local clerk at Publix, or the pharmacist at CVS — they all have something nice to say to you, they're all willing to help when you have questions. Those are some of the reasons we thought, "You know what? This Ponte Vedra place is going to be a lot of fun to live in!" We've not looked back since we've been here. We really feel like we're part of the community, and like we're making a contribution.

Q: Was it a big adjustment coming from New Jersey to Jacksonville?

A: The short answer is no. My wife and I are very flexible. I've lived in many different cities, from Cincinnati to Seattle, from Norfolk, Virginia to Vermont. My wife is always willing to try something new. So in terms of getting used to living here as opposed to New York and New Jersey, it really didn't take long at all. It took probably months, not even years. We just loved it. It was kind of like, what's there to get used to? I know other people from New York and New Jersey struggle; they find it boring or too slow, but that was never the case for us.

Q: You've had quite a career after Merrill Lynch. What else do you do?



Photo courtesy Sam Peluso
Sam Peluso

A: I just recently completed a book about my 44 years on Wall Street, including here in Jacksonville, and it's now being published on Amazon. I'm also a part-time employee at TPC Sawgrass. My job is similar to that of a ranger; I keep the golf speed or the golf pace going on the course. I ride around in a golf cart. We get complaints from golfers from around the country and for that matter, around the world, who want to play on a world-class golf course like TPC and want to make sure they can play properly. I do golf myself, which is one of the reasons why I decided to do this. I work with a great group, and get to meet people from all over the country and all over the world.

Q: What are your favorite things about Ponte Vedra?

A: Playing on a world-class golf course, and having it so close. We can drive there in minutes, and just watching some of the best players in the world play. That's one of my favorite things. But another is just watching my family grow and thrive, and enjoy all that Ponte Vedra has to offer, and all the First Coast has to offer. Another of our favorite things is the restaurants we have here. Being from the New York area, and working in New York for over 25 years, I think I know a little about restaurants. I can easily compare some of the restaurants that we've eaten at here to some of the better restaurants in New York City, and I say that with all sincerity. Living here is different, but it's pleasant and enjoyable.

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Senior NewsLine



Caregivers connect using today's technology

By Andrea Spencer
mail@floridanewsline.com

So many caregivers want and need to connect with other caregivers to share stories and seek advice. Yet, this is difficult to do when the responsibilities of caring for their loved one makes it hard to attend a support group. ElderSource has a solution for this dilemma.

Supported by proceeds from A Night with the Stars, ElderSource launched the Virtual Caregiver Support Group in July where caregivers "meet" using today's technology. Using

the internet, smart phones, tablet, iPad, desktop or laptop computers and a video conferencing app, support group members connect face-to-face in real time in the comfort of their homes.



Photo by MetroCreative

"This technology has allowed us to connect in a convenient way," said Alina C. a support group participant. "Surprisingly there's an intimacy that comes from being virtually face-

Technology cont. on pg. 13

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Technology cont. from pg. 12

to-face without the hassle of trying to attend an in-person meeting. It also allows for continued commitment to participate because you don't have to drive anywhere."

The group consists of 10 to 12 participants who meet once a week for 60 to 90 minutes. The sessions are facilitated by a skilled moderator who guides the participants through their conversations. Caregivers need to have internet access, a computer device and the video conferencing app. Participants are given instructions on how to download and use the free app.

"In such a short time, we've had terrific success with the Virtual Support Group," said Louise Starmann, group facilitator and licensed clinical social worker. "The individuals who are participating in the first group are feeling less isolated and so happy to have the chance to bond with other caregivers 'walking the same walk.'"

Pauline A., another group members

said, "I realized, as I reflect, that the group was so important to each other. We build a relationship of caring about the concerns of the other members. You empathize because you understand how each member feels. Providing a listening ear and encouragement goes a long way."

Any caregiver living in northeast Florida can sign up; however, the group is focused on those who feel they cannot leave their loved one to attend a support group but would benefit from participating in one. It is also an ideal resource for working caregivers who are pressed on time outside of the workplace.

The first support group began in July and ElderSource plans to add additional groups based on community interest. For more information on how to participate or to make a referral for the Virtual Caregiver Support Group, email Louise Starmann at louise.starmann@eldersourceinstitute.org or call (904) 391-6699.

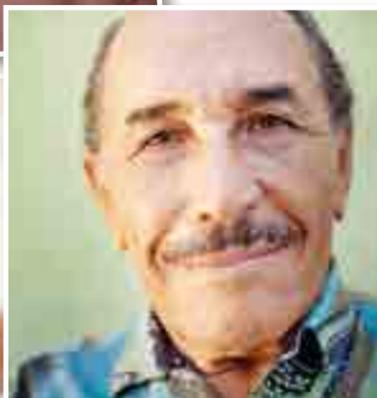


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Senior NewsLine



Daily steps to keep your heart healthy

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Heart disease is a formidable foe. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease accounts for nearly 25 percent of all deaths in the United States each year.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

A healthy heart begins with daily habits that promote long-term heart health.

Issues relating to the heart affect both men and women, and an estimated 15 million adults in the U.S. have coronary heart disease, the most common type of heart disease. And heart disease is not exclusive to the United States, as the Heart Research Institute says that every seven minutes in Canada someone dies from heart disease or stroke.

Such statistics are disconcerting, but they can serve as a wake-up call that compels people to prioritize heart health. Fortunately, heart disease is often preventable and people can employ various strategies to reduce their risk.

- Stop smoking right now. One of the best things to do to protect the heart is to stop smoking. The Heart Foundation indicates that smoking reduces oxygen in the blood and damages blood vessel walls. It also contributes to atherosclerosis, or a narrowing and clogging of the arteries.

- Eat healthy fats. When eating, choose polyunsaturated and unsaturated fats and avoid trans fats as much as possible. Trans fats increase one's risk of developing heart disease by clogging arteries and raising LDL (bad) cholesterol levels. Read food labels before buying anything at the store.

- Keep your mouth clean. Studies show that bacteria in the mouth involved in the development of gum disease can travel to the bloodstream and cause an elevation in C-reactive protein, a marker for blood vessel inflammation. Brush and floss twice daily, and be sure to schedule routine dental cleanings.

- Get adequate shut-eye. Ensuring adequate sleep can improve heart health. One study found that young and middle-aged adults who regularly slept seven hours a night had less calcium in their arteries (a sign of early heart disease) compared to those who slept five hours or less or those who slept nine hours or more.

- Adopt healthy eating habits. Changes to diet, including eating more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein can help you lose and maintain a healthy weight, improve cholesterol levels and reduce blood pressure — leading to a healthier heart.

- Embrace physical activity. Regular moderate exercise is great for the heart. It can occur at the gym, playing with the kids or even taking the stairs at work.

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Landrum entrance is beautified

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Stephanie Cills
Landrum's newly beautified front entrance.

As a new class of sixth graders began attending school in 2018 at Landrum Middle, their parents noticed that the front entrance to the school could use a bit of updating. With a new PTO board, the timing was perfect to entertain a beautification project.

“The makeover idea, and main idea, generated from the PTO and involved what they thought would be a better car drop-off and car pick-up visual experience,” said PTO member Stephanie Cills. “The tiling of the wall behind our Lion mascot, ABL (Alice B. Landrum) was the first thing that came to their minds.”

Cills said one of the school's community partners, Kevin and Karyn Caroll of Coast Luxury Outdoors, generously donated the project's design and materials, including pavers and landscaping.

“The other great piece to this makeover is that the pavers that surround ABL are made up of personalized bricks that

were sold in a fall fundraiser that we had last year at Landrum, called the ‘Landrum Lion Challenge,’” Cills said. “The vision was to ‘build’ ABL's Den with Landrum families’ personalized bricks for years to come.”

The installation of this project began just a few weeks before school started in August and took about a week. The installation included plank tiling on the wall behind the mascot, brick pavers surrounding the mascot, landscaping, new lettering and two planters to enhance ABL.

“We are looking forward to the launch of our fall fundraiser,” Cills said. “The Landrum Lion Challenge will again encompass the selling of personalized bricks, new yard signs and paw prints. We are very excited to launch the fundraiser and to having the Landrum Lion community continue to support their Landrum Pride.”

Fall Fiesta for Arts exceeds expectations

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation for the Arts held its inaugural fundraising event, Fall Fiesta for the Arts, at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Oct. 3. The Foundation exceeded its goal of 70 attendees with 169 tickets sold.

Guests enjoyed dinner from Taco Lu and were entertained by jazz bands from Alice B. Landrum and Palm Valley Academy Middle Schools as well as Allen D. Nease High School.

The evening also offered a silent auction where guests were able to bid on items that were generously donated by



Photos courtesy Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation for the Arts
Guests enjoying the entertainment

the many businesses that support the organization's mission of enhancing the learning experience through art enrichment and educational programs that are designed to spark creative thinking and self expression.

All proceeds from ticket sales and the auction will be used to promote and teach the arts to the public school students in Ponte Vedra.



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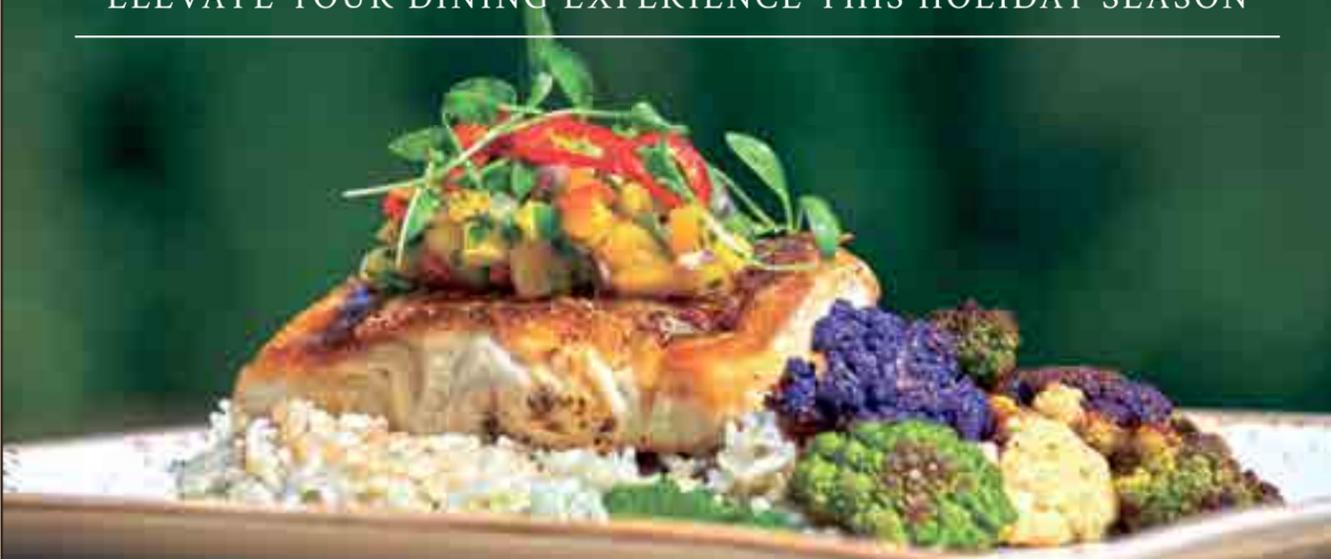
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Salt Water Fishing

North Florida Angling

By Capt. Kirk Waltz
mail@floridanewsline.com

Most temperatures in North Florida this time of the year average around the mid 60s to the low 70s with some days getting even warmer. These warm weather days are commonly referred to as “windows” and give the angler the perfect chance to hop on the water. Here are my top five spots that I think of when the weather gets really nice.

Number one: The Mayport rocks, at the mouth of the St. Johns River, are usually my first choice and my solid go to spot. The rocks have a tendency to hold heat during the day and the fish typically gravitate to that to feed. Redfish, sheepshead, ring-tailed porgies, speckled trout, grey trout, and black drum can be caught in good numbers and with some consistency. Try fishing the clean clear high to low falling tides for the best results using live shrimp, blue crabs, fiddler crabs, and mullet.

Number two: Hannah Mills Creek area just north of Sisters Creek is an excellent creek system with numerous oyster bars, small feeder creeks, and flats that can be a heaven for fish seeking warmer water and food to eat. Reds, trout, and sheepshead are my target species, though I have caught many a black drum there. I love fishing this creek system on the mid tide to the dead low tide.

Number three: The beach access on the south end of Ponte Vedra Beach by the old Gate station is the perfect beach

spot — adjacent to Guana River State Park — and seems to hold an abundance of fish in the small gullies that line the beach. It’s easily accessible by land and requires no boat.

Number four: The Goodby’s Ramp located at the end of Baymeadows Road and San Jose. This is a great go to spot to fish the St. Johns River. Its puts you smack dab next to the Buckman Bridge, which for many years has been an awesome spot to catch trout, reds, flounder, sheepshead, and the ever elusive striped bass.

Number five: The Jacksonville Beach Pier is an awesome spot located right in the middle of the beaches. It has a tackle store where bait is readily available as well as staff to help you should you be just starting out. Any fish traversing the ocean migrating north or south has to come through here; you might catch a redfish, shark, tarpon, or get lucky and bag a nice cobia.

On the report front look, look for the fishing to continue to be really good this month. Good numbers of reds, trout, sheepshead, ringtails, and black drum will be on the big rocks at Mayport. The best action is typically on the high falling tides to low tide. Live shrimp on floats work really well or tip a small ¼ oz. jig with a live shrimp or fiddler. The black drum usually can be found in deeper water using a bottom rig tipped

with a quarter piece of blue crab for bait. Reds can also be effectively targeted using any of these three methods both fishing shallow or deep on the rocks. As the water continues to cool, look for larger numbers of sheepshead to move in. These guys are testy fighters on light tackle and even better table fare when caught. Fiddlers, shrimp and cut blue crab are excellent baits to use with any of the aforementioned methods.

The offshore scene will show big numbers of sea bass moving into shallower waters this month. Look in depths from 55 feet to 75 feet for the larger schools. A bottom rig tipped with fresh squid is a great start, but catch a few grunts and cut them into strip baits. This method will usually garner the bigger sea bass into biting and weed out the smaller fish. Remember to check the regulations for what you can and cannot keep for dinner.

Capt. Kirk Waltz, USCG licensed captain with 21 years of charter experience, 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 Jeff Lageman. For more information call (904) 626-1128 or visit www.Enterprisefishingcharters.com or www.outdoorsshow.com.

Ocean of Sound cont. from pg.1



Photo courtesy Joanna K Aman

northeast Florida, the competition provided the Ocean of Sound an opportunity to observe other marching bands and refine “Odyssey” as they prepare for the biggest test of all, the Florida Marching Band Competition in November. The Ocean of Sound dazzled the crowd and won their class as well as the entire competition. The judges rated the band as superior and best in class in all categories, but band director Jermaine Reynolds was especially proud that the judges’ awarded the Auxiliary a superlative of “Outstanding” for the first time in the band’s history, as well as an “Outstanding” for Percussion.

After leading the Ponte Vedra High School marching band to a historic fifth place finish at the FMBC state championship in 2018, band director Reynolds and his assistants created a complex, modern and exciting show for 2019. Entitled “Odyssey,” the show’s choreography and music are fresh, fun, and engaging and the props are literally out of this world. Sheet metal “worm holes” are lit with LED lights and used as portals between space and time. In addition, the band adopted new show uniforms that reflect the theme of the show.

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Travel

Autumn and apples in Hendersonville, NC

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

Hendersonville, NC, may be overshadowed by its neighbor Asheville, but when it comes to apples, the smaller mountain city shines. Hendersonville ranks as the seventh largest producer of apples in America. Since I adore apples, I accepted an invitation to participate in an agritourism tour.

What exactly is agritourism? By definition: any agriculturally-based operation

or activity that brings visitors to a farm, ranch or other business. So, you'd expect to visit apple orchards, and you'd be right. Families, often multiple generations, come together for outings to the farms.

They enjoy picking apples off the tree or choosing among the numerous varieties on sale. The farms also sell produce and small-batch products like apple butter, apple salsa, applesauce, and yummy bakery items such as fried apple hand pies and apple cider donuts.

At Grandpa's Orchard, visitors can get lost in the cornfield maze or jump around haystacks. The most fun, however, seems to be shooting an apple cannon. Load an apple and fire at a target. The fruit explodes when it hits, bringing lots of laughs. Those hard-to-please teenagers love this activity.

Stepp's Orchards offers three apple cannons (the appeal crosses all ages), tractor rides, and pick your own sunflowers as well as apples. Don't miss their delicious apple slushy.

Orchards aren't the only places on an agritourism tour. Henderson County was recently named an official Ameri-

can Viticultural Area, and their three vineyards are producing surprisingly good wines. Burntshirt Vineyards runs an estate winery, meaning all the grapes used in their wines grow on site. Taste a dry or sweet wine flight or take a complimentary vineyard tour. Drive up to Point Lookout Vineyards and bask in a gorgeous mountain panorama seen from 2,900 feet.



Shooting an apple cannon

More than the typical red and whites, some varieties include plum, vanilla, blackberry, citrus or espresso. In addition to wine, Saint Paul Mountain Vineyards is growing apple trees from Normandy, France, to make a hard cider that tastes much like champagne. Utterly surprising and delicious.

Hard ciders have become very popular and Hendersonville's Bold Rock Cidery offers some of the finest. An incredible 70 tons of apples go through Bold Rock every week, all converted to hard cider and seltzer. Sit back and sample a cider flight and learn about the apples that created them.

I hadn't considered textiles, but the Oriole Mill uses only natural fibers. The very complicated operation weaves artistic patterns into upholstery and fabrics for home furnishings such as quilts, pillows, bags and towels. On a behind the scenes tour, I watched a Jacquard loom in action, first in slow motion, then at full speed. The tour requires reservations, but is free.

You might wonder how the Carl Sandburg Home National Park Historic Site would fit in with agritourism. The reason is, Carl Sandburg's wife bred

champion milk-producing goats, and the darling descendants from the herd are residents. You can stroll the surrounding trails and pet the dairy goats for free, but you need to purchase a ticket to tour the home of the "Poet of the People."

Japanese Maple trees are a specialty of MrMaple.com, a business run by two young men in Hendersonville. Their weekly podcasts have become YouTube sensations, and they are now internationally famous as are their unique spe-



Stepp's Orchard



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Point Lookout Vineyards

cies of the trees. They ship anywhere.

As you can tell, Hendersonville is a lively place. The downtown shops are pedestrian-friendly and full of excellent restaurants featuring local farm produce. A few gift shops devote space to locally made arts and crafts. I was overwhelmed by the abundance of unusual attractions and heartily recommend a visit to the area.

If you go: VisitHendersonvilleNC.org

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



Photos courtesy Nocatee



Nocatee Farmers Market hosts BMX-treme Extravaganza

Nocatee families enjoyed an action-packed "BMX-Treme" Farmers Market sponsored by Lazzara Orthodontics on Saturday, Sept. 21. There were three BMX performances from Perfection on Wheels' BMX Pros Trick Team that included incredible half-pipe tricks and stunts, bike flips and crowd participation.

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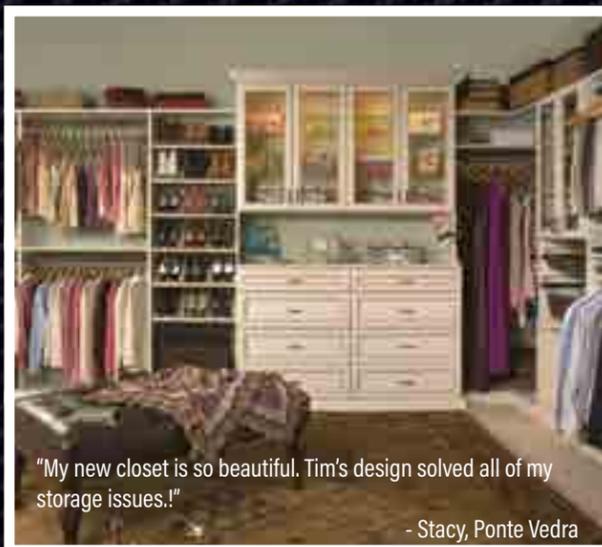
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