

Ponte Vedra NewsLine

APRIL 2018 Volume 5 Issue 4

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

A Florida NewsLine Publication



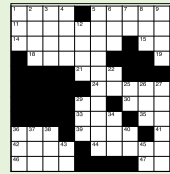
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St. Johns County Economic Development: PGA TOUR, Inc. announces new global home in St. Johns County

By Melissa S. Glasgow
mail@floridanewslines.com



In January 2018, the PGA TOUR, Inc. formally announced their decision to expand their presence in St. Johns County and build their new global home. This move will consolidate area employees under one roof in Ponte Vedra Beach once construction is complete on the new building in 2020.

The building is designed by London-based architectural firm Foster + Partners, designer of Apple's headquarters among other worldwide projects. With thoughtful intention, the building is a symbolic structure for the organization, as it will be surrounded by a large lake, akin to the iconic Island Green 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass in its own backyard.

As the largest corporate headquarters in St. Johns County, the PGA TOUR has grown from a few employees in the late 1970s to the thriving worldwide organization it is today.

PGA TOUR, Inc. cont. on pg. 7

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Photos courtesy Kim Aslan
Festivities from previous Relays for Life.

Connect for a cure at Relay for Life of Ponte Vedra

By Angela Higginbotham
angela@floridanewslines.com

throughout the day by selling crafts and food. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society and our goal is \$92,000 this year."

Entertainment will include a live performance from the Julington Creek Elementary third – fifth grade chorus, local band Wingfield, Zumba, St. Augustine belly dancers, Pine Forest Elementary School of the Arts, and a talent show.

Relay for Life of Ponte Vedra will once again merge with Relay for Life of North St. Johns County for their 2018 event. The annual fundraiser will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 12 p.m. – 10 p.m., at Bartram Trail High School. Ponte Vedra residents and all surrounding areas are invited to join in on this much anticipated event. Entrance is free and the family orientated day will include ceremonies to honor and remember the courageous and strong loved ones who have faced cancer. Live entertainment, games and a variety of food will be on hand.

Founded in 1986, Relay For Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Relay is staffed and coordinated by volunteers in thousands of communities and 27 countries across the world. The mission of Relay for Life is to honor cancer survivors of all ages. These events bring communities together to remember loved ones lost, honor survivors of all cancers and raise donations to help the American Cancer Society make a global impact on cancer. Through donations, Relay for Life events have helped thousands with life saving cancer research studies, crucial patient care

programs and education and prevention initiatives.

Cancer survivors represent hope and prove that cancer can be defeated. The Relay for Life opening ceremony to honor cancer survivors will begin at 12 p.m. Directly following the ceremony, survivors will kick off the relay by walking the first lap around the track. Emotions will be high as survivors will be cheered on by their supportive loved ones, caregivers, and all relay participants. A survivor luncheon with bingo will begin at 1:30 p.m. Caregivers are welcome to join the survivors for lunch. Luminaria bags will be lite at dusk to honor and remember loved ones who fought cancer so bravely.

"At least 40 teams with 10 – 20 people per team are set to participate in the relay," said event lead, Becky Kimball. "Relay teams will hold individual fundraisers



Survivors' walk at a previous Relay for Life.

Prior to the event, a talented team is making handmade shawls to keep loved ones warm while going through chemo. Shawls are being made by Mary Crowley. Crowley can be contacted at (904) 982-1427 if you are interested in having a shawl made. A \$50 donation is asked in return to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Visit www.relayforlife.org/nstjfl for additional information, to register as a survivor, participant and/or team. Volunteers are desperately needed and students are welcome. Contact the committee at RFL.northsaintjohnscounty@gmail.com for volunteer information.

Relay for Life of North St. Johns
April 14,
12 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Bartram Trail High School



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April
Enhanced Section

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

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MYSTERY PHOTO

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

Last month's Mystery Photo was the bell tower at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. Our winner was Chris Saliba.

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Florida NewsLine
12443 San Jose Blvd., STE. 403
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(904) 886-4919
www.FloridaNewsLine.com

Editor
Martie Thompson
Editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

Creative Director
Julie Gerona
Graphics@FloridaNewsLine.com

Reporter
Angela Higginbotham
Angela@FloridaNewsLine.com

Bookkeeper
Emily Whitehead
Accounting@FloridaNewsLine.com

Social Media
SocialMedia@FloridaNewsLine.com

Advertising Sales
Linda Gay
Linda@FloridaNewsLine.com

Heather Seay
Heather@FloridaNewsLine.com

Nicole Maples
Nicole@FloridaNewsLine.com

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answers to puzzles on page 12

HEW	PEA	TAB	
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GALOP	RAY	RADOM	
ONETIME	SACKING		
PYRITES	SCHEMED		
VIDE	AMEN		
NEMESSES	LESSEES		
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LUCERNE	REPAINT		
SEES	ALAI		
EDITORS	RETRACT		
COTERIE	EARFLAP		
TWEED	NABILA	AMA	
MME	CHICOT		
SSR	EAT	KWE	

CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. tropical B. island C. vacation D. coastal

take 5

PACT hosts Town Hall meeting on local opioid crisis

“The Opioid Crisis Strikes St. Johns County,” moderated by Action News Jax co-anchor John Bachman, will be the topic of a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, April 11 from 7 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. at the St. Johns County Administration Building, 500 Sebastian View. PACT Prevention, with broadcast coverage by Action News Jax, will present a panel of local community leaders who will share their perspective and insight on how this crisis is affecting all segments of our population from babies who are born addicted, our youth, young adults and even many senior citizens who are becoming addicted to opioids. Light refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. Questions can be submitted before the event by email using the subject line, Town Hall Meeting Questions, to LynnePACT@yahoo.com or can be raised during the question and answer segment of the program. Sponsorship opportunities for the event are still available. Contact Lynnette Horwath, Prevention Program Coordinator, at LynnePACT@yahoo.com for more information.

Beth El-The Beaches Synagogue announces golf tournament

The annual Beth El-The Beaches Synagogue Golf Tournament will be held

Monday, April 2 at Palencia Country Club. Participants may play in the tournament with their chosen team or may be paired with other players in the four-person scramble format, which begins with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. The cost is \$200 per player, which includes range fee, green fee, cart fee, one muligan, breakfast, grill lunch, prizes and complimentary Bloody Mary, beer and wine. Funds raised will benefit the Beth El Education Fund. Visit bethelbeaches.org for more information.

RSVP sponsors training opportunities

RSVP of St. Johns County is collaborating with ElderSource Institute to bring unique training opportunities to the community. These trainings are free, but registration is limited. Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention will be offered Wednesday, April 11 from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and Age Sensitivity will be offered Tuesday, May 8 from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Register by visiting www.eldersourceinstitute.org/calendar/ and choose from any of the “privately sponsored” trainings. To access training registration, enter code RSVP. All training will be held at the Fullerwood Auditorium, 10 Hildreth Drive in St. Augustine. Contact Cheryl Freeman at (904) 547-3952 or Cheryl.Freeman@stjohns.k12.fl.us for more information.

Early registration for kindergarten announced

The St. Johns County School District will hold early registration for children entering kindergarten for the 2018 – 2019 school year on Wednesday, April 4 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. and Wednesday, April 11 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. To be eligible for public kindergarten in the St. Johns County School District, children must be five years old on or before Sept. 1 and must reside in St. Johns County. Parents must register children at the school where they are zoned for the 2018 – 2019 school year. To find your school, enter your street address on the Attendance Zone Locator at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/zoning/. Students zoned for the new K – 8 School “KK” will need to register at Allen D. Nease High School, located at 1055 Ray Road. Visit www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/enrollment/ or contact the Student Services Department at 547-7598 for more information.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

First Coast Opera to host musical luncheon

Spanish classical guitarists James Kalal and Sylvia will perform at the Friends of First Coast Opera’s musical luncheon to be held Tuesday, April 17 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Marsh Creek Country Club. The luncheon will also feature a silent auction and a raffle ticket is included with each luncheon purchased at \$35. Entree choices are chicken picatta or meat loaf (like Grandma used to make). Send check and choice of entrée to Friends of First Coast Opera, 138 Herons Nest Lane, St. Augustine 32080. Call (904) 461-3561 for more information.

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Apr.

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

save the date!

April 2
Current Events Discussion Group
 10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 Donovan's Irish Pub, US Highway 1
 adsilby@yahoo.com

April 3
Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Ponte Vedra Chapter meeting
 10:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 pontevedrachaptersdar@aol.com
Parents with Hope (support for parents who have lost a child)
 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Valley, 4750 Palm Valley Road
 www.pontevedravalle.com/grief-support

April 3 - May 8
Northeast Florida AHEC Quit Smoking Now class
 Tuesdays, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Flagler Hospital Wellness Center
 Free; call (904) 482-0189 to register

April 5
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7
 7:30 p.m.
 St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse
 (904) 460-0243
Palencia Bridge Club plays Party Bridge
 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (repeating event on Thursdays)
 Donovan's Irish Pub, 7440 US Highway 1
 Diane Tamplin, (904) 808-7326

April 6
GTM Research Reserve new volunteer orientation
 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
 Environmental Education Center, 505 Guana River Road
 (904) 823-4500

April 9
Caregiver support meeting
 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center, 1048 A1A N.
 (904) 297-0061
Beaches Toastmasters Club
 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Repeating event on Mondays)
 Baptist Hospital Beaches, Wilson Epstein Building
 cgsm13@yahoo.com
Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Meeting
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 www.pvmsd.org

April 10
Friends of the GTM Reserve Board Meeting
 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

GTM Research Reserve Environmental Education Center
 (904) 823-4500.
Lilies of the Valley widow support group
 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Valley, 4750 Palm Valley Road
 www.pontevedravalle.com/grief-support

April 11
Town Hall Meeting: The Opioid Crisis strikes St. Johns County
 7 p.m. (Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.)
 County Administration Building, 500 Sebastian Way
 Presented by PACT Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County; BridgetPACT@yahoo.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

April 12
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

April 13
Food Truck Friday
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 Nocatee's Splash Waterpark

April 14
Ancient City Coin Club Spring Coin and Currency Show
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Fraternal Order of Police Lodge, 5050 Inman Road
 www.facebook.com/accstaugustine or (908) 892-6169
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7: About Boating Safely course
 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 NE FL Regional Airport Conference Center, 4730 Casa Cola Way
 http://abs.mysafeboating.com

April 16
Ponte Vedra Beach Library Book Talk Cafe: Jeff Klinkenberg
 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

April 17
St. Johns CARES meeting
 7 p.m.

April 27 - June 2 Candace Knapp and Ron Vellucci exhibition
 The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach
 www.ccpvb.org

May 4 St. Augustine's Romanza Festival of the Arts
 All day
 www.visitsaintaugustine.com/topics/romanza

May 8 - 13 THE PLAYERS Championship
 TPC Sawgrass
 www.theplayers.com

May 12 HAWKE's Dine on the Wild Side
 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 St. Augustine Alligator Farm
 Tickets available April 15; www.hawkewildlife.org

May 12
Waves of Gray - 5K Brain Cancer Awareness Walk
 8 a.m.
 https://nbtsevents.braintumor.org/event/2018-waves-of-gray-5k/e146712

May 24 - 27 Jacksonville Jazz Festival
 http://jacksonvillejazzfest.com

Bartram Academy, 164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1
 www.stjohnscares.org
Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon and show
 11 a.m.
 Alhambra Theatre and Dining, 12000 Beach Blvd.
 RSVP by April 10, sjaird@comcast.net

April 21
Ancient City Chapter of Florida Writers Association meeting featuring Elizabeth Sinclair: "Point of View"
 10 a.m.
Main Library, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine
 Open to the public; fwastaug@gmail.com
Nocatee Farmers Market: Car Show
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Town Center Field, Nocatee

Duck Race - Making a Splash for Autism
 9:30 a.m. gate opens/race at 10:30 a.m.
 Adventure Landing, 1944 Beach Blvd.
 https://jaxduckrace.org

April 22
Full Circle Festival (formerly Keepers of the Coast Sea Turtle Festival)
 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
 Eddie Vickers Park, 399 Riberia St., St. Augustine
 www.keepersofthecoast.org

April 26
National Association of Railway Business Women (NARBW) meeting
 6 p.m.
 Location TBD
 RSVP: (904) 945-0943 or narbiejax14@yahoo.com
Adult Coloring Club
 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

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

Q: Can you give us an update on School "KK?"

A: We named the school at our School Board meeting on March 13: Palm Valley Academy. Names had been narrowed from a list submitted by the community stakeholders to the top two, and Palm Valley Academy was chosen. Principal Jessica Richardson is working with community stakeholders and they have decided that the school's colors will be indigo (after the indigo plants in the area) and white. The school's mascot is yet to be decided.

Q: School safety is an important issue. Can you share with us what steps the St. Johns County School District is taking?

A: I have been attending a lot of SAC meetings at our local schools and listening to what's on everyone's mind. I think it makes people feel better to know that the school district is proactive in this case and there are already a lot of safety protocols in place. For instance, a lot of people might not know that each school has a monthly meeting of its safety team, which includes the principal and usually another administrator, the maintenance coordinator and a teacher, to look at ways to reduce risk at their school.

Q: Does the school district partner with the Sheriff's Office?

A: Yes. The SJSO comes to each school approximately annually to meet with the school's safety team to do a security assessment. Among other things, they walk the perimeter of the school and survey and assess risk. If the school district receives information about any threat, SJSO investigates, up to and including visiting a student's home. All concerns are addressed immediately.

Q: What about drills at each school?

A: Our emergency operations procedures include active shooter drills in addition to fire drills and these are taking place at all of our schools. In January, all principals and vice principals participated in an active shooter drill training and there is another one planned in March in conjunction with SJSO.

Q: What can parents and students do if they have ideas or information?

A: Parents are encouraged to work with their school's SAC on their School Improvement Plan for input on school safety issues. Also, Superintendent Tim Forson recently hosted three student representatives from each high school across the district to get their thoughts on what would make them feel safe at school. We are focusing on what we can do now, what we can implement, and what ideas need to be researched.

Q: Is there any additional funding being dedicated to school safety or new plans being implemented?

A: Part of the half cent sales tax went to school safety in the form of the 800 megahertz radios, which allow us to directly communicate with law enforcement. Now in the second year of the sales tax, there is more than \$1 million dedicated to school safety and security — items like security doors, updated monitoring systems and fencing for schools who lack these items as well as GPS technology for buses. Another thing that will be rolled out soon is in Governor Scott's safety plan for schools. There is going to be an anonymous tip line with a mobile app component.

Q: The other piece of school safety is widely believed to be more emphasis on mental health help. What can you tell us about the district's efforts in this regard?

A: The district is part of a mental health consortium that includes counselors from Motivational Coaches of America. We also have eight social workers and 14 school psychologists in the district. Student services has expanded to meet needs. Our mobile crisis unit will respond to any mental health or physical concerns.

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.

The Sheriff Reports

By St. Johns County Sheriff David B. Shoar

E-Commerce Awareness

Here is an example of an advertisement placed on a popular e-commerce classified site: "For Sale: 2005 Denali Yukon. Excellent condition. 46,000 miles. Must sacrifice as I am being deployed to Afghanistan next month. Will deliver anywhere in Southeast United States."

This used car ad is most likely fraudulent and could result in someone being scammed for a lot of money. This month I would like to share with you some tips for safely using e-commerce sites or for that matter, any online classified buy and sell social network.

E-Commerce sites are a great resource for selling things, finding apartments, locating services and meeting people. Most of the time transactions go smoothly and both seller and buyer are satisfied with the experience.

One e-commerce site advises that any business dealings be done with people locally. Trust your instincts and if the offer appears too good to be true, it probably is and be leery. If you have something for sale and someone emails or calls offering more than you are asking be skeptical and careful. This is usually the first step in getting some of your cash. In this scenario you may be asked to put some money in a phony escrow account supposedly to insure a safe transaction for both parties. Even being asked to make a deposit in legitimate escrow service such as BidPay, Squaretrade or PayPal should raise a red flag to proceed with caution. In all e-commerce transactions I would like to add "let the buyer be smart" to the old adage of "let the buyer beware"

E-Commerce scams frequently involve rental property. If you are seeking a home to rent, do not send deposit money or first and last month rent before you confirm the property is actually a legitimate rental. The FBI has posted a warning about such a scam operated from Nigeria. The response to a "wanted to rent ad" will say they have a home available in your community because they are missionaries and have accepted an assignment from their

church in Nigeria. They will email you pictures of the home then tell you they will give you the address after you send a Western Union money order for the deposit.

These sites are also popular for personal ads. If you post such an ad never reveal contact information. Many sites will allow you to set up an email response box that will be forwarded to your undisclosed email address.

When meeting someone in response to a posting, always make it in a very public place. Always tell a friend or family member where you are going and when you plan to return. Even after you have met the individual and start to feel comfortable don't let your guard down too soon. If during the first meeting the other person suggests to go to some place quieter say no and use your best intuition as to whether you want to continue the meeting and conversation.

If you have suggestions for future topics or any issue related to law enforcement and public safety in St. Johns County, contact me at dshoar@sjso.org.

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FYI Contact Numbers

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

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

Ponte Vedra Field Office: (904) 209-2215

Property Appraiser:
Eddie Creamer, 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, bcc1johns@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0301

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

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

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

District 5:
Henry Dean, bccd5hdean@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, (904) 547-7510

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

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

Federal Elected Officials
U.S. Congress District 4:
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U.S. Senate:
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Inquiring Minds want to know!

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewslines.com

We are starting a new feature in Ponte Vedra NewsLine. If you are puzzled about something going on in Ponte Vedra or Nocatee, or wondering about whatever happened on a topic from a previous issue, email your question to us at editor@floridanewslines.com by the fifth of the month and we will do our best to track down the information for you.

While we will do our best to answer all the questions we receive, we may not be able to answer all questions received each month. Also, due to publication scheduling, the time it takes to research answers may vary.

So, let us hear from you. What questions would you like answered to satisfy your curiosity?

Q: What is the latest on the temporary closing of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library for maintenance issues?

A: According to branch manager Amy Ring, the proposed project will encompass replacing all the fire sprinkler pipes in the nearly 25,000 square foot library. Patrons, volunteers and staff will not be allowed in the building while the work is being done for safety reasons. St. Johns County is still processing the contract and so at this point there is no timeline nor estimated start date. "We realize that our branch plays a significant role in our community and we are working to ensure this project

is completed at a high level of quality as efficiently as possible," said Ring.

Q: Does the St. Johns County School District intend to open up the tennis courts, track and outdoor basketball courts at Ponte Vedra High School, Pedro Menendez High School, Bartram Trail High School, and Creekside High School to the public as happened last summer?

A: According to Christina Langston at the St. Johns County School District, the school district does not currently have plans for summer high school facility use, but they are in discussion about it. "Facility use worked out well last year," Langston said. "We will keep the public posted."

Email your question to us at editor@floridanewslines.com

Your Vote Counts

By St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Elections ahead

As your Supervisor of Elections, security and the sanctity of a person's vote is my utmost priority. I take the threats of interference into our elections very seriously, so here is what I want you to know.

Our voting system is a closed system, not connected to the internet. A separate communications server utilizes a private network to report results from the precincts election night. My greatest comfort is the fact that voters in Florida vote on paper ballots. Paper ballots are retained for 22 months and can be re-tabulated if there is ever a question about results. Election results are verified with a manual audit conducted after each election. A randomly selected race and precinct are hand-counted to verify the total matches the tabulated results.

In order to address security issues, actions taken by my office recently include hiring a new IT staff member specializing in security, training staff to be alert to emails, links, phishing, etc., and upgrading all computer equipment including servers and firewalls. Additional layers of security have been added to our networks. Security risk assessments are performed regularly on our systems and preventative actions are made as needed. Security cameras are being installed on the office and warehouse exteriors. New equipment has been purchased and we are taking steps to have all systems monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Now that elections have been designated as critical infrastructure by the Department of Homeland Security, there are a number of resources, support and information we now have available to us. A great partnership has developed between federal, state and local elections officials. Communications between our agencies is constantly improving so we receive immediate alerts when threats are detected.



Photo courtesy John Wilder. Judge Charles Tinlin and local attorney, Ron Brown, members of the Canvassing Board for the November 2016 election, during the public logic and accuracy test in preparation for the November election.

Gov. Scott also takes these threats very seriously and has requested \$2.8 million in this year's budget specific to cybersecurity. This will allow support staff for the Department of State to be hired and grant money which will come to each county in Florida to purchase the needed equipment to secure all elections offices networks and around the clock monitoring for all systems.

Elections are conducted on a local level in all 67 counties in Florida. Safeguards are established in law. Elections office staff and poll workers belong to different political parties and have diverse backgrounds. It would be impossible to engineer this complex system to benefit a specific candidate or party.

Sadly, there is an unwarranted sense of fear among some of our citizens, and that is as dangerous to our democracy as a compromised election. Everything is in place to give our community confidence in our election process.

I promise you — because I experience it first hand — our elections are safe and secure.

Pirates invade Nocatee Farmers Market

The community enjoyed beautiful weather at Nocatee's Farmers Market: Pirate Invasion on Saturday, Feb. 17. Attendees enjoyed interacting with the pirates from the Fernandina Pirates Club, a "pirate school" for the kids, other family friendly activities, drinks from the bar, and shopping from more than 70 local vendors. Open to the public, Nocatee Farmers Markets are held the third Saturday of each month at the Swim Club Green at Splash Waterpark.



Photo courtesy Nocatee

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PGA TOUR, Inc. cont. from pg. 1

The decision to expand the TOUR's presence locally came after a significant amount of planning took place within a relatively short period to bring this project to fruition.

In March 2017, the PGA TOUR, under the code name Project Boilermaker, submitted an application for economic development incentives as they evaluated options, both within St. Johns County and externally, for their new corporate headquarters operation. The County Commission unanimously supported that request in April as the first step in the process.

In late May, the TOUR submitted applications to modify their Development of Regional Impact (DRI) and Planned Unit Development (PUD), which the Commission unanimously approved in October. These actions paved the way for the TOUR to invest \$86 million and create 300 new high-wage jobs, while maintaining their existing 800 employees. Without these approvals, the TOUR would be unable to relocate their headquarters at the proposed location, and could have looked elsewhere to accomplish this goal.

Somewhat overlooked are the other benefits associated with this innovative public-private project. Enhancements will vastly improve vital infrastructure by replacing an antiquated county facility and upgrading a public safety control tower to withstand Category 5 hurricane winds at no cost to the county. Additionally, these actions will enable relocation of the Ponte Vedra

Tax Collector Annex to newer leased offices, improving the resident customer experience and reducing future facility operational costs.

Accomplishing this public-private partnership also generates \$28 million in tax revenue, reduces county long-term maintenance costs, and retains 800 high-wage TOUR employees, all providing extraordinary long-term benefits and a "win-win" for the TOUR and St. Johns County.

Keeping the TOUR headquarters will also help St. Johns County generate continued worldwide exposure. The media attention derived from their presence, and from THE PLAYERS Championship held each year, provides such a great showcase for the county. The project announcement alone generated 108 media stories in less than two weeks, with coverage in national publications like Architectural Digest and Golf Week, along with many other outlets.

That exposure definitely helps benefit economic development, and we sincerely thank the PGA TOUR for their continued investment in our community.

Melissa S. Glasgow serves as the Director of Economic Development for St. Johns County. Glasgow coordinates overall economic development efforts in St. Johns County and works closely with other partners to attract new businesses to the county, as well as support existing businesses.

MarketInsight



The right to bear arms

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

The Second Amendment is in the news a lot today. Questions abound. One man, more than any other, is responsible for the amendment and he is probably the most fearsome American "tough guy" many of you have never heard of. From the signing of the Declaration in 1776 to the Treaty of Paris in 1783 that officially ended the war (and ceded Florida back to Spain in the process) the colonies won only four battles. Morgan and his backwoods rifleman won two of them.

Morgan first comes to prominence during the battle of Saratoga in New York. His regiment of "over the mountain" men armed with their Kentucky long rifles harassed the British and Hessians for two days. Unlike their opponents, Morgan's men aimed their weapons and they aimed them at officers. Time and time again, the British under Simon Fraser charged the American position and each time they were driven back by a withering fire. Finally, Morgan ordered some of his men to climb a tree and shoot Fraser. A man named Timothy Murphy is given credit for firing the fatal shot at a distance of 400 yards.

After the battle, Morgan, who had once been sentenced to 500 lashes for striking a British officer during the French and Indian War, became dissatisfied and left the Army. Five hundred lashes was a sentence that would have killed most lesser men. Morgan himself boasted that he had counted, and he only got 499. The British, he said, still "owed him a lick." Morgan rejoined the Army after the disastrous American defeat at Camden, South Carolina, setting up what is generally regarded as the most brilliant battle ever fought on American soil.

In January of 1781 at a place called Cowpens in South Carolina, Morgan and his men stood up against the infamous "British Legion" commanded by Banastre Tarleton. We called him "Bloody Ban" and Tarleton was well known for the devastation he caused all over the colonies, but particularly in the South. Some say that the term boogeyman is a corruption of "Bloody Ban." Tarleton led his men forward, intent on running over the upstart Colonials. Morgan put his sharpshooters in the front line. They competed in two groups to shoot the most officers and win a promised barrel of whiskey. The second line of militia fired two volleys and then withdrew only to form up on the British flanks. The third line, Morgan's precious Continentals then advanced on Tarleton's disorganized Legion with bayonets. William Washington, the future President's nephew, led a Cavalry charge. The British broke and fled; 86 percent of the Legion was either killed or captured.

Many embraced the idea that we had beaten the British because of units like Morgan's Riflemen. American marksmanship, they argued, had won our independence and must "not be infringed."

So, what does all this have to do with the stock market? Everything! Our country and its stock market are inexorably intertwined. When America is great, the stock market is great.

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

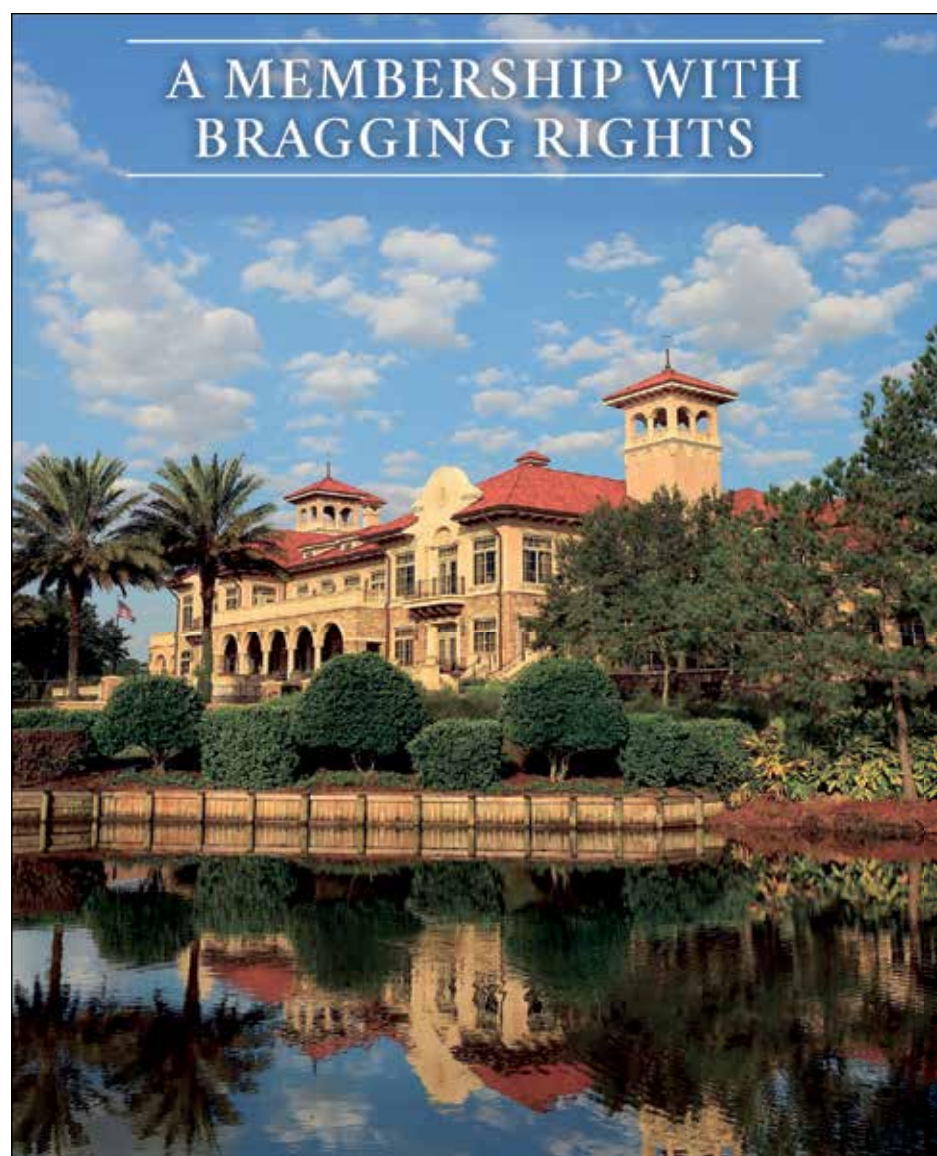
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Photo courtesy Katrine Strickland

New K-8 school "KK" PTO selects board members

The new PTO board members met in early March: Stacy Bingham (Corresponding Secretary); Kim McGowan (Co-VP Upper School); Stephanie DeVincentis (Co-VP Upper School); Emily Morgalis (Co-VP Lower School); Matthew Underwood (Co-President); Jill DAmato (Co-President); Meredith Atkins (Co-VP Lower School); Jillian Schmidli (Co-Treasurer); Purvi Sanghvi (Co-Treasurer); and Pauline Sevigny (Recording Secretary, not pictured). School "KK" is scheduled to open for grades K – 6 at 2135 Palm Valley Road. Students, who were rezoned, but are going into grades seven and eight will continue to attend their current school. Upcoming dates for Kindergarten registration for the 2018-2019 school year are April 4 and April 11 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Nease High School.

Ponte Vedra senior juggles two sports and academics

By Jesse Hagy
mail@floridanewsline.com

Ponte Vedra High School senior Zach Summers not only tackles those who are unfortunate enough to be holding a football in his line of sight, but also the weight of two sports while keeping good grades in school.



Photo courtesy Zach Summers
Zach Summers

School alone can be difficult. For a lot of people, the idea of playing two sports while achieving good grades is overwhelming. This kind of dedication can mean lots of late nights and pushing through the urge to sleep, even when you are already tired from an earlier workout. Summers' determination and work ethic earned him a full ride to Charleston Southern University.

During football season, Summers had games every Friday. During track season, he had meets every Friday or Saturday.

To prepare for his schedule, Summers gets pumped up with music and envisions himself achieving his goals. He uses this same technique during games.

He says, "I have a job to do, just like the 10 other guys on the field with me. During the game I collect myself and

slow down my breathing while envisioning that I'm going to get the job done."

Summers says the craziest moment in his football career so far occurred in the state championship game

"I forgot to call a fair catch and I was hit illegally in the head," he says. "There was a huge flag, but I caught the ball and went to the sideline."

Everyone was asking him if he was okay, the trainer was asking him to take his helmet off, but he didn't know why — until he realized his chin strap had split his lip and he was bleeding.

Summers recovered to help lead the Sharks to a second place finish in the state.

Five things about Zach Summers

Favorite Class

Physics

Favorite Hobby

Writing

Favorite Football Team

Chicago Bears

Favorite College

Charleston Southern, where he'll play football

Career Path

Undecided

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Karate Kid receives special congratulations

Jessie Miller received a visit from Florida's First Lady Ann Scott and the First Lady offered Jessie congratulations on earning her 2nd degree black belt in ATA Songahm Taekwondo Karate. Miller and the First Lady met in 2016 when a karate competition was held in Tallahassee and that event eventually earned Miller a triple crown Florida state championship and a seven-district title. This year she ranks in the world's top 10 of 2nd and 3rd degree black belt competitors who are age 10. Miller trains at the Karate America Do-Jang located in Ponte Vedra Beach and owned by Grand Master Clark, operated by Master Daniel Gimenez, World Champion Amber Smith and black belt instructor Justin Escarra. She was also featured as a National ATA Leadership Kid and as a 10 year old black belt who established a new national standard of excellence in earning her black/red collar that identifies her as an assistant instructor.



Photo courtesy Ted Miller

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NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF TAX ROLL

Pursuant to Sections 193.122 and 197.323, Florida Statutes, Notice is Hereby Given that the Tax Roll for St. Johns County was Re-Certified to the St. Johns County Tax Collector on the 22nd day of March, 2018, for the Collection of 2017 Taxes, to reflect all changes made by the Value Adjustment Board.

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SUMMER CAMP GUIDE





St. Johns County camps for summer

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation announces the following camps this summer:

SJC Exploration Camp:

Join St. Johns County's Park Naturalists for a weeklong Exploration Camp where children will get the opportunity to explore the natural world around us. Campers will have an exciting week chock-full of field trips while expanding their understanding of our local ecosystems, sustainability, and how to collect and analyze data like a scientist. Campers will also study the amazing wildlife in St. Johns County and participate in hands-on activities.

Camp dates are
July 23 – 27 for ages 5 – 8 (*completed kindergarten)
July 30 – Aug. 3 for ages 9 – 12

St. Johns County Exploration Camp will be held at Ketterlinus Gym, 60 Orange St., downtown St. Augustine, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Camp fee is \$100 per participant and registration is on a first-come,

first-served basis. Contact Kelly Ussia at (904) 209-0335 or kussia@sjcfl.us to register.

*Camp is broken into two weeks based on camper's age to ensure that the information taught is age appropriate. Children must have completed kindergarten to be eligible for this program.

Freshwater Fish Camp:

This camp is a brand new addition. St. Johns County Parks and Recreation is teaming up with Florida Wildlife Commission to offer a freshwater fish camp for middle school students. Campers will learn boat safety skills as well as about freshwater fish and their habitat, the proper tackle to use in freshwater, and how to properly clean fish. Camp will be held from Monday, July 23 – Friday, July 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Trout Creek Community Center, 6795 Collier Road (off of State Road 13). Campers must have completed sixth grade to be eligible for this camp. The program is

limited to 20 campers and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is \$170 and includes one rod and reel, tackle box, and tackle.

For more details, contact AyoLane Halusky at ahalusky@sjcfl.us or (904) 209-0348.

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June 4th – June 8th
Jungle & Safari Friends

June 11th – June 15th
Superheroes & Super Pets

June 18th – June 22nd
Trains, Planes & Monster Trucks

June 25th – June 29th
Mermaids, Pirates & Underwater Fun

July 2nd – July 6th (Note: Closed 7/4)
Dinosaurs, Reptiles & Amphibians

July 9th – July 13th
Princesses, Fairies, Castles & Dragons

July 16th – July 20th
Creatures of the Rainforest & Everglades

July 23rd – July 26th (Note: This is a 4 Day Week)
Birds, Bees & Butterflies

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Ponte Vedra swimmers finish strong at spring championship meet

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Fifteen young swimmers aged nine – 14, representing Planet Swim in Ponte Vedra Beach, recently competed in the Florida Age Group Swimming (FLAGS) Spring Championship in Orlando. These local student-athletes outperformed expectations, bringing home three Top 3 finishes — including the team's first ever State Champion: Mary Agnes Smith who placed first in the 50-yd butterfly and second in the 100-yd



Photos courtesy Planet Swim
Ann Wohlgeomuth in action at FLAGS.

PVPV/Rawlings Elementary, Ocean Palms Elementary, Landrum Middle, Fletcher High, Beaches Chapel, Bolles and Palmer Catholic Academy schools. They maintain a vigorous training schedule around their school hours.

"During FLAGS, our team accomplished many goals that we have been dreaming about for the past nine years," said Gus Chagas, director of the swim team at Planet Swim. "Planet Swim was once a swim school of only 40 swimmers, but has now become a program of more than 400 swimmers between the swim school and the swim team programs. We could not be prouder of what our swimmers have accomplished thus far."



Ann Wohlgeomuth, Emily Pritchard, Natalie Padgett and Sydney Straub with coach Junior, minutes before their relay.

butterfly. Ann Wohlgeomuth placed third in the 50-yd backstroke.

Just last year, only five swimmers from Planet Swim had qualifying times to compete at the FLAGS Spring Championship. This year, the team brought home a total of seven Top 8 finishes and eight Top 16 finishes. This team is ranked 20th in the state of Florida and third in Northeast Florida. With 14 girls making up the championship team, Planet Swim ranks 14th in the state for female swimmers, a significant accomplishment considering the larger size of many other teams.

These rising swimming stars attend



Mary Agnes Smith swimming for her Gold.

Next up for Planet Swim is the Area 1 and 4 Championships at Bolles and Florida Sectionals in Plantation for qualifying team members.



This 'n That

By Mims Cushing
mail@floridanewslines.com

Celebrate National Days — But skip the greeting cards

It's almost April and I don't think there's a single reason for us to regale our friends with greeting cards. Oh, that doesn't mean there aren't reasons to celebrate. Years ago I sent away for The 2015 National Day Calendar and it's been lying fallow in my bottom desk drawer since then. The calendar shows remarkable things you can celebrate, day by day, year after year.

For instance, did you know there's a Chocolate Covered Cashews Day? It's on April 21. And every year, on April 29, there is Zipper Day. Now how does a man or woman celebrate that? April 3 is National Find a Rainbow Day. Don't do another thing until you find one.

And those are just some of the national days listed. The first week in April has 30 things you can celebrate. Plenty of holidays are celebrated with a greeting card. But "National Day" events don't require a trip to the card store.

Here's a head's up for you to start planning for National Days in October. I'm giving you a full six months to prepare.

The first of October is Homemade Cookies Day, so get baking. It's Fried Scallops day on the second. Oh yum. Sugar followed by fat. It's also National Name Your Car Day on the second. I think I'll name my car Bartholomew, which I wanted to name my son.

Techie's Day is the third, but I celebrate any day my techie can wrestle my computer into submission. Now, the fourth of October is Taco, Vodka, and Golf Day. What a delightful combination! The fifth is Do Something Nice Day. Only one day out of the whole year is a day we should do something nice? The next day you can smile for being good and

treat yourself on National Fluffernutter Day, so break out the peanut butter and marshmallows. Can you believe there is a National Moldy Cheese Day, the following day? Are we supposed to eat it or throw it out?

The 10th is Costume Swap Day, followed by Clergy Appreciation Day, then Kick Butt Day. On the 14th we celebrate Be Bald and Be Free Day. I can't wait for Grouch Day on the 15th. Only one measly day to be grouchy? It's shared with I Love Lucy Day.

It's Medical Assistants' Recognition Day on the 21st. Bring him or her some Pumpkin Cheesecake to celebrate that national holiday, also on the 21st, along with Reptile Awareness Day. Phew. Busy day. Celebrate Greasy Food Day on the 25th, which is also Mother-in-Law Day. It's Navy Day on the 27th, along with American Beer Day. The National Days list is endless—in a year there are 1,500 National Days.

And by the way, here's a little secret I want to share: if you dislike spending \$3, \$4, or \$5 on a greeting card, Trader Joe's has the most beautiful cards for only 99 cents. Who doesn't love a bargain? Maybe there's a National Bargain Day.

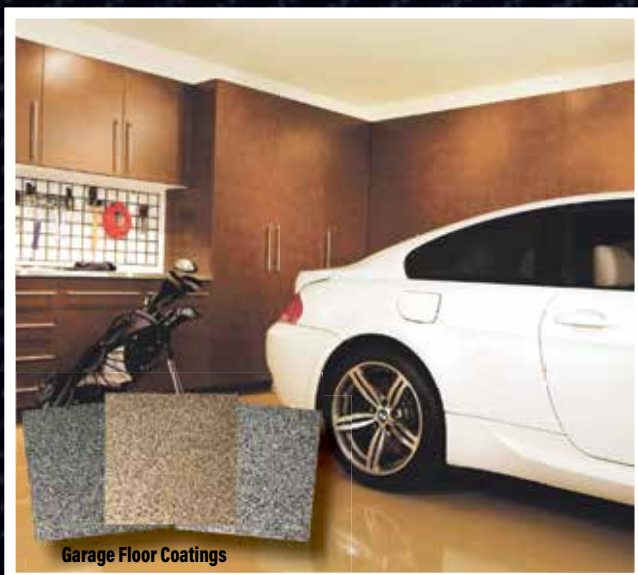
Mims (Marguerite) Cushing came to Florida from Connecticut in 1991. She has been a professional writer for more than 35 years, writing features for her hometown paper in Stamford and also for a dozen local and national magazines. Her books won awards with the Florida Writers Association and her children's book was honored by Kiwanis of Tampa. She has enjoyed teaching creative writing to children and adults. An avid reader, Cushing enjoys being the librarian of the Players Club Senior Center and singing with Singers by the Sea.

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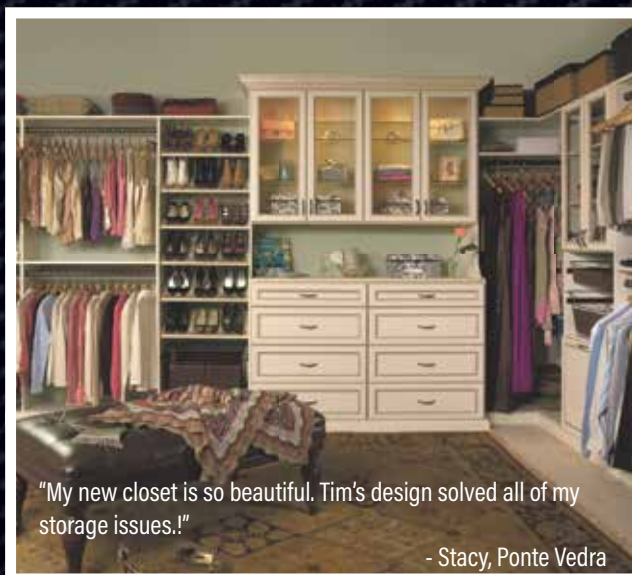


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By Ken Gillespie
mail@floridanewsline.com

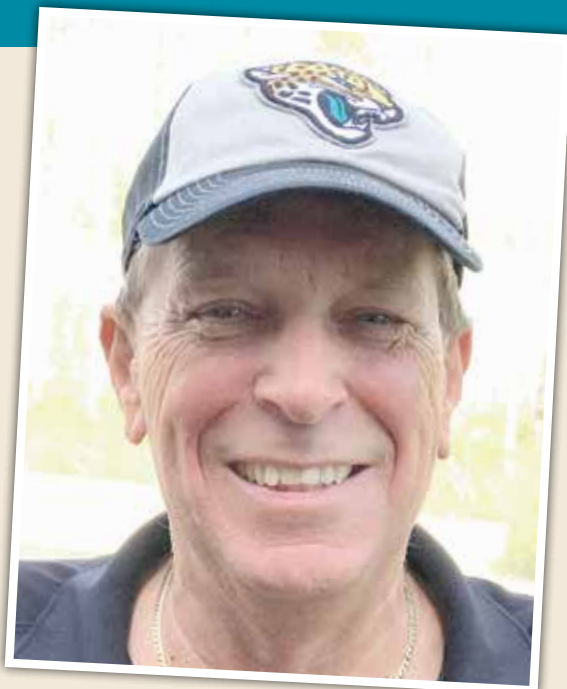


Photo courtesy John DeRemer
John DeRemer

You can easily spot John DeRemer at Nocatee's monthly Farmers Market. He's the guy manning the Jaguars display tent, decked out in official teal and black gear. A natural born promotor, DeRemer is a member of Jaguars' Champion Club, a select group of more than 150 season ticket holders who boost our home team in their own Jacksonville communities. Next time you visit this great outdoor market, stop by the Jags tent and you'll be sure to get a feel for his enthusiasm.

DeRemer and his wife Debbie have called Nocatee home since 2008, residing in the Del Webb development. Self described as a small town boy, he grew up in Glen Gardner, N.J., population 1,000 at a time when he became the town's first ever Eagle Scout. The area's rural character encouraged DeRemer to love the active outdoors.

Along life's way he's notched a few notable achievements: certifying as a scuba dive instructor (wife Debbie also is a certified diver); teaching the martial arts; serving 12 years as a volunteer EMT; managing the largest big truck dealership on the East Coast; and becoming a fervent student of World War II history. At present, DeRemer is employed as a key sales rep for a major fire alarm systems company.

Q. How did you come to live in Nocatee?

Debbie and I decided more than 10 years ago to make a dramatic change in our lives — to leave snowy New Jersey and relocate to Florida. We first settled in the Julington Creek area. Following early news buzz about Nocatee's startup, we plunged in. Have never regretted it, loving the great community amenities and making great friendships. I've been a Del Webb Men's Club member for years and Debbie has served as president of the Women's Club. We even convinced my mom to leave Jersey and join us.

Q. Tell us about your passion for scuba diving.

Two highlights come to mind. First, I had the opportunity to explore a German submarine wrecked off the coast of North Carolina in 1942. It was a surreal experience to descend to 120 feet then maneuver inside the tight tube, silently moving all the way to its control room and conning tower. I still treasure a rubber stamp found in debris of what was once U-Boat 352.

Another thrill was descending into waters of the Truk Lagoon, the world's largest graveyard of sunken ships as a result of a U.S. air raid on the prime Japanese fleet's South Pacific naval base in 1944. The raid is said to be the Empire's

equivalent of America's Pearl Harbor: 80 ships were destroyed. Diving there has to be on every serious diver's bucket list. All told, I have more than 1,500 dives under my belt and Debbie counts more than 400. It's such a life gift that we share this passion.

Q. What lies ahead for you?

I'm thinking, just thinking, about retiring, at least part time. I'm a driven person, still loving marketing and sales. I hope to consult in the commercial fire alarm systems business in the years ahead. Also, Deb and I like to travel and are spending more time in Jersey where our children live along with many friends from boyhood days. But Nocatee remains our anchor. In fact we are selling our present Del Webb house and downsizing; guess where — right here in Del Webb.

Q. What thought would you like to leave with our readers?

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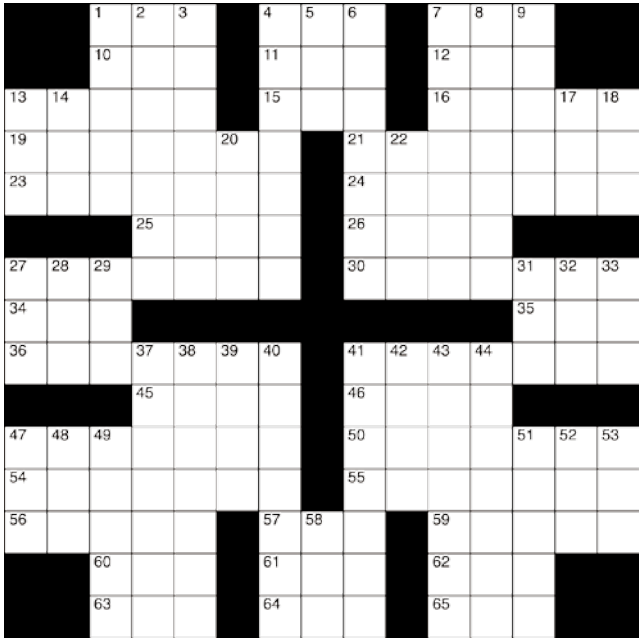
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 2
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chop or cut
- 4. Green veggie
- 7. Bar bill
- 10. Doctors' group
- 11. One who buys and sells securities (slang)
- 12. Be in debt
- 13. Lively ballroom dance
- 15. Singer Charles
- 16. Polish city
- 19. Former
- 21. Dismissing from employment
- 23. Minerals
- 24. Plotted
- 25. Consult
- 26. After a prayer
- 27. Agents of one's downfall
- 30. Leaseholders
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Voodoo god
- 36. Alfalfa

- 41. Apply another coat to
- 45. Witnesses
- 46. Jai __, sport
- 47. Ones who proof
- 50. Recant
- 54. Small group with shared interests
- 55. Part of warming headgear
- 56. Woolen cloth
- 57. Snag
- 59. Central American fruit tree
- 60. Woman (French)
- 61. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
- 62. Type of bed
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Consume
- 65. Japanese freight company (abbr.)

- 3. Elk
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Geological time
- 6. Depths of the ocean
- 7. Burns to the ground
- 8. Becomes cognizant of
- 9. Cause to shade
- 13. US political party
- 14. Refers to some of a thing
- 17. Single
- 18. Type of beer
- 20. Ancient Iranian people
- 22. Grocery chain
- 27. Gridiron league
- 28. English river
- 29. __ and cheese
- 31. Peyton's younger brother
- 32. Long time
- 33. High schoolers' test
- 37. Respects
- 38. Organize anew

- 39. Filippo __, Saint
- 40. Intrinsic nature of something
- 41. Cheese dish
- 42. Ancient Greek City
- 43. Patron saint of Ireland
- 44. Produced by moving aircraft or vehicle
- 47. Shock treatment
- 48. __ Jones
- 49. Things
- 51. Having wings
- 52. Panthers' QB Newton
- 53. Third-party access
- 58. Satisfaction

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Czech monetary unit
- 2. Able to arouse intense feeling



Solve the code to discover words related to tropical destinations. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 4 = a)

- A. 17 1 24 9 21 5 4 16**
Clue: Hot and humid
- B. 21 25 16 4 11 7**
Clue: Surrounded by water
- C. 13 4 5 4 17 21 24 11**
Clue: Getaway
- D. 5 24 4 25 17 4 16**
Clue: Near the beach

ISLAND VACATION WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- BEACH
- BIRDS
- BLUE
- BOARDWALK
- BOATING
- CONCH
- CORAL
- COVE
- CRUISE
- CULTURE
- DESTINATION
- DOCK
- DUNE
- EXPLORE
- FISH
- FOLIAGE
- GULL
- HUMIDITY
- ISLAND
- LUSH
- OCEAN
- PALM
- PEBBLES
- PENINSULA
- SAND
- SCUBA
- SEASHELLS
- SHORELINE
- SNORKEL
- SUNSHINE
- SWIMSUIT
- TIDE
- TROPICS
- VACATION
- WARMTH
- WAVES

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

Salt Water Fishing

Pros and cons of fishing in Northeast Florida

By Capt. Kirk Waltz
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Capt. Kirk Waltz
100 lb. black drum was released to live another day.

taught me a lot over the years. Mark Collins, a Jacksonville native, is all about simplicity. He takes time to notice the small things that many people overlook.

This brings me to a point. The world is full of information and technology that at times is really valuable. Then at times it can muddle things up and make them complicated. Saltwater fishing is a lot like that. Too much technology can confuse you and just the right amount can turn a mediocre day into an awesome day. Here are some pros and cons of saltwater fishing in Florida, the fishing capital of the world.

Pros:

- Florida has one of the largest fisheries in the world with saltwater covering almost three quarters of the whole state

- A huge artificial reef network all over the state with wrecks and manmade structures.
- A lot of natural bottom and reef areas that hold large quantities of fish in and around Northeast Florida
- Many rivers and creeks that have clean ecosystems that feed into the ocean and the St. Johns River
- One of the largest varieties of fish in the world
- The Gulf Stream, a natural underwater river, flows parallel to the state which provides food and nutrition
- One of the nation's largest conglomerations of Park Systems with ocean access
- Countless public access areas that make it easy to fish like piers and rock jetties

Cons:

- Some of the fishing areas can be quite remote like Nassau Sound Talbot Island Point
- It can be buggy at times; bring your bug spray
- Heat index can sometimes jump to 112 degrees
- There are quite a few fishing regulations that you have to read up on. Many species have size limits.
- Many areas do require a boat to reach

I have lived in this state for most of my life and feel the positives outweigh the negatives of fishing here. The people are friendly, the ocean is clean and healthy, and the fish are plentiful. I have chosen to make my career working in the ocean

Salt Water Fishing cont. on pg. 13

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Salt Water Fishing cont. from pg. 12

and its surrounding water and enjoy the quality of the fishery in this great state.

The fishing forecast looks excellent as we push into the cooler months ahead. Reds will school into the shallows seeking warmth and food. Sheepshead and ringtail pogies will invade the rocks, docks, and oyster bars. Speckled and yellow-mouthed trout will chase mullet, shrimp, and small bait fish from the creeks to the edges of the big river. Try throwing jigs tipped with shrimp and mud minnows for best results to get into some of this hot action. I like to work the lower tides for better results. Fiddlers are favored bait for sheepshead, but will also bag reds too.

The offshore scene will hold good numbers of sea bass, snapper, ringtails, sheepshead, and some grouper. Look for the warm calm ocean days and check the party grounds. Drop down some cut squid, cigars minnows, and sardines to the bottom for some fast action. Remember you can't catch them from the couch.

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

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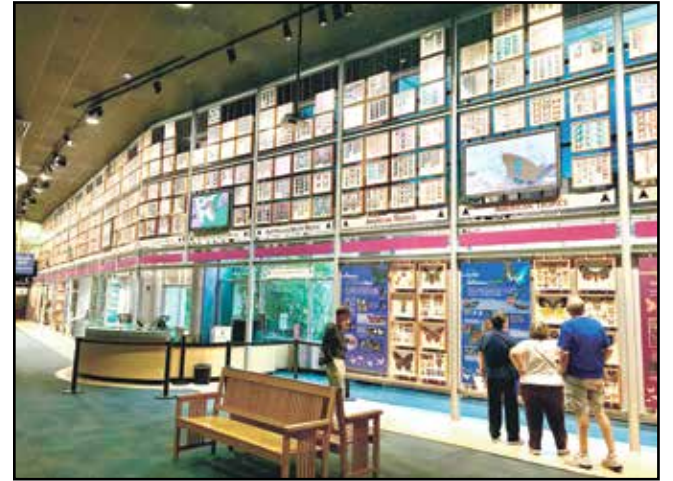


Travel

Butterfly Rainforest in Gainesville

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

Recently, two of my grandchildren visited and we headed to the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. The museum includes an awe-inspiring Butterfly Rainforest filled with numerous species of free-flying butterflies. A serpentine trail through the aviary passes cascading waterfalls and small bridges over pools with fish and turtles.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander

At the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville.

and designs.

Finally, you walk through a series of doorways (to prevent butterfly escapes), and enter the magical world of the rainforest. Informative signage tells visitors about the habits and life cycle (metamorphosis) of butterflies and moths, known collectively as lepidopterans. Benches are interspersed along the trail so you can sit and leisurely observe. You'll notice that certain plants attract only specific species. The museum also places food around, such as ripe bananas, to entice the hungry creatures.

Careful scrutiny reveals tiny birds living near the base of plants and trees. I didn't see these little birds fly, but the airspace bursts with a bevy of butterflies. If you stand still and are lucky, one might land on your head or sleeve.

Daily, at 2 p.m. (more often on busy days) a research student releases newly hatched butterflies and answers questions. When you exit the aviary, you can pass by the lab and see others in various stages of development.

The museum is free except for the Butterfly Rainforest; its cost is \$11 for Florida residents or seniors, and \$6 for ages three – 17.

You can't miss the two gift shops; one filled with everything concerning butterflies, and the main gift shop offering science-oriented books, games, puzzles, and toys. There's a café across the way, and a covered patio with tables and chairs so you can bring your own food. This is a great activity for a rainy day.

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



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Enter the main lobby of the museum and the always popular, giant dinosaur skeleton pulls you in. On the left, the Discovery Zone offers fun, hands-on exhibits where kids and adults engage, unknowingly learning scientific principles. My grandsons loved the microscopes. They put their fingers under the scope and saw the magnification displayed on a TV screen. Nearby, many encased insects or objects were ready for further observation and manipulation. Younger children pretended to navigate a boat model and explore the Gulf of Mexico and its marine life. The curious opened the discovery drawers, while others attempted to assemble archeological pieces like a 3-D puzzle, or looked into a terrarium and an aquarium.

The Natural History pathway weaves through a timeline of Florida's history, exploring the various habitats and creatures that thrive in the different ecosystems. We strolled through a full-scale mangrove forest and mud flat filled with plants, animals, light and sound. The boys ran ahead into the replica of a Florida cave holding (non-living) bats, fossils, minerals, stalactites and stalagmites. But soon, they found the darkened interior a bit creepy!

Before entering the Butterfly Rainforest, visitors pass several live video cam screens displaying thousands of monarch butterflies in Mexico. Then, guests approach a kaleidoscope of color that simply wows. A massive glass wall showcases hundreds of spectacular butterfly specimens allowing close-up inspection of the colorful wing patterns



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Golf Tips from T Shot Ranch

Can golf make you happy?

By Janie C. Farina
mail@floridanewsline.com

*(The way you make me feel)
You really turn me on
(You really turn me on)
You knock me off of my feet
(You knock me off of my feet)
My lonely days are gone
(My lonely days are gone)*

“The Way You Make Me Feel” Lyrics and Song by Michael Jackson

People ask me all the time: “Why play golf? What’s the attraction, anyway?”

Recently I hosted a beginner ladies golf clinic, and by the end of our class, there were smiles, pictures, and exclamations: “This was so much fun!”

For these ladies, golf made them feel happy — but why?

For every lonely golf widow and golf widower out there, there is golf addict counterpart that gets knocked off his feet every time he plays.

Golf addicts come in many shapes and forms. The most common example of golf addiction that comes to my memory growing up above the golf shop at Nick Stoner Golf Course, in Caroga Lake, NY, were the dew sweepers.

These guys would be pulling into the parking lot before donuts were done baking at Dunkin’s. My pro dad would grumble and make his way downstairs to open the golf shop before coffee, until he trusted they would come in and pay their greens fees at the turn (after nine holes) so we could sleep until dawn.

Golf addiction can affect women as well. Mom’s funeral set the stage for the Ladies League members to share stories about “Your mom, Millie” that had us crying with laughter. (My mom was the only one who could get lost on her way back from the restroom and miss playing the last back nine holes).

So how does a game that brings grown men and women to tears, as a result of laughter or despair, keep us hooked?

The RX for golfers who seek that “Golfer’s High” can be found in multiple ways:

Social interaction: Family, friends, business colleagues, romance, league play.

Competition: League play, golf team play, tournament play, career, friendly skins games, personal goals.

Intermittent positive reinforcement: “The way it makes you feel” when hitting the shot that “knocks you off your feet” (playing the slot machine comes to mind as a suitable comparison).

Proper fitted equipment paired with an encouraging instructor is a great combination for good golf health.

Golf clinics can open up a whole experience for the beginner student by offering all four “Golfer High RXs” that can be attained through a series of group classes.

If the professional teacher incorporates the learning experience with simple instruction, social interaction/team building that includes friendly competition, and helping encourage that one shot that “really turns them on,” it’s easy to get hooked!

Lastly, Happy Golf Health starts with properly fitted equipment that encourages freedom and balance in the golf swing to promote a “feelin’ good” experience for the player.

So for all you golf widows and widowers out there, why not “get turned on” by learning how to play?

By getting involved in a group golf clinic, before long you will be singing Michael Jackson’s “you knock me off my feet, my lonely days are gone!”

Happy Golfing!

Janie C. Farina is a 26-year LPGA teaching and club professional in Duval and St. Johns County. Email her at hitthedirt2@gmail.com with comments or questions for future articles.

Registration now open for MixedRITA Tennis Tournament

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Sherill Herzfeld
2017 committee: Lisa Dalziel, Gary Herzfeld, Sherill Herzfeld, Lorraine Carless, Julie Sturm, and Judy Croan.

Registration is now open for the second annual MixedRITA Tennis Tournament at Sawgrass, June 2 – 3, 2018 — and spots are filling up quickly. The MixedRITA tournament features mixed doubles tennis to be held at The Sawgrass Country Club Tennis Center in Ponte Vedra Beach.

“We are so excited to be planning this fun-filled tennis weekend again this year,” said Gary Herzfeld, co-founder of The MixedRITA. “We received phenomenal feedback from last year’s tournament and have increased the number of mixed teams to 64.”

All proceeds from the tournament will go toward breast cancer and prostate cancer research. Last year’s tournament raised \$20,000 with half going to the Mayo Clinic and the other half going to Baptist Beaches Endowment Fund and Bro to Bro Support Group.

The MixedRITA Tennis Tournament at Sawgrass is open to all mixed doubles teams 6.0 and above. Registration is \$180 per team; visit www.the-rita-foundation.org/mixed-rita to register.

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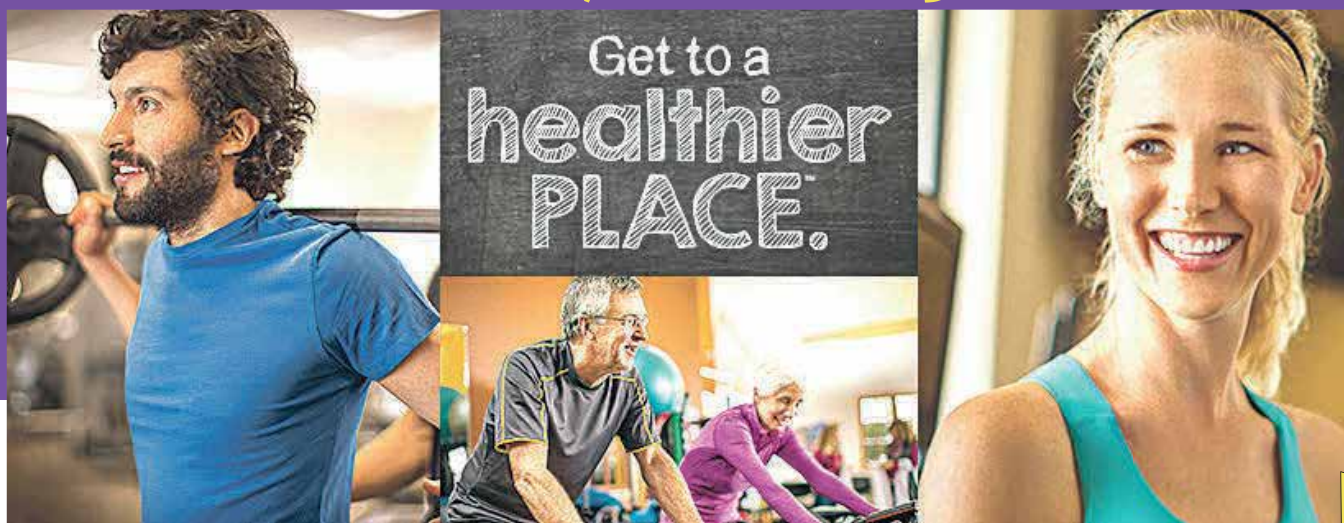
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