

Ponte Vedra NewsLine

AUGUST 2019 Volume 6 Issue 8

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

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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Three local BSA troops attend summer camps

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Three local troops of Boy Scouts of America all attended summer camp at Woodruff Scout Reservation in the Great Smoky Mountains near Blue Ridge, Ga. The troops annually attend summer camps for a week in June or July.

This year found both boys' troops, Troop 288 of Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church and Troop 277 of Christ Church joined by the new girls' Troop 291, also of Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church. Scouts in the girls' troop



Photos courtesy Dick Basye
Troop 291



Troop 277



Troop 288

BSA troops cont. on pg. 11

BEAM celebrates back to school

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry) is currently gearing up for two major annual events that will be taking place in August.

The 26th annual Back to School with BEAM will be held at Beach Church on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. During this event, more than 700 students set to attend preschool through high school will receive a new backpack and school supplies, new underwear, a voucher for a new pair of shoes, and an opportunity to “shop for free” for new and gently used clothing. Volunteers are needed for this event; visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4ba5ab2baa8-back1> to sign up.

BEAM continues to rely on individuals and groups to donate gently used clothing, shoes and new underwear to ensure students have a variety of items to choose from.

Donations are now being accepted at the 7north BEAM Thrift Shop, located at 318 7th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach. Items should be dropped off at the donation area behind the building. Last minute donations may be used for the Back to School with BEAM event or might provide assistance to BEAM by being sold in the thrift shop.

According Lori Richards, executive director of BEAM, the organization is in need of gently used school-appropriate clothing and shoes for students in grades K-12. Particularly needed are boys' and young men's clothing; girls' sizes 6, 6x, 8 and 14; new underwear; and accessories such as hats and belts. Polo-type shirts are part of the uniform for some schools, so white, green, and blue polos are needed. No jeans, please. Monetary donations for school supplies are also appreciated.

A full list of items can be found at www.jaxbeam.org/back-to-school-with-beam along with a listing of all donation drop-off locations.

“Our volunteers and community partners look forward to this event each year,” said Richards. “This year will be our 26th Back to School event and we are so pleased to allow children the ability to ‘shop’ for their back to school needs.”

In order to support events like Back to School with BEAM and other programs such as BEAM's food assistance, financial assistance, nutrition, and single parent programs, the organization will host its annual fundraising gala event, the BEAM of Light Beach Ball, on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019 at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse. The event is presented by Ullmann Brown Wealth Advisors and will include an open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, live music by RadioLove Band, and auctions. Tickets are available for \$150 each. Young professionals (35 years old and younger) can purchase tickets for \$100.

“This ball is such a wonderful and fun event at the end of the summer,” Richards said. “We are grateful to our sponsors of this, our largest BEAM fundraiser, which is important because it helps provide the resources we need to carry out our mission.”

Jennifer Waugh, news anchor at WJXT-TV Channel 4 News, will be the master of ceremonies for the event and the auctioneer will be Jacquelyn Smith, director



Photos courtesy BEAM

The 26th annual Back to School with BEAM will be held at Beach Church on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

of Special Operations for Congressman John Rutherford.

“BEAM is often a lifeline for families who suddenly find themselves in crisis with nowhere to turn. No one should feel helpless and alone when they are trying to feed and house their children. It is why I am pleased to, again this year, help BEAM raise money so it can continue to support beach communities,” said Waugh.

Visit www.jaxbeam.org/ball for event, ticket, and sponsorship information.

“BEAM is a community-driven organization and it is thanks to all of our generous community members that we are able to help our neighbors in need through events such as Back to School with BEAM and funds from the BEAM of Light Beach Ball,” said Richards. “We hope that once again, our community will come together and make these events a success this year.”

About BEAM: Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) helps provide emergency assistance and a path to economic stability to low income families and individuals in the Jacksonville Beaches area. Founded in 1985, BEAM's services include rent and utility assistance, two food pantries, The Beaches Community Food Bank, and an organic garden that provides thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables and fruits annually to our clients. BEAM is a 501 C 3 non-profit organization. Visit www.jaxbeam.org for more information.

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month



Meet Steven Hawking!

BREED:
Orange Tabby

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:
Young Stevie's day always begins with a delicious stretch, followed by a rousing session of chair yoga. He loves to chew on things, especially rolls of toilet paper, people's toes, and lizards.

FAVORITE TREAT:
Lizards

FAVORITE FRIEND:
Helen (Mom), Carolle and Jane

HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:
From his earliest kittenhood, it was clear that Stevie is brilliant, so we named him after one of our favorite geniuses. We look forward to the completion of his post-graduate studies, after which he will forever answer to "Professor Steven Hawking."

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@floridanewslines.com to enter your pet or sponsor the BFF contest.

AUGUST Special Section

BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE

PG 15

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SEPTEMBER's Enhanced Section BACK TO SCHOOL Guide

IS YOUR BUSINESS: School Related? GET NOTICED in this section!

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MYSTERY PHOTO



Win two free day passes to Adventure Landing's Shipwreck Island (value \$65) by correctly guessing our Mystery Photo this month. We will hold a random drawing of all correct answers. Email your guess to mail@floridanewslines.com. Good luck!

Last month's Mystery Photo was Crosswater Dental in Nocatee. Our winner was Ann Davis. Congratulations!

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THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6

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around town

Aug.

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	31

Aug. 1
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

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

Aug. 5
Current Events Discussion Group
 10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 Amenities Annex, 625 Market St., Palencia
adsilby@yahoo.com

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

Aug. 5
Beaches Toastmasters Club
 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Repeating event on Mondays)
 Baptist Hospital Beaches, Wilson Epstein Building
cgs13@yahoo.com

Aug. 6
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/

Aug. 6
Adult Coloring Club
 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

Aug. 7
PVB Division Chamber Before Hours
 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
 AAA the Auto Club Group, 840 A1A N., Ste. 180
 RSVP: Sjcchamber.com

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

Aug. 8
St. Johns County Chamber Women with Vision Council
 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 The Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive
 RSVP: Sjcchamber.com

Aug. 8
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

Aug. 10
Family seining
 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
 Guana Dam, 505 Guana River Road
 (904) 823-4500

Aug. 12 🍏
First Day of School St. Johns County Schools

Aug. 12
Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Meeting
 6 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, FOL Room
www.pvmsd.org

Aug. 15
Savvy Job Hunters Ministry workshop; Career Tips: Professionally package yourself online and in-person
 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive
 RSVP: pottesen66@gmail.com

Aug. 17
Ancient City Chapter of Florida Writers Association meeting
 10 a.m.
 Main Library, 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine
 Open to the public; fwastaug@gmail.com

Aug. 17
Nocatee Farmers Market
 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Town Center Field, Nocatee

Aug. 20
St. Johns CARES meeting
 6:30 p.m.
 Celebration Lutheran Church, 810 Roberts Road
www.stjohnscares.org

Aug. 21
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)

Aug. 21
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

Aug. 21
Ponte Vedra Beach Wednesday Book Club: "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones
 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

Aug. 21
The Best Summer: Just for Teens Gaming Club
 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

Aug. 21
Cervicogenic Headaches Workshop
 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 John Goetze Physical Therapy, 1400 Marsh Landing Pkwy., Ste. 112
 Space is limited; call (904) 280-2001 to register

Aug. 26
Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd.
www.PVBCoalition.org

Aug. 27
Assisted Living Open House
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
 Starling at Nocatee, 999 Crosswater Pkwy.
 (904)596-0880

Aug. 30
Food Truck Friday
 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 Nocatee's Splash Waterpark

Have an event coming up?
Email us at
calendar@floridanewslines.com

2019 - 2020 St. Johns County School Calendar

August 2019				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

- 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



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take 5

Volunteers needed at Council on Aging

St. Johns County residents are invited to use their talents and resources to benefit seniors in St. Johns County through (Council on Aging) COA. Volunteering at COA allows the opportunity to make new friends while making a difference. Volunteers are needed to assist at the Players Club on Tuesdays, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at reception. Volunteers are also needed to assist staff with a variety of activities, meal serving and clean up, in the Sunshine Center on Wednesdays and Fridays. Finally, volunteers are needed to assist as substitute Meals on Wheels drivers on weekdays. There are a variety of routes and volunteers pick the day they can help. Call Sandy Hollett, volunteer coordinator, at (904) 209-3686, or email shollett@stjohnscoa.com for more information or to sign up.

Newcomers Alumnae seeks new members

Newcomers Alumnae was formed in March 1998 to give graduates of newcomer groups an opportunity to continue growing in the community while fostering friendships through social activities. Membership is encouraged for women from Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville and St. Augustine. Some of the current interest groups and activities are book club, bowling, bunco, canasta,

happy hour, lunch-in, mah jongg and wine socials. Monthly luncheon meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month from September through June at Marsh Landing Country Club. The next luncheon is Wednesday, Sept. 4 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Email brookemeister@msn.com for more information about attending the luncheon or more information about the group.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary announces safe boating class

About Boating Safely, an eight-hour class offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-4, will be held on Aug. 3 at Sea School, 14180 Beach Blvd. Attendees will learn in a classroom setting from highly experienced U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors who will present subjects in clear terms, with demonstrations of boating basics, navigation, in-water survival, knot tying, federal and Florida boating laws and regulations and much more. A federal and Florida examination will be given at the conclusion of the class; passing the course provides a Coast Guard Auxiliary Course Completion Card and Florida Boating Safety Education ID Card. The cost is \$25 for training materials or two students can share course materials for a total of \$30. For information and enrollment, contact Bill Vaughan at billvaughan2012@gmail.com or (904) 955-7077.

GTM Research Reserve hosts Beach Exploration

Docents from GTM Research Reserve will lead a beach walk on Saturday, Aug. 17 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. beginning at the GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road. Attendees will learn about the animals that call the beach home, and collect seashells and shark teeth. This is a “Beaches 101” experience the whole family will enjoy. The event is free, but there is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. Visit www.gtmnerr.org for more information and for instructions on how to reserve a spot.

Fine arts group hosts social

The Jacksonville Fine Arts Forum will host a social to learn about its organization on Wednesday, Aug. 21 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Residence at World Golf Village Clubhouse, 330 North Shore Circle (Gate code: 3931). New and enriching programs will soon be offered by the forum for all who love and

value art, including artists, musicians, writers, vocalists and collectors. Light refreshments will be served and attendees will learn about the forum’s art presentations, scholarships, art themed excursions, activities and events. Contact Marty Cawley at (904) 814-8516 or cnmcawley@gmail.com for more information



Photo courtesy GTM Research Reserve



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

Q: Can you share some information about your upcoming Town Hall meeting?

A: I will be hosting a Town Hall meeting at the Cultural Center at Our Lady Star of the Sea on Wednesday, Aug. 7 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. This will be similar to the one we held in Nocatee in May in that we will have a panel consisting of representatives from the county administration, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and also St. Johns County Fire and Rescue to cover different topics.

Q: How would you say your Ponte Vedra office hours are going?

A: The response has been tremendous. We've been basically booked up each time. People like the opportunity to share their concerns in a convenient location and I find it very fulfilling. I can't always fix all the problems, but I can weigh in and get things going in the right direction to find a solution.

Q: When are your August Ponte Vedra office hours?

A: I will be at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Friday, Aug. 16 from 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Citizens need to make an appointment by calling my office at (904) 209-0304. Walk-ins are ok, but I can be better prepared to respond to a specific situation if people make an appointment.

Q: Can you shed any insight on the ongoing situation with the Outpost property?

A: I'm curious to hear what the applicant will present to us. At this time, they still have to go through vetting by our staff and PZA, but when it gets to the commission, I'm looking forward to reviewing it. I don't have a full picture yet, but I understand when hundreds of citizens express their concern, we should listen. Some citizens have requested that this become a conservation area and the

developer may be amenable... we will have to see.

Q: How does conservation land come to be?

A: St. Johns County used to have a LAMP committee (Land Acquisition Management Program) several years ago. This was a group of citizens who would get together and try to find and acquire, using local and state funding, land for conservation. I'd be in favor of starting this up again.

Q: How would the land be paid for?

A: I'm always trying to come up with innovative ways to address problems. In this case, perhaps we could create an optional land conservation fund to which citizens could donate. This would provide local funding and perhaps the county could do some sort of matching of these funds. This type of optional donation by citizens might also work for a sidewalk fund.

Q: What else is happening in the county that you would like to share with District 4?

A: County wide, we have the opportunity to address our tree ordinance. I'm open minded about any changes and have talked to local businesses about this as well as general environmental issues. Some restaurants in St. Augustine Beach are moving away from single-use plastic. Is this a good idea for the whole county? I don't have any firm ideas yet. I want to look at being fair to businesses and taxpayers. The challenge is that the cost of recycling is increasing. We want to keep St. Johns County a beautiful place and we need to be creative when addressing these concerns.

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 is keeping your office busy at this time?

A: We are in the process of finalizing the polling places for the 2020 elections. March 2020, the time of the Presidential Preference Election, will be here before you know it.

Q: What are the polling place changes for the northern St. Johns County?

A: All of the changes are due in some way to the population growth we are experiencing. In the Northwest, Precinct 109 has been at Bartram Trail High School for a long time, but with the school's growth, we needed to move the precinct's voting location to the Shearwater Amenity Center. Precinct 102 has been at Creekside Christian Church along with Precinct 105. We have found it necessary to give each precinct its own voting location and so Precinct 102, with 3,300 voters, will be moving to Unity Church while Precinct 105 will remain at Creekside Christian Church.

In the Northeast, Nocatee's very large Precinct 406 has voted at St. Francis in the Field Church and has grown to 11,000 voters. We split the precinct; some will stay at St. Francis in the Field and new Precinct 410 will vote at Nocatee's Crosswater Hall.

Q: How will voters be notified of these changes?

A: Affected voters will be receiving their new voter cards in the mail very soon. Also, the Supervisor of Elections' website will be updated with new maps and precinct information by mid-August.

Q: Can you share the dates of the 2020 elections?

A: The election dates are now firm. The Presidential Preference Election will be held on March 17, 2020. The Primary Election will be held on Aug. 18, 2020. This will give us 10 weeks between the

Primary and General elections. Finally, the General Election, which is always the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, will be held on Nov. 3, 2020.

Q: Has your office had to do any work with petitions for proposed Constitutional Amendments?

A: Yes, we have had a tremendous amount of petitions come to our office from groups trying to get amendments on the ballot in November 2020. Only registered voters can sign a Constitutional Amendment petition. Staff from my office must check each one and then validate the petition to the state. We only have 30 days to verify and validate, so we actually needed to bring in some part time workers recently to get a large amount of petitions done. The deadline for petitions to come to our office is Feb. 1, 2020 to potentially get on the November ballot.

Q: How many petitions are needed to put a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot and what is the most common petition you have seen so far?

A: Statewide, 766,200 valid petitions are needed to get a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot. The most popular petition we've seen so far is a Constitutional Amendment calling for a citizenship requirement to vote in Florida elections. The proposed amendment seeks to firm up language in this regard that is already in the Florida constitution.

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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with St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer

Q: What is coming up on the calendar of the Property Appraiser's Office?

A: It is almost time for TRIM (Truth in Millage Notices) to be sent out to property owners. It's important to keep in mind that over the past two years, property values in St. Johns County have increased approximately 20 percent, which translates to higher taxes even without a tax increase.

Q: What can you tell us about TRIM notices?

A: TRIM is the most important document a property owner will get in St. Johns County. They will be mailed by our office on Aug. 16 and are also available online (www.sjcpa.us) as of that date. Within the mailing, property owners will receive a copy of the State of Florida Taxpayer's Bill of Rights and a list of exemptions in addition to the TRIM notice.

Q: What will the TRIM notice contain?

A: The TRIM notice shows the market value, the assessed value and the taxable value of your property for 2018 and proposed for 2019. It will also show any exemptions for the property. Make sure you check your TRIM notice for accuracy as to values and exemptions. The taxes are listed by taxable authority and will show what the taxes would be if the county made no changes to the budget. This is called the "roll-back rate," essentially what your taxes would be this year to allow the county to collect the same amount of money as last year. TRIM will also show the

proposed taxes if the proposed budget is passed; this is what would be on the tax bill.

Beginning on Aug. 12, if you go to our website (www.sjcpa.us) or Facebook page, you can view a video with a detailed explanation of TRIM and the appeals process.

Q: What if people would like more information about the individual taxing authorities?

A: The TRIM notice also contains the date and time of the budget hearing for each of the taxing authorities, so property owners can attend to learn more.

Q: What should property owners do if they disagree with the value assessed by your office?

A: When the TRIM notice is mailed, a 25-day clock starts. If the taxpayer has any discrepancy with the Property Appraiser's Office, they should contact us to discuss. If we can't come to agreement, the taxpayer can file an appeal with the Value Adjustment Board. It is very important to do this within the 25-day window, because if not, a taxpayer will lose his or her right to appeal.

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.

Rep. Stevenson hosts mobile office hours

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

For the convenience of residents of District 17, State Representative Cyndi Stevenson will be hosting five sessions of Mobile Office Hours throughout House District 17 during the month of August:

Aug. 6, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Anastasia Public Library Branch, 124 Seagrove Main Street in St. Augustine Beach.

Aug. 8, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Main Branch Library, 1960 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd. in St. Augustine.

Aug. 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Aug. 21, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.: St. Johns County Service Center Julington Creek Branch Multipurpose Room, 725 Flora Branch Blvd. in St. Johns.

Aug. 27, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.: St. Johns County Convention Center at World Golf Village, 500 South Legacy Trail.

This service is free and open to the public. Rep. Stevenson is preparing for the 2019 – 2020 Legislative Session; Committee weeks begin in September 2019.

Visit us online at www.floridanewsline.com

FYI Contact Numbers

St. Johns County Local Government (www.sjcfl.us) bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0304
District 5: Henry Dean, bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0305

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, bcc2jsmith@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0302
District 3: Paul Waldron, bcc3pwaldron@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0303
District 4: Jeremiah Blocker,

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

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Briefs

Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club presents \$35,000 donation to Vision is Priceless

When officials at local nonprofit Vision is Priceless learned the organization had been selected as the lead beneficiary of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach's annual Mineral City Celebration charity benefit, they gratefully expected to receive a modest donation. What they didn't expect was to receive a phone call inviting them to visit the club to pick up a check for \$35,000.

"That may not seem like a lot of money to some people, but for a small nonprofit like ours, it's huge," Executive Director Jami Bueker told Rotarians July 18 when she and other officials accepted the donation. "This will make such a difference to our work."

Vision is Priceless provides access to vision care for the uninsured and underserved. Rotary Club President Vickie

Cavey said the organization was selected as the lead beneficiary of this year's Mineral City Celebration by Deane Beman, the former PGA Tour Com-



Photo courtesy Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach
Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club President Vickie Cavey presents a \$35,000 donation to officials from local nonprofit Vision is Priceless, the lead beneficiary of the club's 2019 Mineral City Celebration charity benefit.

missioner who was the recipient of the club's 2019 "Rock of the Community Award" presented each year at the Mineral City Celebration.

In addition to Vision is Priceless, Cavey said approximately two dozen other local nonprofits will also receive donations from the proceeds of the Mineral City Celebration, which is held each spring in Ponte Vedra Beach.

County commissioner to hold community meeting

St. Johns County District 4 Commissioner Jeremiah Ray Blocker is hosting a Town Hall meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 7 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church Cultural Center, located at 545 A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The meeting will provide District 4 residents with the opportunity to receive information regarding county programs and services, public safety, and more. The meeting will also include a question and answer session with Commissioner Blocker, County Administrator Michael Wanchick, and other St. Johns County staff members.

For more information, call (904) 209-0300.



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Answers to puzzles on page 12

Answers to our Puzzles

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SCARS THE TACO
TARES AIR AAHS
SAKES LNG KLEE
ADENOMAS
PREMATURELY
PANELED DAO
THEME PARCH
PPM FAILURE
PROVOCATEUR
SPOILAGE
ALAE ELI SABIN
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SAEK YEE TAMPA
OUR SSR EBAN

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Answers: A. angler B. rod C. river D. lure

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G B A G L A I M T N E M N G I L A A D N
K C H L I P B T D W O A T L W L G K S
B N E E D R Y S B U N K E R S K N U A Y
L H D I O A E A G P B F U W B B F E M
V P T S D G Y L I E H E L H C W P A V S T Y
O B N A E K G C H C C N R E I U C Y
M B A C Y S T E L F D W N L F R I T P A
P P U I T E B L M E B R E L O M P B A
S T A N C E G E L O A D K D A A L A O O
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M G I S S R M M H H I T C C H U T N F K
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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

MarketInsight



Florida icons

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

In 1937, a Russian immigrant had a novel idea. He wanted to build a new kind of aquarium just south of St. Augustine. His name was Count Ilya Tolstoy and he had a couple of things going for him. First, he was a count. Americans have always been enamored of nobility. Second, he was the grandson of Leonid Tolstoy, author of “War and Peace,” one of the most famous novels of all time. We are equally enamored of famous writers. Tolstoy attracted the attention and support of a man named Pratt and another named Whitney. Both were descended from a long line of wealthy industrialists. Together they planned to open the “World’s First Oceanarium.” It would be more than just an aquarium. The facility would also serve as a film studio.

Marine Studios opened for business in June of 1938 and was an immediate success. Thirty thousand people showed up the very first day, snarling traffic on A1A for miles in both directions. Prior to the imposition of beachfront black-outs, Marine Studios was one of the most brightly lit properties on the Florida coast. So bright were the lights, that a famous German U-boat commander used the lights as a landmark as he hunted for prey off our shores. For the next several decades, barring a three-year shutdown during World War II, Marine Studios was the most popular tourist attraction in the state. Visitors came from all over the world. They came to see the dolphin show. So many people came to see the dolphin show that in 1948 the Times Union called the man who starred in the show, Mitch Lightsey, “the most photographed man in America.” He may well have been!

People also came to see celebrities. A number of famous writers hung out at

Marine Studios. Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, our area’s most famous author, who wrote “The Yearling” was there regularly. Her husband, Norton Baskin, operated the Moby Dick Bar and Grille on the property. Other authors like John Dos Passos and especially Ernest Hemingway liked to drink at the Moby Dick. The bar was shaped like the bow of ship and was fitted with a revolutionary hydraulic system that made it rock as if it were at sea. They say that when the crowd got too rowdy, Norton would speed up the hydraulics to make his inebriated guests seasick.

In 1961, Marine Studios changed its name to Marineland. By then, it had already lived up admirably to its original name and purpose. A number of movies and TV shows were shot there, most notably “The Creature from the Black Lagoon” and its sequels. “Return of the Creature” was shot largely at Marine Studios and in Palatka. Clint Eastwood made his first credited movie appearance in that film, in a scene shot just outside St. Augustine. Many episodes of the TV series “Sea Hunt,” starring Lloyd Bridges were also filmed at Marine Studios. When it was built, Marine Studios was a modern wonder-of-the-world as iconic in its time and place as the Great Sphinx or the Washington Monument.

Today, another group of visionaries is seeking to build a new, state-of-the-art aquarium on the banks of the St. Johns River in downtown Jacksonville. When it is built it will be with a tip-of-the-hat to Ilya Tolstoy and the others who blazed the trail.

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

New health and wellness center at Nocatee to open summer 2020

In response to the growing needs of families in the Nocatee area, Baptist Health will open a new, two-story, 83,000-square-foot health and wellness center, Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee. Scheduled to open in summer 2020, the center will be situated on a 12-acre site located west of Nocatee Town Center and the Lakeside neighborhood, facing Nocatee Parkway.

Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee will serve as a central location for a variety of health and wellness services for the whole family — adults, seniors and children. It will extend the expertise of Wolfson Children’s Hospital to the Nocatee community through outpatient services and programming focused on child health.

In one location, Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee will house multiple specialties including primary care, behavioral health, orthopedics, cardiology, otolaryngology (ENT), OB/GYN care, and pediatric rehab services by Wolfson Children’s Rehabilitation.

Brooks Rehabilitation will relocate its existing Nocatee clinic to Baptist HealthPlace. The team of Brooks highly trained clinicians will provide the community with outpatient physical therapy services and treat diagnoses such as sports injuries, balance impairments and orthopedic injuries.

With an emphasis on promoting good health, Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee also will feature a YMCA with full workout facilities, a covered outdoor greenspace referred to as an “airnasium,” family-oriented programming and child care at no cost for members. A Healthy Living Center, staffed by a Baptist health coach, will provide free health screenings, one-on-one wellness consultations, and “Talk with a Doc” events on a variety of health topics. In addition, an on-site café will feature healthy food choices.

Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee is designed to provide a full spectrum of services, with same- and next-day appointment availability, easy access to and communication with providers, online appointment scheduling and extended hours on weekdays and weekends.

“Our vision is to create a convenient place for health and wellness that helps people get well and stay healthy,” said Brett McClung, president and CEO of Baptist Health. “We’re going to continue to listen to the voice of our consumers in Nocatee to make sure our design evolves so it meets their needs now, as well as in the future.”



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Photo courtesy Nocatee

Nocatee Farmers Market goes to the islands

It was an Island Experience at the Nocatee Farmers Market on Saturday, June 15. Prince Pele's Polynesian Revue performed three different fun and interactive shows throughout the day. There were also bounce houses, crafts and shopping from more than 70 local vendors to the delight of attendees.

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Night under the Stars announced

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department has partnered with the Ancient City Astronomy Club to host Night under the Stars on Thursday, Aug. 1 and Friday, Aug. 2 at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds, 5840 State Road 207. The event begins at 8 p.m. each night. This educational evening will allow attendees to learn about con-

stellations and star names. Telescopes and binoculars will be available to view the moon, planets and other objects in space.

This is a free program, but space is limited and registration is required. Contact Kelly Ussia at kussia@sjcfl.us or (904) 209-0335 for more information or to sign up.

St. Johns County Schools tops in the state again

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

School grades released by the Florida Department of Education show that the St. Johns County School District continues to be a top performing district in the state and is one of only two that has consistently remained an "A" rated district. St. Johns County had 31 "A" schools, seven "B" schools, one "C" school and one "D" school.

Fourteen elementary schools, four middle schools, all six of the district's K-8 academies, five high schools, St. Johns Virtual Franchise and St. Johns Virtual Instructional Program all received a grade of "A" this year.

"Our students have benefitted from the hard work and dedication of our teachers, and I am extremely proud of their efforts," said Superintendent Tim Forson. "Our school grades reaffirm that our focus and resources are applied to help our students succeed. They also provide the opportunity for us to hone in on areas and schools that may need additional support in the coming year."

The elementary schools receiving an "A" are Cunningham Creek Elementary, Durbin Creek Elementary, W.D. Hartley Elementary, Hickory Creek Elementary, R.B. Hunt Elementary, Julington Creek Elementary, Ketterlinus

Elementary, Ocean Palms Elementary, Osceola Elementary, Palencia Elementary, Picolata Crossing Elementary, PVPV/Rawlings Elementary, Timberlin Creek Elementary and Wards Creek Elementary.

The middle schools with an "A" are Fruit Cove, Alice B. Landrum, Pacetti Bay and Switzerland Point. Freedom Crossing, Mill Creek, Liberty Pines, Patriot Oaks, Valley Ridge, Mill Creek, Freedom Crossing and Palm Valley academies received an "A" as did Bartram Trail, Creekside, Allen D. Nease, Ponte Vedra and St. Augustine high schools. St. Johns Virtual School also received an "A".

Otis A. Mason Elementary, R.J. Murray Middle, St. Augustine Public Montessori, Gamble Rogers Middle, Sebastian Middle, Pedro Menendez High and South Woods Elementary schools received a "B" this year. John A. Crookshank Elementary School received a "C", and St. Johns Technical High School received a Maintaining rating this year. The Webster School received a "D".

Visit <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org> for more information.

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Get to Know . . .

Mims Cushing

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewsline.com

Mims (Marguerite) Cushing has always loved reading and she said that in turn made her interested in writing. From early days in New York when her mother would translate books from French to read to her ("Madeline" was a childhood favorite) to her present interest in biographies and non-fiction, Cushing is always reading something. And beginning in grade school, she started writing — first short stories that had "great endings" compliments of her mother (also named Marguerite), and later magazine articles, book reviews and books. "I just don't know what I would do if I didn't write," she said.

Cushing earned bachelor's degrees in French and Art History from Skidmore College and over her professional career has taught creative writing and won awards from the Florida Writers Association. Cushing has two grown children, a son who has written numerous articles for trade journals in the financial sector, and a daughter who is an English teacher. She also has three granddaughters, all of whom enjoy reading and writing . . . a trait passed down from Cushing's mother to now include four generations of readers/writers.

Q: How did you come to live in Ponte Vedra Beach?

A: Actually, my husband wanted to move here to be closer to his family. I was dragged kicking and screaming at the time, about 30 years ago, but now

I am very happy to live here. I was doing a lot of writing in the northeast and had great contacts with magazines in Connecticut and New York. I was getting brave about pitching article ideas and had interviewed people like Martha Stewart and Luther Simjian, who invented the ATM. I just had a really fun life, meeting people and researching topics for articles.

Q: I'm sure you have funny stories to tell. Can you share one?

A: I worked in marketing at the Convent of Sacred Heart. We were having a fundraiser at the convent and Kathie Lee Gifford and her much older husband, Frank Gifford attended. I was supposed to be taking photographs of the event and my camera wasn't working. They were so polite about the delay, but at one point, Frank said, "I'm getting old here!"

Q: What books have you written?

A: The first one was a fundraiser that I, as a member of a neuropathy support group, wrote to donate funds to the Neuropathy Association. It was a self-published book that was actually a collection of stories, "If You're Having a Crummy Day ... Brush Off the Crumbs!" and we made our goal of \$10,000 for a donation. Then, in 2009, Demos Health Publishing offered me a book deal. They liked one of the stories from my first book and so I expanded on it and it became "You Can Cope with Peripheral Neuropathy: 365 Tips for Living a Full Life." I still receive royalties from this book. Finally, my three grandchildren requested that I write a children's book... and so I wrote



Photo courtesy Mims Cushing
Mims Cushing

"Sleepover Surprise." I'll do anything for my grandkids!

Q: Do you have any tips for aspiring writers?

A: My tip for aspiring local writers would be to join the Florida Writers Association (FWA). You will learn a lot — and some things will be discouraging and some will be encouraging. Ten years ago, I read this somewhere, I cut it out and have never forgotten it: "Someone once said you can greatly prolong your life if you do not seek publication. The internet told me nearly 200,000 books are published each year, and of those, 70 percent sell fewer than 500 copies! Take a walk instead. You will greatly increase your longevity. But write because you love the creativity, the fun of it."

Q: What is your favorite book to read?

A: It's probably whatever book I'm reading at the moment. I enjoyed "The Library Book," about the Los Angeles library; "Where the Crawdads Sing," Ruth Reichl's new memoir, "Save Me the Plums," and a funny book by Bill Geist called "Land of the Ozarks."

BSA troops cont. from pg. 1

have several brothers in both troop 277 and 288. There were more than 70 scouts and 12 adults from Ponte Vedra attending.

All three troops enjoyed the cooler mountain temperatures, as well as many adventures including horseback, climbing, whitewater rafting on the Nantahala and Ocoee rivers, aerial adventures, climbing, archery, hiking, skiing, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding, canoeing, fishing, and rifle and shotgun shooting. Some members even attended an old fashioned drive-in movie and some went bowling.

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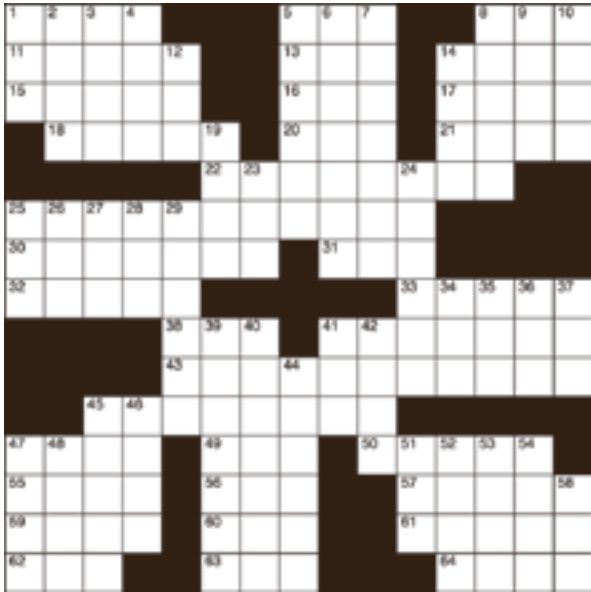
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 8
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Social reformer Lucretia
5. Engine additive
8. Where draft beer comes from
11. Skin lesions
13. Denoting one or more things
14. Beloved dish
15. Packaging allowances
16. Surrounds the earth
17. Expresses pleasure
18. "For goodness ___!"
20. Liquefied natural gas
21. Paul ___, Swiss painter
22. Benign tumors
25. In an early way
30. Covered with wood
31. Principle underlying the universe
32. Message
33. Become dry through heat
38. Printing speed measurement

41. One who does not succeed
43. Type of agent
45. Type of waste
47. Wings
49. Giants' signal caller
50. Polio vaccine developer
55. Congo native
56. Mortal is one type
57. Fishing vessel (Naut.)
59. Ethnic group of Thailand
60. Where golfers begin
61. Western Florida city
62. Belonging to us
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Influential Israeli diplomat

CLUES DOWN

3. Olympic champion Lipinski
4. March
5. Less fresh
6. Reduced in size
7. Garden archway
8. Professional translators group (abbr.)
9. Type of pain
10. What to do for the cameras
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Bangladeshi monetary unit
19. Satisfy
23. Flop
24. Nearsightedness
25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
26. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
27. Midway between northeast and east
28. Swedish castle
29. War-ravaged Syrian city
34. American model Carol
35. Bitterly regret
36. Grand ___: superior grade wine
37. Of she
39. Clergymen
40. Ringwald and Shannon are two
41. Daze
42. Scores perfectly
44. More narcissistic
45. Fencing sword
46. Highest point
47. In addition
48. Hawaiian feast
51. Appropriate under the circumstances
52. Hillside
53. Metrical foot
54. Winemaking region
58. Someone

18th HOLE WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AIMING
- ALIGNMENT
- BACKSWING
- BALANCE
- BIRDIE
- BOGEY
- BREAK
- BUNKER
- CADDIE
- CARRY
- CHIP
- CHUNK
- CLUBS
- DIVOT
- DOWNSWING
- DRIVER
- EAGLE
- FAIRWAY
- GRIP
- LOFT
- PUTTER
- RANGE
- SKULLED
- STANCE

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

⊙ * ☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to fishing.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 5 = r)

A. 13 22 15 8 19 5
Clue: One who fishes

B. 5 25 21
Clue: Fishing tool

C. 5 10 7 19 5
Clue: Moving water

D. 8 16 5 19
Clue: Bait

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Girls on the Run fall registration opens Aug. 19

By NewsLine Staff
 mail@floridanewsline.com

Girls on the Run of Northeast Florida's registration for the 2019 fall season opens Aug. 19 at 6 a.m. online at www.gotrnefl.org. Registration continues through Sept. 6 and is on a first come, first served basis. Interested parties are encouraged to register early.

Girls on the Run is a nonprofit organization that uses an activity-based curriculum to promote social, emotional and physical health, creating a foundation of self-worth for girls in third through eighth grades. Running is used as a platform to inspire and motivate girls, encourage lifelong health and fitness, and build confidence through accomplishment. At the conclusion of the 10-week program, girls complete a celebratory 5k event, giving them a tangible sense of achievement as well as a framework for setting and achieving life goals.

"Studies show that by adolescence, girls' confidence drops about twice as much as boys'. Girls face social pressures and conflicting messages about how they should act and who they should be," said Girls on the Run executive director Laura Lasko. "Girls on the Run aims to change this by teaching girls strategies to remain strong during adolescence in a supportive environment."

The program is designed for eight to 13-year-old girls because children of this age are still receptive to what adults



Photo courtesy photos by H Ryan Photography

have to say, yet they are beginning to feel the pull of peer pressure. These formative years are the perfect time to address important issues and develop skills. An emphasis is placed on intentional decision-making, the importance of making healthy choices, conflict resolution and how to make a meaningful contribution to society. The curriculum stresses peer support and doing one's best and rejects defeating others or exerting power over others.

Over the last 15 years, Girls on the Run of Northeast Florida has impacted the lives of more than 18,000 girls. This season, Girls on the Run will be offered at locations throughout Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties. Most teams will meet two times a week for 75 – 90 minutes after school, with the exception of a handful of Saturday sites that meet once a week in the morning. The season will culminate in a 5k event on Dec. 7 at UNF that brings together family, friends and community members to celebrate the girls' growth throughout the season.

Visit www.gotrnefl.org for more information about the program, site locations and registration.

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BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE



Sales tax holiday returns in time for back to school shopping

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The 2019 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday was passed by the Florida Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis. This sales tax holiday begins Friday, Aug. 2, 2019, and runs through Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019.

During this sales tax holiday period, qualifying items will be exempt from tax including certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item; clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$60 or less per item; and computers and certain accessories selling for \$1,000 or less per item, when purchased for noncommercial or personal use.

The 2019 Back to School Sales Tax Holiday is Aug. 2 – Aug. 6, 2019.

This sales tax holiday does not apply to: Any item of clothing selling for more than \$60; any school supply item selling for more than \$15; books that are not otherwise exempt; computers and computer-related accessories purchased for commercial purposes; rentals or leases of any eligible items; repairs or alterations of any eligible items; or sales of any eligible items in a theme park, entertainment complex, public lodging establishment, or airport. Visit floridarevenue.com for more information.

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