

Ponte Vedra NewsLine



DECEMBER 2019 Volume 6 Issue 12

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

A Florida NewsLine Publication



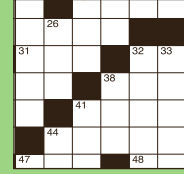
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Palm Valley Boat Parade celebrates the season

By Cassy Fiano-Chesser
mail@floridanewslines.com

With so much water access in the First Coast area, there's no shortage of boat parades during the holiday season — but the Palm Valley Boat Parade is, as they say, not your average boat parade. Originally started by local families almost 40 years ago, it's now become a much-cherished community tradition. This year, the Palm Valley Boat Parade will be held this year on Dec. 7, at 6 p.m.

"It was a fun way to try to commemorate and celebrate the holidays with family and friends," Beacham Still, chairman of the boat parade, said. "It's grown over the years; at its height, I guess there were close to 30 or 35 boats. It had fallen off, but we've been revamping it and have had 25 boats from around the city and around Florida."



Photo courtesy Palm Valley Boat Parade

This year, the Palm Valley Boat Parade will be held this year on Dec. 7, at 6 p.m.

The parade makes its way through seven miles of Palm Valley's Intracoastal Waterway, and is marked by its laid back, friendly nature. And while the lighted boats are enough to thrill many, this parade is also different because there is interaction between participants and spectators. And there's more than just boats, too.

Boat Parade cont. on pg. 10

Group seeks holiday cards for troops from community

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps
mail@floridanewslines.com

Ponte Vedra Beach resident Emily Spencer didn't intend to start a non-profit organization that has sent 3.5 million holiday cards to military service members all over the world — but that is exactly what happened after the Heartillery Group founder made one simple Facebook post in 2012 asking for the community to fill out cards.

"I received 17,000 cards in five weeks from 15 states," said Spencer, who had set a goal of 1,000 cards. "I really thought that I would have to write all the cards by myself. It sort of all happened by accident."

At the time, Spencer's husband was deployed in Afghanistan, shortly after they were married in 2012. Spencer was living in Massachusetts and was facing the holiday without her husband and wanted to send him a card. She wondered if anyone else would also want to spread holiday cheer and gratitude to all of the active duty military members through cards.

After the Christmas card response, Spencer again posted on Facebook, requesting Valentine's Day cards. This time 23,000 were received, and Heartillery, now based in Ponte Vedra Beach, was created.

"We received cards from people all over the world, and you could tell that it really instills a sense of community," said Spencer. "It became a very affordable way for people to say thank you to someone they did not even know."

Heartillery now collects cards throughout the year for all military branches and also

sends care packages with donated toiletries. The biggest deliveries are made for Christmas and Valentine's Day, with cards being sent out in boxes of 350, costing \$18.45 to ship one large flat rate box.

"Our whole purpose is to bring our community together and to bring communities together overseas," said Spencer. "This also teaches kids to do something for others. It becomes a nice lesson as well."

Spencer's husband, Scott, an Army Transportation Officer on inactive Reserve since 2010, said he was both surprised and impressed by how quickly Heartillery grew. Scott Spencer currently works at Crowley Maritime



Corporation, but can still be deployable at any time.

"Anytime you get mail overseas, it definitely makes your day," said Scott Spencer. "I am really proud of my wife and of the team she has put together. It is a small thing to send a card, but it is a great gift to receive."

The Spencers have two young children and moved from Norwood, Mass. to Ponte Vedra Beach two-and-a-half years



Photos courtesy Heartillery Group

ago for Scott Spencer's job. Emily Spencer also works as the director of operations for Dodds Wealth Advisors.

Heartillery, volunteer run, also includes high school and college students who gain experience in public relations, sales and marketing. Emily Spencer said she is so grateful to her volunteer board.

"I could not do this without my volunteers and the community support. This has been a powerful and moving experience," she said.

Ponte Vedra High School senior Marisa Gonzalez said she has been honored to work with the Heartillery Group. With an emphasis in marketing at the high school for the last four years, Gonzalez has recently designed several flyers for Heartillery and is leading the public relations side for the group. She also assists with promoting Heartillery through social media and has been contacting local schools to encourage participation in the holiday card drive.

"I am so thankful for our troops and appreciate the sacrifice they give up for our freedom," said Gonzalez. "The Heartillery Group is an amazing organization that helps our troops and their families in times of need. I am so grateful for this opportunity that Emily has given me."

Heartillery's goal right now is to send out 500,000 holiday cards with a deadline of Dec. 12.

If interested, fill out a box of holiday cards and send them to the Heartillery Group, P.O. Box 2649, Ponte Vedra, FL 32004-2649. For more information, to volunteer or to make a donation, visit <http://heartillerygroup.org> or call (781) 680-5553.

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The Bolles School is a college preparatory day and boarding school for students in Pre-K through Grade 12.



FLORIDA NewsLine

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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month



Meet PUMPKIN!

BREED:
Orange Tabby

FAVORITE ACTIVITY:
He loves to take naps and play with his toys.

FAVORITE TREAT:
Tuna from the package.

FAVORITE FRIEND:
Gracie


HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:
Pumpkin got his name from his orange color, and because we took him home around the fall season.

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.

Holiday Gift Guide

Pg 10



Happy Holidays!

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January's Special Section HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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MYSTERY PHOTO



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around town

Dec. 1
Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Ponte Vedra Chapter meeting
 10:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.
pontevedrachapternsdar@aol.com

Dec. 2
Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd.
www.PVBCoalition.org

Dec. 4
Jingle and Mingle Holiday Event
 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 Eventide Model, 181 Sea Glass Way, Ponte Vedra Beach
 RSVP: Sjcchamber.com

Dec. 4
Newcomers Alumnae special Christmas luncheon
 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Marsh Landing Country Club
 RSVP: brookemeister@msn.com

Dec. 4
Toastmasters Club #5199 Ponte Vedra Beach
 7:30 a.m. (repeating event on Wednesdays)
 Players Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane
carmenjsardinas@gmail.com

Dec. 5
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

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

Dec. 6 – 7
Nocatee-A-Glow
 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 Nocatee's Splash Waterpark

Dec. 7
Oh What Fun! presented by Ponte Vedra Woman's Club
 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 Sawgrass Village
 Free and open to community

Dec. 7
Jingle Mingle hosted by Ponte Vedra Woman's Club
 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 Sawgrass Village tent next to Nona Blue's
 Tickets: PVWCEvents.com

Dec. 9
Current Events Discussion Group
 10 a.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 Amenities Annex, 625 Market St., Palencia
adsilby@yahoo.com

Dec. 9
Beaches Toastmasters Club
 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Repeating event on Mondays)
 Baptist Hospital Beaches, Wilson Epstein Building
cgsml3@yahoo.com

Dec. 10
Newcomers of North St. Johns luncheon featuring entertainment by Roger Dodd and Johnny Piantadosi
 11 a.m.
 The Florida Yacht Club, 5210 Yacht Club Road.
 RSVP by Dec. 4: sjaird@comcast.net

Dec. 10
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/

Dec. 10
Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Meeting
 6 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, FOL Room
www.pvmsd.org

Dec. 11
Newcomers of the Beaches luncheon
 11 a.m. (repeating event, second Wednesday of each month)
 Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Pkwy.
 RSVP: www.newcomersofthebeaches.com

Dec. 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

Dec. 14
Family seining
 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
 Guana Dam, 505 Guana River Road
 (904) 823-4500

Dec. 16
Caregiver support meeting
 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. (repeating event on Mondays)
 Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center, 1048 A1A N.
 (904) 297-0061

Dec. 17
St. Johns CARES meeting
 6:30 p.m.
 Celebration Lutheran Church, 810 Roberts Road
www.stjohnscares.org

Dec. 17
Holiday Bingo For (Seymour) Bucks
 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

Dec. 18
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

Dec. 18
Ponte Vedra Beach Wednesday Book Club: Reader's Choice
 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

Dec. 18
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)

Dec. 19
Adult Coloring Club
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library
 (904) 827-6950

Dec. 21
Nocatee Farmers Market: Winter Festival
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Town Center Field, Nocatee

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Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital announces "Paris in Full Bloom" Art & Antiques Show

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital will welcome nationally acclaimed lecturers and internationally recognized art and antiques dealers to the annual Art & Antiques Show, Dec. 6 – 8, at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center in downtown Jacksonville. Proceeds fund state-of-the-art services, programs, equipment and facilities to provide healthcare for all children in the Northeast Florida/Southeast Georgia region. Show hours are from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday and 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday. Daily admission to the show is \$15 and lecture tickets are \$30. Tickets are available online at www.artandantiquesshow.com, by email at womensboard@bmcjax.com or by calling (904) 202-2886.

St. Augustine Orchestra starts Christmas music season with "Happiest of Holidays" concerts

The St. Augustine Orchestra will kick off the city's first holiday concerts of the season on Wednesday, Dec. 4 and Thursday, Dec. 5 at the Lightner Museum at 8 p.m. each night. The city's namesake orchestra will be presenting more than a dozen holiday clas-

sics, including the Nutcracker, Hugh Martin's "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and Mel Torme's "Christmas Song," Bill Holcombe's "Twas the Night Before Christmas," "Concert Suite" from "Frozen" by Kristen Anderson-Lopez, and music from the movie "Elf" by John Debney. They will be accompanied by Lee Weaver and by the St. Augustine High School Chorus. Ticket prices are \$27.50 for adults; \$12 for youths 11 – 17 and free for children 10 and younger. Visit <https://staugustineorchestra.ticketleap.com/holiday-sao2019/> for general seating tickets.

Spring soccer signups announced

Ponte Vedra Soccer Club has opened registration for the Spring 2020 soccer session. The club offers several levels of age appropriate soccer programs and training to meet the need of the players' skill level and experience. Practices are held at Nocatee Community Park and games are played at Davis Park in Ponte Vedra. Players aged four – 17 are encouraged to visit pontevedrasoccerclub.com for more details or email info@pontevedrasoccerclub.com for more information.

Santa Claus is comin' to the library

Families with young children are invited to warm up at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Dec. 4 from 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. to celebrate the holidays.

Incoming Youth Services Librarian Maribeth Wood will introduce herself to patrons as she shares a variety of holiday stories. Good cheer is sure to abound as children create fun crafts and enjoy milk and cookies. Photo opportunities will be plentiful at this event and special guest of honor Santa will pose for family photos. Registration is not required, but festive outfits and holiday spirit are encouraged. Call the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, (904) 827-6950, for more information. This program is free for all and sponsored by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library.

Newcomers to celebrate the season

Newcomers of North Saint Johns will hold its December luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 10 beginning at 11 a.m. at The Florida Yacht Club, 5210 Yacht Club Road. The event features a delicious lunch and entertainment by Roger Dodd and Johnny Piantadosi, who will lead attendees in singing holiday and popular songs. Doors will open

at 10:30 a.m. The cost for the luncheon and program is \$30 for members and \$35 for guests. Two luncheon choices will be offered, bronzed chicken with andouille dirty rice and seared pork loin with apple raisin compote, and all entrées include a BLT salad, iced tea or coffee and key lime pie with pina colada sauce for dessert. A cash bar is also available. All reservations must be received by Dec. 4. Contact Sue Aird at sjaird@comcast.net to register for the luncheon or for more information about the Newcomers of North St. Johns.



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

Q: The holiday season is upon us, which unfortunately often means that scammers are out in full force. Do you have any tips to avoid being taken advantage of?

A: The irony of the season is that among the goodwill, gifts, and parties, there is an opportunity for scammers to take advantage of the generosity of the community. I have a few things to look out for.

First, the old adage "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is" is a true one. Don't let your wish to save a few dollars cost you more in the long run. Be skeptical and do your due diligence with things like online shopping and donation solicitations. If you are buying online, shop at legitimate retailers with secure websites. For donation solicitations, be wary of phone calls asking for money for seemingly good causes. Call local organizations like the VFW to determine if they are truly behind the phone call asking for money to fund a veteran's Christmas dinner.

Parents, look out for your children who are susceptible to scams with their online presence. Make sure they know that if they are meeting someone they don't know to do a transaction, such as from Craigslist, to meet someplace safe, like at the sheriff's department or police department parking lot. Take some

time to educate your kids and instill in them the patience to do their own due diligence so they don't get ripped off.

Q: Do you have any other holiday season tips?

A: I'd like to also stress to people to enjoy their time with family and to enjoy food and alcohol responsibly. Don't over indulge and if you do, there are many options to get home safely including Uber, Lyft and taxis. Or just stay at the location of the party.

Finally, what with people visiting, family decisions as to where to spend the holidays and potential financial burdens due to the time of the year, there is a lot of family stress. Unfortunately, we see domestic violence cases increase at this time of the year. If you are in a domestic violence situation, in St. Johns County, the Betty Griffin House offers counseling, emergency shelter and relocation. EPIC Community Services also offers family, alcohol and substance abuse counseling. These are all available for anyone to use — and please do, so you don't need to have contact with law enforcement or the State Attorney's office.

I'd like to wish everyone in our community peace, love and joy over the Holiday Season.



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

Q: St. Johns County continues to grow. Does the school district have plans for additional schools beyond the recently announced new High School HHH and K-8 School MM?

A: At our meeting in November, the school board approved our latest five year plan for facilities. In addition to High School HHH and K-8 School MM, we are planning for another K-8 and another high school, in addition to two school expansions, one at Liberty Pines Academy and one at South Woods. The locations of these new schools hasn't been determined yet.

Q: When do you expect zoning conversations to start for High School HHH and K-8 School MM?

A: For the new high school, we will start discussing zoning in just a few months, in the winter of 2020. It's important to start high school zoning early to start fostering school community and the high school's culture and traditions. This new school will provide relief for Nease and Bartram Trail high schools. Zoning discussions will begin later for K-8 School MM, in winter 2021. I like to refer people to the school district website for updates and new information about the new schools. For security reasons, there won't be floor plans posted, but you can still get an idea of what the schools will look like from the renderings.

Q: Do you have an update to share on teacher contracts?

A: We were able to increase beginning teacher pay to \$39,000. Our substitute teacher pay has been increased to \$15 per hour, the first increase in a number of years. Hopefully we can attract more

subs. The position requires an associates' degree and there is training involved. As we continue to grow, we continue to need more subs. Also, in an effort to attract more bus drivers, we will increase the signing bonus to \$3,000 if the applicant already has their commercial driver's license.

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

A: I'd like to recognize the Teachers and Rookie Teachers of the Year candidates who were just announced. From northeast St. Johns County schools, I'd like to congratulate Erika Carpenter and Kierstyn Barber from Landrum Middle School; Lucy Ninko and Jessica Sundstrom from Nease High School; Jill Sheen and Kaleigh Kessler from Ocean Palms; Kate Dowdie and Margo Rust from Palencia Elementary; Julie Durden and Nicole Krejci from Palm Valley Academy; Jason Nettle from Ponte Vedra High School; Lori Gallaher and Alison Dahl from PVPV Rawlings; and Aletha Dresback from Valley Ridge Academy. (Not all schools named Rookie Teachers of the Year.)

Also, to benefit our school district's 5,000 employees, there will be a mental health counselor added to our employee wellness centers.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. I hope everyone enjoys their winter break and returns rested after the New Year.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

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

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

Q: Can you give some background on the recent closure of the Mickler's Beach parking lot?

A: We had a number of homeowners come to us with a request to allow them to use county property, Mickler's parking lot — only a portion of it and only for a limited period of time. (The homeowners have approval from the State of Florida to do their renourishment project and they are spending their own money on it.) This is a routine request that we receive regularly from private citizens. On Oct. 1, the Board of County Commissioners gave permission to use a portion of the Mickler's Beach parking lot.

At some point, our staff changed the agreement with the homeowners and the entire parking lot ended up being shut down. This signed contract was not the one the commissioners approved; we were very clear that we would only approve the contract if it didn't impact residents and was for a limited period of time. We are looking into how this happened. We, the commissioners, are accountable to the voters and the staff is accountable to us.

Q: So what is happening now?

A: We've now spent two weeks trying to undo this and it's still not resolved [as of interview date of Nov. 14.] This is very disappointing to me. The beach cannot be inaccessible to a majority of our residents. We plan to discuss this internally — how and why it happened and how to insure that it doesn't happen again. *Editor's Note: The Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously*

on Nov. 19 to end County Administrator Michael Wanchik's contract due to "lack of confidence."

Q: Can you shed some light on how the commission is handling the \$15 million budget surplus?

A: Our budget was approved with a surplus this year. We have allocated the money into four basic categories: beach renourishment (\$3 million will be set aside in the reserve category to assist in obtaining federal funding); a new library in World Golf Village; a new regional park in World Golf Village and an expansion of Davis Park; and additional recreational boat access to our waterways.

Q: When will these projects be underway?

A: It's very preliminary at this point, but with funding identified now we can start with the beginning engineering work. I think some projects should start in the next six months to a year.

Q: Do you have the dates set for your December office hours in Ponte Vedra Beach?

A: This month, I will be at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Friday, Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Citizens need to make an appointment by calling my office at (904) 209-0304 so I can be best prepared to respond to their questions.

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.



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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, bccl1johns@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,

bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0304
District 5: Henry Dean, bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us, (904) 209-0305

St. Johns County School Board

(www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)
District 4: Kelly Barrera, kelly.barrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us, (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

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Photo courtesy Brooke Freeman

Newcomers Alumnae hosts author Nancy Wall

At the monthly Newcomers Alumnae luncheon held on Nov. 6, 2019 at Marsh Landing Country Club, guest speaker and author Nancy Wall discussed her book "Pulled By The Heart" to a crowd of more than 90 members and guests. "Pulled By The Heart" is a true story of reshaping a woman's life to fit two cultures. 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, Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Nocatee, Ponte Vedra Beach, and St. Augustine. The group's next monthly luncheon, on Dec. 4 at Marsh Landing Country Club, will feature a special singing group as well as door prizes and raffles items at a festive holiday luncheon for members and guests. Contact brookemeister@msn.com for more information.



Photos courtesy Sharon Adams

Nease Band's "Wanderlust" earns awards

The Nease Marching Band just completed a successful marching season. During the month of October, the band won two class championships, and was named a top 10 finalist at a major national regional held in Orlando. It also received straight superiors at the MPA adjudication in Fernandina Beach. The Nease Band traveled to Fayette County High School in Georgia where it competed in the 35th annual Lafayette Classic. Despite less than ideal weather conditions, the ensemble performed beautifully and took home awards for percussion and color-guard, as well as winning the title of Grand Champions. In November, the Nease Band hosted its 2019 First Coast Marching Invitational. Ten bands from Florida to Georgia competed in the day long event, with Duncan U. Fletcher High School earning the Grand Championship. Nease had the opportunity to perform its award-winning show "Wanderlust" as an exhibition at this event. Led by band director, Anthony Cananzi, Jr., the Nease Band program receives strong support from parents and community volunteers. Contact the Nease Band Boosters at neasebandcommunications@gmail.com if you are interested in supporting the musicians and program or to ask questions in anticipation of your freshman coming to Nease High School.

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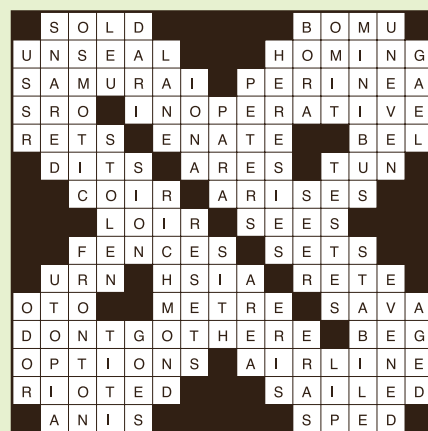
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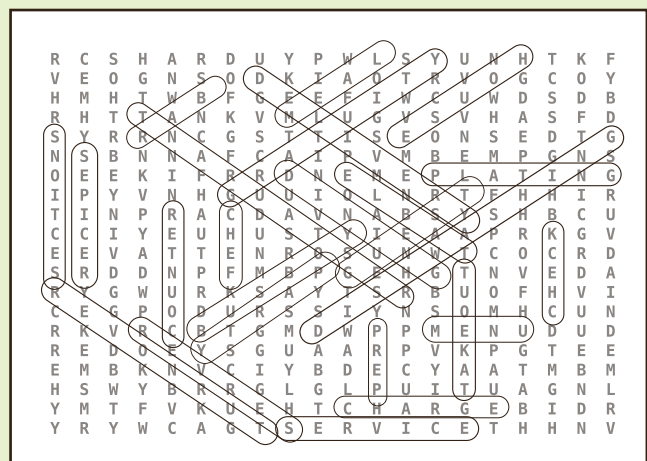
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Answers to puzzles on page 12

Answers to our Puzzles



Answers: A. customer B. menu C. recipe D. reservation



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2019 - 2020 St. Johns County School Calendar

December 2019

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

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

ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

MarketInsight



The Right Tool For The Job

By Scott Grant
ScottGrant@StJohnsBusinessMonthly.com

Duke Kahanamoku, the father of modern surfing, won his first gold medal at the 1912 Olympics in the 100-meter freestyle. The Games were held in Stockholm and were the last before World War I. The world would not see another Olympics until 1920.

The 1912 Olympics are perhaps best remembered for the heroics of Jim Thorpe. The American superstar won both the decathlon and the pentathlon. At the awards ceremony, King Gustav of Sweden presented the medal for the decathlon with the words, "Sir, you are the greatest athlete in the world." Thorpe's two-word response: "Thanks, King." Thorpe was stripped of both medals in 1913 when it was discovered he had been paid to play baseball, violating the amateur code.

Those games are also remembered for the marathon. At that time marathoners did not believe in drinking water. It was an unusually hot day. Half of the field was forced out of the race. A Portuguese runner died of heat exhaustion. A Japanese runner named Shizo Kanakuri lost consciousness and collapsed. Ashamed of his "failure," he returned home without notifying Olympic officials. The Japanese runner would remain an official "missing person" in Sweden for more than five decades. Then, in 1967, when it was discovered he was still alive, Shizo was invited back to Sweden to finish the race. His official time of 54 years, 8 months, 6 days, 8 hours, 32 minutes and 20.3 seconds is the slowest in Olympic history. "It was a long trip," he remarked. "Along the way, I got married, had six children and 10 grandchildren."

Another American hero also competed in the 1912 Olympics. He is arguably more famous today than any other early Olympian, but not for his performance

in the games. George S. Patton competed in the modern pentathlon. This was the first appearance of the event, which included running, fencing, swimming, horseback riding, and shooting. Patton finished well in four of the five events and would have medaled except for a poor performance in the shooting event. Most of the competitors used a .22. Patton considered that to be unmanly, so he used a .38 which blew huge holes in the target. Officials decided one of his five shots missed the target altogether. Patton said the shot passed through one of the holes his previous shots had made.

George S. Patton would go on to lead American soldiers to victories in two wars. He would become almost as famous for his pistols as his victories. In North Africa he tried to shoot down an attacking German aircraft with a pistol. Patton won dozens of medals during his military career. The only medal that eluded him was that Olympic medal.

A .38 caliber revolver is a fine gun, but it is not the right gun for target shooting or shooting down enemy fighter planes. In investing, it is equally important to use the right tool. If you are unsure which tool to use, ask someone who is not trying to sell you something. Speaking of the right tool for the job, in 1925 Duke Kahanamoku was giving a surfing demonstration near Newport Beach when a fishing trawler capsized. Seventeen of the 29 people on board died. Duke rescued eight men using his surfboard. Turns out that a surfboard is a great life saving tool.

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



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Statistics show just how big small business is

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

Small businesses have such a big impact on their communities, and the world at large, that it might be time to reconsider referring to them as "small." According to the World Bank, small businesses have a major impact on the world economy, especially in emerging countries. In such nations, small and medium enterprises contribute up to 60 percent of total employment and up to 40 percent of national income. Small businesses figure to frame their economies in emerging countries in the coming decades, and they're already doing so in developed nations, such as the United States and Canada. The following statistics show just how big small businesses have become.

- The U.S. Small Business Administration notes that small businesses make up 99.7 percent of all employers in the United States. Percentages are similar in Canada, where BDC, a bank devoted exclusively to entrepreneurs, notes that 99.8 percent of businesses employ fewer than 499 workers.
- Hundreds of thousands of new businesses are started each month, with Yahoo! reporting that about 543,000 entrepreneurs open a business in a typical month.
- Small businesses benefit one another, as a 2017 report from the Canadian



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

firm FreshBooks found that 66 percent of small businesses outsource services to other small businesses.

- No business is too small to be a small business. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics noted that microbusinesses, which are defined as firms that employ between one and nine employees, accounted for 75 percent of all private-sector employers as recently as 2013.
- Small businesses and happiness might be linked. A 2019 survey from Guidant Financial and the online lending marketplace LendingClub found that 78 percent of small business owners rated their level of happiness as an average of eight on a scale of one to 10 (10 being the happiest).
- Female entrepreneurs are on the rise. A 2017 report from American Express found that female entrepreneurship grew by 114 percent between 1997 and 2017.



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Boat Parade cont. from pg. 1

“There’s a dock decorating competition, judged by the participants on the water,” Still said.

The parade also raises money for the Palm Valley Community Association, which gives donations to local charities. Those who want to watch the parade are welcome to stop by five local restaurants on the parade path: Barbara Jean’s, Valley Smoke, Palm Valley Outdoors, Lulu’s, and the Palm Valley Fish Camp.

“We encourage folks to go to the restaurants the night of the event, have a party of sorts, and all of those places have docks that provide public viewing areas,” Still said.

For people trying to decide which boat parade to catch this holiday season, the Palm Valley Boat Parade is different than some of the more well-known ones held around Jacksonville.

“The confined nature of the Palm Valley canal, and the interaction between the attendees and the spectators sets this parade apart,” Still said. “In downtown or St. Au-

gustine, you’re kind of viewing from a distance. But the close proximity allows a lot of interaction, and we judge not only on creativity and best in show, but superlatives for most spirited. There’s a lot of dancing and waving. That’s not often found in larger venues.”

Still himself has been active in the Palm Valley Community Association for years, and wanted to find a way to help his community as a small business owner.

“Palm Valley is a small area of an unincorporated community,” Still said. “The goal of the association is to kind of protect the character and neighborly spirit of our area. And the event is a 501 c (3) charity, and benefits local charities, like scholarship, beautification, and other benefits. We want to try to build the neighborly, holiday spirit. The parade has been around for a long time, but the charity aspect is a recent debut from the past few years. It’s a community event, but we want to try to use this event to benefit the community now in a good way.

Hottest Holiday Gift Ideas from Your Local Businesses

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewline.com

Shopping is a big part of the holiday season, when families and friends gather to reconnect and exchange gifts. The benefits of shopping locally go beyond convenience — shopping locally can directly benefit your community and the people who call it home. Put money back into the local economy and promote entrepreneurship; consider doing some of your holiday shopping in your community this year. Following are some suggested gift ideas by some of our local businesses:

Select Services

Select Services is a home-grown enterprise right in the heart of Mandarin. Drawing on a lifetime of experience, Select Services is designed to help you. Whether you need some help decorating or “staging” your home or with those projects in your small business that need to be done but you’re running out of time or lack the resources — we can help. And how about that “creative” side of you or someone you know? Think outside the box and provide the gift of art. Select Services provides classes for beginners right through experienced artists who want to get back into their hobby — and we make it easy and affordable. Contact us today to find out how we can help you.

Wild Birds Unlimited

Give the gift of bird feeding from Wild Birds Unlimited — The gift that brings joy every day of the year. The Advanced Pole System (APS) lets you easily create a customized foundation to start bringing the joy ... and we have the know-how to put together the perfect set up for your gift giving. Outfit your APS with our lifetime guaranteed bird feeders, made in the USA with recycled materials. We have bird feeding down to a science. Want to feed the birds, but not the squirrels? We have you covered. Other great gift ideas include bird baths and bird friendly fountains, nesting boxes, wind chimes, Solmate and Wheel House socks — all made in America. Don’t forget the great stocking stuffers like Chirpy Tops and whimsically packaged finest Chocolate Nut Toffee from our friends at Columbia Empire Farms. Great gifts for all ages and all budgets are available. Visit jacksonville.wbu.com for more information.

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Get to Know . . .

Muriel Hattori

By Cassy Fiano-Chesser
mail@floridanewslines.com



Photo courtesy Muriel Hattori
Muriel Hattori

Muriel Hattori is a world traveler who has made her home on the First Coast, and she did so with a splash. A massage therapist who has worked with many athletes, Hattori's brand of "Muriel Magic" has won Folio Weekly's "Best Of" award for massage therapist four times. She's also lived on two different continents and numerous countries before settling down in Ponte Vedra, somewhere she never thought she would grow to love — but ultimately did.

1. Tell me about yourself.

I've been a massage therapist for almost 30 years, and I was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. I went down to live in Los Angeles, where I met my husband. My husband was transferred to Ponte Vedra Beach with his job, and I have to say, I did come reluctantly. I had a wonderful clientele and business in Los Angeles, and it had taken a long time to build it up, so to come to a brand new city where we didn't know anyone was a little bit difficult. Also, it was a rude awakening to come to a little town like Ponte Vedra. This was in 1993, so it was very different from what I was used to. It took us a long time to get used to it, but we're here now, and we love it, and we're here to stay. I'm also very lucky to have a wonderful son and daughter. My son lives here

in Jacksonville and my daughter lives in Los Angeles. I have two happy children, and you can't ask for more than that.

2. What do you love about living in Ponte Vedra Beach?

I have to be really honest, it was very difficult in the beginning for us. But we worked through the hard parts, we met a lot of nice people, and things have changed here. I've become very used to the quieter lifestyle, the fact that we don't have the crazy traffic that we found in Los Angeles. I always said that when I decided to retire, I probably would return to California. But we go back to visit every year, to see family, and my daughter still lives out there. Yet every time we go, I always think, "Ah, it's so nice to come home to Ponte Vedra." It's such an easier, quieter way of life, and we have everything here.

3. How did you become interested in massage therapy?

Initially, I started learning acupuncture. I found out I really did not like needles. But I learned how to do acupuncture, and it turned out to be hard for the American population to accept the idea of it. Acupuncture was not that well known at the time, and I wanted to find something that would make it easier, so I went in to shiatsu massage, which basically is a kind of theory. You use the same meridians, the same energies. From that, I blossomed out, and I got very lucky and met a lot of wonderful people. My work just kind of took off, and I ended up working with profes-

sional sports people, almost from day one. I was able to get a connection with the Jacksonville Jaguars, and that started off my career in Ponte Vedra. I was the therapist for people like Tom Coughlin, but I didn't work just with the Jaguars; I worked with many teams. I also worked with Steve Spurrier, Jerry Rice, Keenan McCardell, and also PGA tour players.

4. Did you always intend to work with athletes?

No, I just got lucky. But I like being able to help heal people. If you think of a football player, they're playing hard, and their bodies are in pain every single week. So what I try to do is help relieve some of that pain, and help them heal faster. So now, when they're hurting, they call and tell me they need some of that "Muriel Magic" — that's what they call it.

5. What do you like to do for fun in your spare time?

I'm at the latter part of my career now; I used to work seven days a week. But now I'm slowing down, and my husband and I travel every chance we get. We're having a little bit of the best time of our lives now. I've been very fortunate; I've traveled all around the world, and I just go wherever I can. There's no bad place to go really, right?

Character Counts! Run/Walk registration open

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

The Character Counts! Steering Committee is calling all walkers, runners and fitness enthusiasts to participate in the Character Counts! 6K/3K Run/Walk on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020, at 9 a.m. The run/walk will begin and end at Palencia Elementary School located at 355 Palencia Village Drive, St. Augustine.

Walkers and runners will enjoy a course running through the neighborhoods of Kensington and Las Calinas and can choose to participate in the 6K (3.73 miles) or 3K (1.86 miles) distance.

Registration fees for the 6K are \$25 before Jan. 1, 2020, \$30 in January, or \$35 on race day. Registration fees for the 3K are \$20 before Jan. 1, 2020, \$25 in January, or \$30 on race day.

Race proceeds support Character Counts! initiatives throughout the St. Johns County School District. The run/walk is open to all ages, and the top three winners will be awarded in each of the age categories as well as the overall male and female finishers. A cash donation will be awarded to the top three to five schools with the most registrants. Last year these schools were Ocean Palms Elementary, Alice B. Landrum Middle, Otis Mason Elementary, Palm Valley Academy and Palencia Elementary. All race registrants will receive a t-shirt and other goodies from area businesses and organizations. At the finish line, each race participant will receive a commemorative dog tag which is the sixth design in its series.

Registration forms and more information are available online at www.racesmith.com/races/charactercounts.html.



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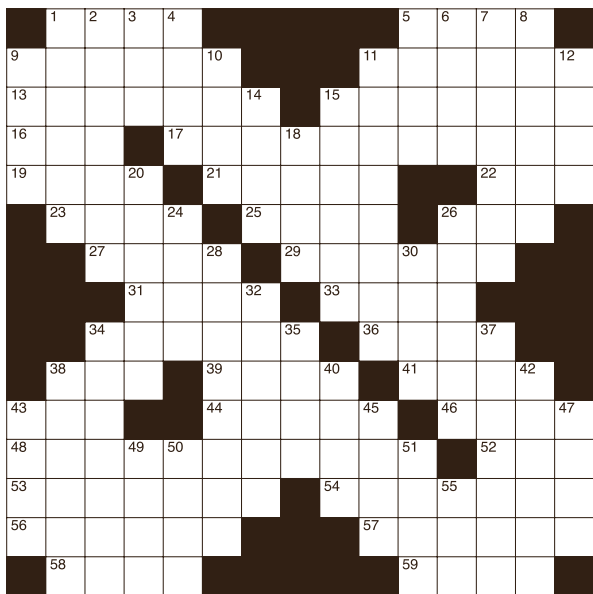
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Puzzles

Answers to puzzles on page 8
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. No longer on the market
- 5. W. African language
- 9. A way to open
- 11. A type of pigeon
- 13. Japanese warrior
- 15. Pelvic areas
- 16. No seats available
- 17. Not working
- 19. In a way, soaks
- 21. Growing outward
- 22. Ritzy local ___ Air
- 23. Telegraphic signals
- 25. Metric units
- 26. Large wine cask
- 27. Fiber from the husk of a coconut
- 29. Gets up
- 31. French river
- 33. Witnesses
- 34. They make great neighbors
- 36. The sun does it
- 38. Used to store ashes

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Trapped
- 2. About osmosis
- 3. Romanian monetary unit
- 4. Form of Persian
- 5. Cold wind
- 6. Leave out
- 7. Small vehicle
- 8. A little off
- 9. Soviet Union
- 10. A narrow path or road
- 11. Contrary beliefs
- 12. One who speaks Gaelic
- 14. Private school in New York
- 15. Jackson and Townshend are two
- 18. Soldier in an airborne unit
- 20. Taken illegally
- 24. Capital of Valais
- 26. Male reproductive organs
- 28. State capital
- 30. One with supernatural insight
- 32. Starts all over again
- 34. Jai alai arena
- 35. Star Wars antagonist
- 37. Freestanding structure
- 38. The ideal place
- 40. The extended location of something
- 42. Made level
- 43. Distinctive smell

- 45. Greek goddess of discord
- 47. Got older
- 49. Type of monkey
- 50. Travels to
- 51. Geological times
- 55. Edge

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to restaurants.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 16 = e)

A. 7 8 17 13 3 11 16 10
Clue: Patron

B. 11 16 4 8
Clue: List of dishes

C. 10 16 7 18 22 16
Clue: Cooking instructions

D. 10 16 17 16 10 19 25 13 18 3 4
Clue: Booking

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Palmer Catholic Academy girls' basketball wins league championship

The Palmer Catholic Academy girls' basketball team won its third consecutive league regular season and tournament championship on Nov. 6 by defeating San Juan Del Rio at Bishop Kenny, 50 – 22. The girls finished the season 16 – 1. Their record over the last three years is 45 – 2.

Ponte Vedra High School's Beaches Go Green Club educates younger students

By Anne Marie Moquin
mail@floridanewsline.com



Photos courtesy Anne Marie Moquin

Students from the Ponte Vedra High School Beaches Go Green Club with students from Ocean Palms Elementary.

A group of high school students from the Ponte Vedra High School Beaches Go Green Club intend to educate younger generations about the 4Rs (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and the dangers of single-use plastic and how it is impacting the planet.

A small group of the high school club's members made their first ever education presentation on Wednesday, Nov. 6 to more than 100 students and staff at Ocean Palms Elementary School. The high schoolers spoke about how single-use plastic consumption was impacting the planet, particularly the oceans and gave easy suggestions for improving the students' own habits. The high schoolers had a short skit, a PowerPoint presentation, played interactive games and offered an opportunity for the elementary students to share experiences and to ask questions.

Maximus Moquin, a junior at Ponte Vedra High School and co-president of the PVHS Beaches Go Green Club, said, "Our group was really excited to have the chance to speak to these younger students and impact their thinking about single-use plastic. Plastic pollution is an issue that needs to be taken seriously."

After the presentation, Ocean Palms principal Tiffany Cantwell told the high schoolers that their presentation was the beginning of an inspirational program at the elementary school, where the fifth grade leaders will present the eco-friendly lessons to lower grades at the school during this school year.

Another group of PVHS Beaches Go Green Club students made a similar presentation to Ponte Vedra Rawlings Elementary School fifth graders on Nov. 20 to continue to create awareness and engage younger generations.

Beaches Go Green, a non-profit based out of Jacksonville Beach, aims to spread awareness and education about the waste that we produce and how it affects the environment, particularly the consumption of single use plastic. Beaches Go Green's vision is that through awareness and education, people will make small "green" changes in their lives that add up to big things. Visit www.beachesgogreen.org for more information about the group's educational programs or to make a donation.

Anne Marie Moquin is the founder/executive director of Beaches Go Green.

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Travel

History and Holidays in Fredericksburg, Virginia

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Tidewater area, including our nation's capital, makes a memorable and educational trip for the family. Tour the city, see the famous landmarks and browse the museums — but Washington can feel overwhelming and congested. Therefore, I suggest a side trip to nearby Fredericksburg, Va., either by rail or car, to continue the theme, but relax amidst colonial history. The charming town offers many special events in December.



Mary Washington's house

her husband. From Dec. 8 – Dec. 30, Kenmore will exhibit A Wee Christmas — Dollhouses and Miniatures Show with highly detailed, replica dollhouses, including the mansion, and miniatures.

The Mary Washington House, where George's mother lived in during her last years, is open for tours year-round. On Dec. 1 from 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m., a candlelight tour of the house will include hot cider and a chance to taste Mary Washington's famous gingerbread.

George's brother also built a home in Fredericksburg, but it later became the Rising Sun Tavern. Tours of the tavern by costumed docents explore period furnishings and 18th-century tavern customs. A holiday open house on Dec. 6 includes seasonal treats and Glasgow Punch.

Perhaps my favorite Fredericksburg attraction, the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop, presents costumed staff who passionately explain the methods and ingredients used in Colonial medicine. See a glass jar of live leeches and learn how they were used for bloodletting. You'll leave feeling happy to live in the 21st-century.

The James Monroe Museum was first opened in 1927 by Monroe descendants as a place to house their prized family collections. Today the James Monroe Law Office, used by future United States President James Monroe from 1786 to 1789, is a popular museum. An open house on Dec. 6 will feature music played on the harp and the Monroe family's Astor pianoforte, plus a reception.

Start with a visit to Ferry Farm, George Washington's boyhood home. Archeologists discovered the foundation in 2003 and after careful study, reconstructed a new building on the site. Visitors hear the story about young George, his parents, and his brothers and sisters. Did you know that Washington's father died when he was 11? Many of the values that shaped George into a future leader came from his widowed mother. The site includes interpretive displays, buildings to tour, a working farm, hiking trails, and beautiful views.

Here's the best part: since the house and furnishing are replicas, visitors are encouraged to touch and interact. They can sit at the dining room table, try out the beds or pick up items. It's great for kids. And as an added holiday treat from Dec. 8 – Dec. 30, the annual gingerbread contest and exhibits will be on display.

In addition to Ferry Farm, Fredericksburg also showcases Kenmore, the most elegant house in town built in the 1770s by Washington's sister and

Fredericksburg contains more than just

colonial history; visitors can follow a National Park Service auto tour through the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg.

The battle was one of the most lopsided victories for Confederate General Robert E. Lee. From Dec. 11 – 15, 1862, the Federal Army of the Potomac attempted to dislodge Lee's army from the fortified heights of the city. Although the Federals did manage to breakthrough, the success was short-lived, and the Confederate position held strong for the remainder of the battle.



Hugh Mercer Apothecary



Photos courtesy Debi Lander Kenmore

Fredericksburg thrives with a variety of modern, fine restaurants such as kybecca, Orofino, and Benny Vitali's, selling the hugest slice of pizza ever. Consider a stop at the A. Smith Bowman

Distillery, and overnight lodging at the Courtyard by Marriott Fredericksburg or a few lovely Bed and Breakfast Inns.

Be sure to stop by the Visitor Center for more information or VisitFred.com.

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



Photo courtesy Katrine Strickland

Fall celebrated at Palm Valley Academy

Palm Valley Academy recently hosted its Fall Family Night, presented by Flagler Health. There were games, obstacles, pumpkin decorating contest, Grace Conservatory Dance Company performance, and raffle ticket purchase to silly string Principal Jessica Richardson and Assistant Principal Zachary Strom.



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