

Ponte Vedra NewsLine

OCTOBER 2024 Volume 11 Issue 10

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

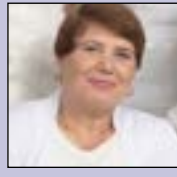
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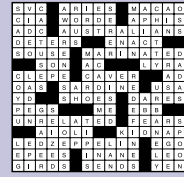
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Photos courtesy Jennifer Werba
Jack Marciani showing his Lion spirit during the race

Landrum Lions cross country team shines at Clay County Invitational

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Landrum Lions cross country team had a successful start to its season at the Clay County Cross Country Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 7. Both the boys' and girls' 3K teams delivered stellar performances, securing second place overall out of nine competitive teams.

Landrum Lions cont. on pg. 10

Sisters-in-Arms hosts pickleball and golf Showdown fundraiser

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps
mail@floridanewsline.com

Sisters-in-Arms marks four years in existence this year on a mission to help young women aging out of foster care. This month on Friday, Oct. 25, the Ponte Vedra Beach-based non-profit will hold its annual fundraiser with a new concept, "Arm-in-Arm Showdown," featuring golf and pickleball tournaments to further its cause — one swing at a time. The event will be held at The Yards in Ponte Vedra Beach.

For Sisters-in-Arms co-founders Mary Lourdes Saenz and Steph McFee, the event will support long-term goals via the Purpose to Possibilities program.

"Our first annual Showdown combines our golf and pickleball tournaments into one and will prove to be one of the most fun and inspirational events of the year. Our goal is to support 10 – 20 girls through our program in 2025, and The Showdown will be our major fundraiser to support this goal," said McFee. "Each young woman in our Purpose to Possibilities program receives training, mentorship, clothing and the community they will need to transition and thrive."

Saenz said the dual tournament



Photos courtesy Mary Saenz
Sister-in-Arms co-founders Steph McFee, Mary Saenz and Seamar Ranch Director of Transformational Care Kindall Walden.

tickets will include drink tickets, light food, entertainment and an epic after party featuring evening entertainment Howl at the Moon. The event, which is open to the public, offers team and individual player tickets, and sponsor-

ships are currently still available.

Sponsors of the event include Duval Clinical Solutions, Mike Ammirata with Resource Solution Plus, Beards, Jay W. Granzow, M.D., EPX Restoration, O'Steen Volvo, The Harris Agency, Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery, Skinner Family, Jim Pitts, Gloria North, Dr. Jay W. Granzow, Isaac Family Charitable Fund, Tony Spuria, Terrance Kane, Lockett Family, Aimee and Dane Boggs Foundation, Daniel and Sarah Stouder, Our Lady Star of the Sea and the DeGoey Family/ La-Z-Boy Furniture Gallery. Local businesses also donated silent auction items totaling \$3,000, added Saenz.



Last year's Sister-in-Arms fundraiser participants.

Sisters-in-Arms cont. on pg.13



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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

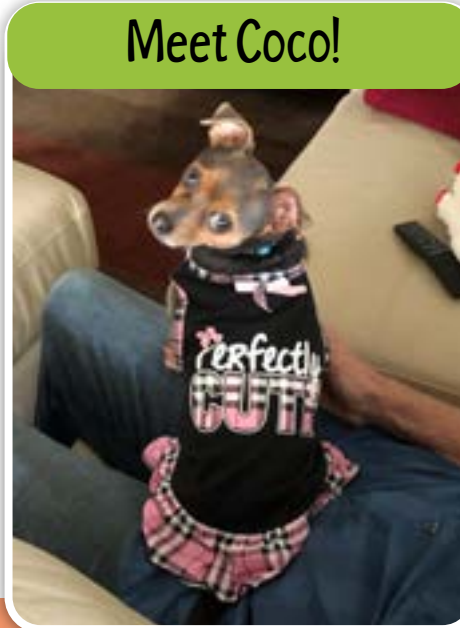
Breed:
Chihuahua/Terrier Mix

Favorite Activity:
Riding in golf cart down to the park

Favorite Treat:
Green dental chews

Favorite Friend:
Neighbor's big white poodle, Aoife

How Did Your BFF Get Her Name:
She is a Hospice dog and was named by her former owner. She loves to sleep under her blanket beside us.



Meet Coco!

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answer to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Also tell us you saw the BFF contest in Ponte Vedra NewsLine. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and appear in Ponte Vedra NewsLine! Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet.

When you advertise, you encourage repeat business, create traffic, and attract new customers!

Don't miss our November issue
Featuring our Senior NewsLine!
Deadline 10/18/24

Call Linda Gay today to reserve your space!
904.607.5062

What do you want to read in Ponte Vedra NewsLine?
Let us know!

editor@floridanewsline.com

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Can you guess where this is?
Submit your answer to: mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.
Last month's Mystery Photo was the Nocatee tennis courts.

Answers Puzzles PG 10

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

A. autumn B. leaves C. colorful D. chill

Senior NewsLine!

Coming in our November issue:
This popular annual section sells out quickly, so make your space reservation today!

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October

Community Calendar What's Happening in Ponte Vedra

Council on Aging offers interest groups at the COA Center at UF Health Nocatee. Meetings are free and self-guided except for the Caregiver's Support Group. Advance registration for clubs and meetings is required; email pbrunell@Stjohnscoa.com or call (904) 814-9407. Tuesday clubs include: Widows and Widowers social group, second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Wednesday groups include: Mah Jongg Meet-up, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Palm Valley Market is held inside and on the grounds of the Palm Valley Community Center at 148 Canal Road, every Tuesday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The market offers organically grown produce, microgreens, eggs, grass-finished beef, all natural chicken, Mayport shrimp, prepared meals, preservative-free bread, honey, tea, natural skincare, custom jewelry and soy candles. Visit the Palm Valley Market Facebook page for more information.

1st: Vicar's Landing monthly Boutique Sale will be held Tuesday, Oct. 1 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 1000 Vicar's Landing Way. The sale includes a special venue in the Parlor of Halloween, Thanksgiving and a sampling of Christmas items as well as framed art, 14k gold, sterling silver, costume and designer jewelry, antique and household furnishings, plus many decorative knick-knack items. The public is welcome. Checks or cash only please. The Vicar's Employee Scholarship Fund receives all the proceeds. Call Janet Nicosia at (904) 607-2078 or Beverly Webb at (904) 315-2610 for more information.

1st: Essential Tremor Support Group Meet, Greet and Educate will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 11 a.m. at Baptist Health Place in Nocatee, 400 Colonnade Drive. Sanjai Murali, founder and CEO of JOGO Health will present a new wearable sensor, driven by AI, to treat ET. All are welcome. RSVP to Jan Kary at jkary@verizon.net or (202) 438-6750.

2nd: Women's Self-Defense W.A.V.E. will be held at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Oct. 2 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. This class for women and girls aged 13 and older is focused on teaching basic self-defense techniques to respond to potential threats. Participants will receive one-on-one training and practice with an all-woman team composed of instructors from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, St. Augustine Police Department, and St. Augustine Beach Police Department. Registration is required; call (904)

827-6950 or sjcpls.org to sign up. Space is limited to the first 30 participants.

2nd: Coastal Friends will host St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes at a luncheon on Oct. 2, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Marsh Landing Country Club. The luncheon is open to members and guests, as well as the community. The cost to attend is \$25. Space is limited; reservations must be made in advance by contacting bartshar@comcast.net as soon as possible.

3rd: Bingo will be held at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane, on Thursdays from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. for four weeks beginning Thursday, Oct. 3. Contact Suzanne Duvall at (904) 209-3659 for more information and to register.

5th: Wellness events at Sawgrass Village will be held every Saturday in October from 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Hosted by Mind Body Social, all events are free and open to the community. Events include wellness classes such as yoga and barre, all held on the lawn in front of ABC Liquors. Visit <https://mbs.events/sv/> for more information and to register.

5th: "Double Vision: Writing Dual Timelines," a workshop hosted by the NE Florida Sisters in Crime, will be held Oct. 5 from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the San Marco Community Center, 1936 Hendricks Ave. in Jacksonville. The cost for all Sisters in Crime members and college students is \$50; non-members' cost is \$70. Visit nefloridasistersincrime.org for more information.

7th: Community Town Hall regarding two St. Johns County School District referenda on the November ballot will be held on Oct. 7 at 6 p.m. in the auditorium at Ponte Vedra High School. This meeting is open to the public and not restricted to parents of students in St. Johns County.

7th: Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will meet on Monday, Oct. 7 at 5:30 p.m. for Chat & Chew before the 6 p.m. meeting at Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. The featured speaker will be Josh Hirsh, AI consultant speaking on "Artificial Intelligence, Friend or Foe?" Email pvdemclub@gmail.com for more information.

12th: Ponte Vedra Writers will meet on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 11 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. Sarah Bewly, playwright and mystery author, will speak

about "Creating Individual Voices and Fictional Settings that Feel Real." The meetings are free and open to the public. Visit www.floridawriters.org for more information.

14th: PVB Teens: Pumpkin Painting at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library will be held on Oct. 14 from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. This program is for teens in sixth through 12 grade. Space is limited; call the library at (904) 827-6950 for more information.

15th: FOL Speaker Series at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library presents Gary Sass, local historian, entrepreneur, and storyteller, who will explore "A Tale of Two Cities - Pontevedra, Spain and Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida" on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at the library. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 6:30 p.m.

16th: Ponte Vedra Woman's Club general meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 12 p.m. at Marsh Landing Country Club. The program will feature professional organizer Christine Stone. Registration required; visit www.pontevedrawomansclub.com for more information.

17th: Free Tech Help with David will be held on Thursday, Oct. 17 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. Drop in for tech assistance with your Android, Apple, and Reader devices; no RSVPs required. Visit sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch/ for more information.

17th: St. Johns County Republican Party District 4 monthly meeting will be held on the third Thursday of each month (this month, Oct. 17) at 6:15 p.m. at Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd. Visit stjohns.gop for more information.

19th: The Nocatee Farmers Market will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Nocatee Station Field. The Farmers Market is open to the public.

19th: Archaeological Fair to celebrate International Archaeology Day, sponsored by Archaeological Institute of America - Jacksonville Society and the Beaches Museum in Jacksonville Beach, will be held on Oct. 19, at the museum (381 Beach Blvd.) from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The event will include demonstrations and a simulated archaeological dig for children. A free lecture by Dr. Adam King from the University of South Carolina, "The Rise of Etowah: Creating Community, Place, and

Identity," will take place at noon in the historic chapel. The fair is free and open to the public. Contact Melva Price at (904) 241-9411 or aiajax-soc@gmail.com for more information.

23rd: The Golden Bachelor Auction, presented by the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club, will be held Wednesday, Oct. 23 beginning at 7 p.m. Five bachelor dates will be auctioned and Toni Foxx will serve as auctioneer. Cash bar and heavy appetizers available. Visit www.pontevedrawomansclub.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

24th: Check your blood pressure with Diane DeCarlo at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center on Thursday, Oct. 24 from 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. There is no charge for this event. Contact Suzanne Duvall at (904) 209-3659 for more information.

24th: "Should You Ever Put Someone Else's Name on Your Deed?" a free lecture by Megan Wall, St. Johns County Legal Aid, will be presented at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane, on Oct. 24 at 11 a.m. Contact Suzanne Duvall at (904) 209-3659 for more information and to register.

26th: GTM Research Reserve will host its monthly Beach Cleanup on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. No registration is required; meet at the Visitor Center, 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Vedra Beach where gloves and trash bags will be provided. Visit gtmnnr.org for more information.

29th: Gory, Ghastly Ghost Stories in the Park with the Tale Tellers of St. Augustine will be held at the Bird Island Amphitheater behind the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Oct. 29 from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Members of the Tale Tellers of St. Augustine will tell spine tingling tales to celebrate Halloween. Due to the nature of the scary stories, this program is best suited for those ages 12+ with an adult present. RSVP to (904) 827-6950 or sjcpls.org as space is limited.

31st: Halloween Party with Concierge Care will be held on Thursday, Oct. 31 from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane. Enjoy costume party fun with games, prizes, and Halloween goodies. Contact Suzanne Duvall at (904) 209-3659 for more information.



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Eddie Creamer, CFA

NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF TAX ROLL

Pursuant to Sections 193.122 and 197.323, Florida Statutes, Notice is Hereby Given that the Tax Roll for St. Johns County was Certified to the St. Johns County Tax Collector on the 10th day of October, 2024, for the Collection of 2024 Taxes Pending Value Adjustment Board Changes.

EDDIE CREAMER
ST. JOHNS COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

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9/17/2024

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ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Paid for by Rob Hardwick, Republican, for St. Johns County Sheriff



with St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

Q: Is it too late to register to vote for the 2024 General Election?

A: No! The deadline is Oct. 7, 2024. There is still time to register to vote for this election. Voters needing to update their address can make changes up to Election Day.

Q: What is the easiest way to register to vote?

A: St. Johns County residents can visit www.registertovoteflorida.gov to register to vote online. You will need your Florida Driver License or Florida

Identification Card, and the last four digits of your Social Security number. Residents can also visit any of the St. Johns County Public Libraries or Tax Collector Offices to register to vote. Florida Voter Registration Forms are also available to print on our website at www.votesjc.gov.

Q: I've recently moved from another county in Florida. Do I need to re-register to vote?

A: No. You just need to update your address with the Elections Office. To update your address online, visit www.registertovoteflorida.gov, or call the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238. You are required to confirm your identity before making any changes to your voter record.

Q: Will I receive a sample ballot from the Elections Office?

A: Yes. All St. Johns County voters who have not requested a vote-by-mail ballot will be receiving a paper sample ballot in the mail. They are scheduled to be mailed in early October; however, they are already available on our website. Visit www.votesjc.gov and click "My Voter Status" to view your sample ballot online.

Q: Is the 2024 General Election ballot long?

A: Yes! This year, we have a two-page General Election ballot. In addition to the offices up for election, there are also six Constitutional Amendments and two St. Johns County School Board Referenda on the ballot. This lengthy ballot will take some time for voters to complete in the voting booths.

Q: How can I avoid lines on Election Day?

A: To avoid lines at the polls, vote your two-page General Election ballot by mail or vote early. Due to state law changes, vote-by-mail requests expire after each general election. Voters can request a vote-by-mail ballot online at www.votesjc.gov or by calling the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238.

Q: What is the deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed?

A: The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed is Oct. 24, 2024, by 5 p.m.

Q: When is Early Voting for the 2024 General Election?

A: Early voting for the 2024 General Election will be Oct. 21 through Nov. 2 — that's two Saturdays and one Sunday. Remember, registered St. Johns County voters can vote at ANY early voting location. For times and locations, visit www.votesjc.gov.

Q: Where can I find more information about the Amendments and Referenda on the General Election ballot?

A: To read the ballot language for the six Constitutional Amendments and two St. Johns County School Board Referenda, voters can visit our website and click "Election Dates."

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

A: Readers can email me at voakes@votesjc.gov or call me at (904) 823-2238.

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For Florida State Senate District 7



George "T" Hill
For Florida State Senate District 7

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with St. Johns County Commissioner Krista Joseph District 4

Q: Can you share any insight on your vote on the 2025 St. Johns County budget in September?

A: I voted against both the millage rate and the budget, but both were passed by a 4 – 1 vote. I feel that every budget can be cut by 5 percent and certainly a \$1.7 billion budget should be able to be cut with good management. I'm not talking about cutting funding for first responders and the like, but line items in the marketing department, or for consultants should be scrutinized. I'm in favor of public – private partnerships for some programs which would be a cost savings.

more firefighters and we have a whole grant department to try to provide extra revenue to offset expenses. I am in favor of this. It should be noted that the four new parks and the new fire stations are not funded by property taxes.

Some people in District 4 pay \$100,000 annually in taxes already, so even the increase after accounting for homestead exemption and Save Our Homes can be a lot of money, considering the 13 percent increase in taxable property valuations that St. Johns County has seen on average.

We just received a grant to pay for

Q&A with Krista Joseph cont. on pg. 9

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2024 General Election · November 5, 2024

OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY



October 7, 2024
DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

Voting by Mail?

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed for the 2024 General Election is October 24 by 5 PM. Visit www.votesjc.gov or call the Elections Office to request your ballot.

Vote-by-mail ballots must be returned to the Elections Office by 7 PM on Election Day, November 5, to be counted.

Vote-by-mail ballots can also be returned to Secure Ballot Intake Stations available at all early voting locations during the hours of voting.

Avoid Lines at the Polls!

The 2024 General Election ballot is two-pages, and high voter turnout is expected. Request a vote-by-mail ballot to vote from home, or if voting in person, study your sample ballot before heading to the polls!

Sample ballots are available now online and will be mailed to all voters in early October!

Be a prepared voter –
Be ELECTION READY!



Election Day

To vote on Election Day, you must go to your assigned polling place between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Some precincts have changed since the last election. Verify your Election Day polling place at www.votesjc.gov before heading out to vote!

Early Voting

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Daily at all early voting locations

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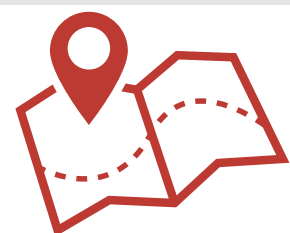
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with St. Johns County School Board Member Kelly Barrera, District 4

Q: What can you tell us about the two school board referenda?

A: First, the St. Johns County School Board has voted to put a renewal of the half-cent sales tax to the voters on the ballot in November. The current half-cent sales tax expires next year, and it can only be put as a referendum on the ballot during a general election. We continue to have the lowest sales tax in the northeast Florida area.

Q: What has the half-cent sales tax paid for so far over the past nine years?

A: This revenue has been critical for us to provide the capital to build new schools. Without it, we would not have been able to achieve financing to build new schools, expand others, and conduct much needed safety improvements... as well as upgrade technology and perform wifi replacements and other essential maintenance. For instance, the half-cent sales tax paid for the wifi upgrade required for the Centegix safety badges at our schools and in District 4, provided funds for roof replacement at Ocean Palms Elementary, PVPV Rawlings, and Landrum Middle School.

Q: Why would you say that the half-cent sales tax needs to be continued?

A: Our district continues to grow and we continue to need these revenues to build more schools, to continue to maintain our current schools and stay up to date with our safety systems. We have a citizens advisory committee that will continue to monitor and advise the school board should this half-cent sales tax be extended. All money collected in this manner stays in St. Johns County.

Q: What can you tell us about the second referendum?

A: Also on the ballot will be a referendum much like many other districts across the state already have. We will ask voters for a 1 mill property tax increase. It's important to note that capital funds cannot be used for operational expenses, so this additional mill will be used to recruit and retain high quality teachers and staff, as well as school safety (Youth Resource Officers) and student welfare (school nurses). A small portion will go to enhance some of our educational programs, such as art, music, science, technology, and athletics.

Q: Do you know how much will actually go towards salaries?

A: Between 85 percent and 90 percent (subject to negotiations that are going on now) of the funds would go to salary supplement for our teachers and sup-

port staff, which includes bus drivers, paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers and custodial staff.

As many readers may recall, 97 percent of all funds that our district receives (both capital and operational) are spent in our schools. This is the highest in the state. The St. Johns County School District is in the people business, with close to 6,500 employers — the largest employer by far in our county.

Q: Why would you say this additional mill is needed?

A: After the Florida Legislature has rolled back the millage rate for the past nine years, we've lost 1.9 mills. Now we're at the point that we can't make any more cuts to our budget. As a county that continues to grow, in order to move forward we need to be able to compete with the surrounding counties, most of whom already have a voter-approved additional mill, for excellent employees.

If anyone has any questions about our budget, it can be found on our website (www.stjohns.k12.fl.us). We have received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting each year since 2016.

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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Get to Know ...

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps
mail@floridanewsline.com

Elmie Bella

Elmie Bella came to the United States in 1998 from Albania with her husband and five children in search of a better life. She had won the Diversity Immigrant Visa Lottery, which enabled her and her family to make the move. After arriving in New York, the family moved to Philadelphia for two years because they knew a friend there; however, no one in the family spoke English, and the challenges of daily life made Bella almost want to return home. "For six months, I cried every day," she said. Bella's husband worked any jobs that he could find while Bella took care of the children. Her two oldest children, just nine and 12 at the time, helped her to navigate life as they learned English in six months while in school and by studying at home. Bella's youngest son, who was only five months old when he left Albania, ultimately learned English from television shows and inspired Bella to eventually learn too. In 2000, the family moved to NE Florida. During this time, one of her daughters told her middle school teacher that her mother needed to get a job. The teacher knew of a custodial opening at Frank H. Peterson High School which Bella secured. Bella, who at times worked five jobs to put her children through college, went on to work at various schools throughout



Photo courtesy Elmie Bella
Elmie Bella (second from right) and family.

Duval, Clay and St. Johns counties. She has worked as a custodian at Ponte Vedra High School since the year it opened in 2008, the first to be hired. On a typical day, Bella, who is affectionately known by her last name "Bella" to all those at Ponte Vedra High School, has walked 8,000 steps by 6:30 in the morning, 13,000 by lunchtime and 21,000 by the end of her workday. She is the first to admit that she prefers to be on the move. "I don't like to stay in one space. I do not like to sit," said Bella. What she does love is to watch out for her "kids" and to make it a great day at the school no matter the task at hand. Two of her five children graduated from Ponte Vedra High (one in the first graduating class), and it is a place that holds a special place in her heart. "I love it here. I love everyone," said Bella. "The kids are amazing and respectful. My heart is always with the kids. I treat them as my own."

Q: What was your career in Albania?

A: I was a preschool teacher for 16 years. I loved teaching kids at that age,

and I felt very connected to them.

Q: Was it hard to leave Albania?

A: No. It was a dream to come here. We are lucky to live in America. We have so many freedoms. No one dictates what you will eat, wear or do. You have the freedom to talk, and no one will put you in jail. Your dreams can happen.

Q: What is your approach to life, and where does your work ethic come from?

A: Life is too short. We need to have respect for each other. My work ethic comes from my late parents. My mother worked as a teacher and my father was a military general. They were both educated and respected.

Q: You mentioned that you were diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2017 (now in remission). How did you feel supported by the school?

A: I had to undergo eight months of radiation and chemotherapy. During that time, a Go Fund Me account was set up by a member of the Ponte Vedra High family. Ponte Vedra High mothers started a food train and brought some of the nicest meals to my house. The school saved my job until I could return. It was truly amazing and something that I will never forget.

Q: Share a little bit about your family.

A: My husband and I have five adult children and four grandchildren. I like to spend as much time helping the grandchildren as I can to give my children a break.

Q&A with Krista Joseph cont. from pg. 6

Q: What else would you like to share about the budget?

A: I want us to make a commitment for next year for a rollback of the tax rate. We have to start being accountable to the citizens, so if we know we are going to do the rollback next year, we can start making adjustments now. Based on the campaigns of the two potential new commissioners who will be joining the board, it appears they might join me in this effort.

Q: What is the latest update on the waste removal situation in St. Johns County?

A: I'd like to talk about garbage! First of all, I was so positive going into the beginning of the FCC contract, but after the disastrous rollout of this new waste removal provider, the board fired them and looked for alternatives. They've since gotten much better, partially because they moved the right people with knowledge of specific areas back to those areas. I met with representatives from FCC a week ago about what will happen going forward. I think we're going to see how the roll out in Clay County goes and if it doesn't affect us, we might be able to work something out with FCC.

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

A: Readers can email me at bcc4kjo-seph@sjcfl.us or call me at (904) 679-2620.

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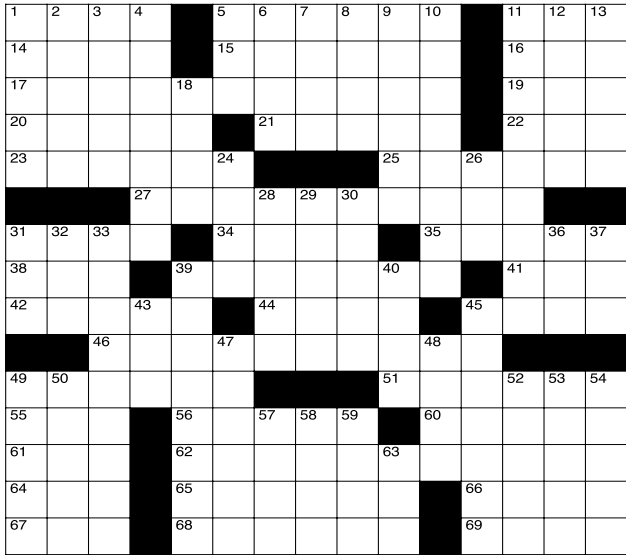
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Separate with an instrument
- 5. State clearly
- 11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon
- 14. Broad in scope
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Caps
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Checked
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Having an extreme greed for wealth
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. We all have one
- 35. Lake north of the Kalahari
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. Aging persons
- 41. Small amount
- 42. Mother of Perseus
- 44. Ornamental waist box
- 45. Officials
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Extensive, treeless plains
- 55. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 56. Consumer advocate Ralph
- 60. Notable Spanish sports club
- 61. Body part
- 62. One's responsiveness
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be tough
- 66. Muslim ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually disappeared
- 69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Water sprite
- 3. Ones to look up to
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. We all have one
- 6. Marine invertebrate
- 7. One who institutes a legal proceeding
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uncomfortable feelings
- 11. Cross to form an X
- 12. Remove
- 13. Some pages are dog-__
- 18. Capital of Ukraine
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Eighth month (abbr.)
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Acids structurally related to amino acids
- 30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Russian city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Irate
- 37. Travelers need them
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. Form of "to be"
- 45. Women
- 47. Inspire with love
- 48. Think Japanese ankle sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The lead dancer: __ ballerina
- 53. Protein involved in motion
- 54. Rosalind Franklin biographer
- 57. Popular 1920s style art __
- 58. __ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest

CLUES ACROSS

FALL SEASON WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- APPLES
- AUTUMNAL
- CHESTNUT
- CHILLY
- COOLER
- CORN
- CORNUCOPIA
- COZY
- CRISP
- EQUINOX
- FALL
- FIREPLACE
- FOGGY
- FOLIAGE
- GOURD
- HARVEST
- HARVESTING
- HAY
- LEAF
- OCTOBER
- PUMPKIN
- RAKE
- SCARECROW
- SWEATER

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

CRYPTO FUN



Solve the code to discover words related to fall.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 13= L)

- A. 15 14 8 14 9 10**
Clue: Another name for "fall"
- B. 13 19 15 4 19 3**
Clue: Parts of trees
- C. 20 2 13 2 11 23 14 13**
Clue: Vivid
- D. 20 1 24 13 13**
Clue: Feels cool

Landrum Lions cont. from pg. 1

The girls were led by the sixth-place finish of Vespa Latino, Lucy Lommel and Mary Chase Fender. The boys were led by the second-place finish of Liam Heffernan, Colin Bovee and Rafe Lommel.

Special recognition goes to Coach Speed, Coach Ross, and every runner for their hard work, dedication, and outstanding teamwork.



Coach Speed with the girls' 3K team



Coach Speed with the boys' 3K team

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PopHistory

The Outlaw Josey Wales

In my younger years, my family traveled around central Europe. My father had gotten a gig teaching at the University of Graz and the job afforded us the opportunity to see things we otherwise would not have seen.

One side trip took us to the Jungfrau in Switzerland, the tallest mountain in Europe. I was standing at the bottom with my mother, and she pointed to a tall man about 25 yards away and said "I think that is someone famous, go ask him who he is." I demurred, but my mother insisted, so I walked over.

"My mother says you are someone famous," I announced. "She wants me to ask who you are."

The guy was standing there talking to one of the most beautiful women I had ever seen at that point in my life and he looked and sounded a little put out. "Have you ever been to the Sunoco station at 164th in Oakland? I work there." I turned to leave and then it struck me that this guy did not work at a Sunoco.

So, I turned back and told him I did not believe him, and he said, "Tell your mother, I'm Clint Eastwood."

It turns out he was there filming a movie called "The Eiger Sanction."

I have always been a Clint Eastwood fan, and I am not sure which of his films is my favorite, but a grade school friend recently posted about "The Outlaw Josey Wales." Which is certainly entertaining and a favorite of many and the subject of this story.

The book that the movie is based on was written by a man named Forrest Carter. Carter claimed to be a native American. He wasn't. He was a white guy from Alabama and a devout segregationist. He founded his own KKK group and committed some violent atrocities, including an attack on singer Nat King Cole. In the early '60s, he became a speechwriter for George Wallace. His most famous work was Wallace's 1963 inaugural address as governor of Alabama.

Some accounts have Carter, who went by the name Asa Carter at the time, huddled in a hotel room, chain-smoking cigarettes and possibly drunk, feverishly working on the speech for Wallace. When he emerged, he shared the signature line of that speech with Wallace, "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow,

segregation forever!" Carter insisted it would be the line that people remembered. He was right.

Asa Carter was a gifted writer, once referred to as "the poet laureate of the Old South." Wallace would often deny that he knew Carter. The two had a falling out and Asa ran against the governor and lost badly in 1970. After that, he moved to Abilene, Texas and changed his name to Forrest. He wrote two books that became movies, "Josey Wales" and "The Education of Little Tree," which was billed as autobiographical.

Forrest Carter later moved to St. George Island in Florida and continued to write Westerns. He always denied he had once called himself Asa Carter and had once written speeches for George Wallace. Eastwood produced the film not knowing about Carter's past. The full story did not come out until a 1976 NY Times article following the success of "Josey Wales."

Scott A. Grant is a writer and historian who delights in telling obscure stories that you may never have heard. He welcomes your comments at scottg@standfastic.com.

Did you know?

Candy is a popular treat on Halloween. While trick-or-treaters will often accept just about any confection in their bags and buckets, certain products reign supreme across the United States and Canada, according to RetailMeNot and Halloween Alley.

These include:

- Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
- Kit Kat
- Snickers
- Skittles
- M&Ms
- Starburst
- Twizzlers



Briefs

Town Hall meeting to present information about school district referenda

The Ponte Vedra High School PTO will host a community town hall on Oct. 7 at 6 p.m. in the school's auditorium. On the November ballot are two items that will directly affect St. Johns County schools.

The first is the half-cent sales tax renewal, which was originally approved in 2015. Michael Degutis (Chief of Staff, St. Johns County School District) and Dr. Brennan Asplen (Deputy Superintendent, St. Johns County School District) will have a presentation on what the half-cent sales tax increase has funded over the past nine years, and what it will be used for in the future if the renewal is voted through.

There is also on the ballot a millage rate increase proposal for St. Johns County residents. Despite being one of the top school districts in the state, St. Johns County teachers are paid less than surrounding counties in the Jacksonville metro area as well as many other counties throughout the state. The presentation will cover how the school district would plan to use the millage increase to hire, train, and retain teachers to continue the stellar performance of our schools.

This meeting is open to the public and not restricted to parents of students in St. Johns County. Use this community town hall to educate yourself before Election Day on Nov. 5.

NE Florida Sisters in Crime announce writing workshop

The NE Florida Sisters in Crime will host a workshop, "Double Vision: Writing Dual Timelines" on Oct. 5 at the San Marco Community Center, 1936 Hendricks Ave. in Jacksonville. This one-day workshop, with catered lunch, will be from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Reservations

are required.

Presenter Denny S. Bryce is a best-selling, award-winning author of historical fiction. She is also an NPR book critic, an adjunct professor at Drexel University, and a freelance writer who has written for Harper's Bazaar and USA Today. She is a member of the Historical Novel Society, Women's Fiction Writers Association, and Tall Poppy Writers. Topics include "Foundations of Dual Timeline Narratives, Types and Analysis," "Writing a Back Cover," and "Multiple Points of View." The cost for all Sisters in Crime members and college students is \$50; non-members' cost is \$70.

Visit nefloridasistersincrime.org for more information.

Vicky Oakes to speak at Coastal Friends luncheon

Coastal Friends will host Vicky Oakes, St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections, as their guest speaker at the Wednesday, Oct. 2 luncheon. The luncheon runs from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will be held at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Pkwy.

The luncheon is open to members and guests, as well as the community. The menu will consist of field green salad, chicken marsala with mushroom marsala sauce, roasted red skin potatoes and raisin caramel bread pudding. The cost to attend is \$25. Space is limited; reservations must be made in advance by contacting the luncheon chairman at bartshar@comcast.net as soon as possible.

Established in 1998, Coastal Friends is a social club comprised of women who live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach, St. Augustine and the surrounding area. Some of the activities offered are adventures and outings, book club, Bunco, Canasta, happy hour, lunch

in, lunch out, Mah Jongg, samba and wine socials. Luncheons are held on the first Wednesday of every month, except for July and August. New members are welcome throughout the year. Contact brookemeister@msn.com for more information on how to join.

Dark And Stormy Night at Limelight Theatre

Have a bone chilling, spine tingling, knee-knocking evening at "Dark and Stormy Night," a Tale Tellers of St. Augustine production, on Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Limelight Theatre, 11 Old Mission Ave. in St. Augustine. The show is not intended for the faint of heart.

The show features a broad range of talent and expertise: Natalie Beltrami is an artist, actor and storyteller; Chris Kastle is a critically acclaimed and award winning storyteller, songsmith and author; Lou Novak shares spooky stories he learned on land and at sea; Drew Sappington tells historical stories and original stories often with an unexpected twist; Rita Saker tells traditional tales with style and flair.

For more than 30 years, the Tale Tellers of St. Augustine continues to be a performing guild devoted to the advocacy of storytelling as an art form and entertainment medium. It is a Florida not-for-profit corporation with a 501(c)(3) designation.

Tickets are available at the event or in advance at: www.eventbrite.com/e/dark-and-stormy-night-tickets-986693385477?aff=oddtcreator

Visit www.taletellers.org or call (904) 540-0402 for more information.

First Coast Heart Walk scheduled

The First Coast American Heart Association, along with numerous companies, employees and community members,

will unite at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds on Saturday, Oct. 5 for the First Coast Heart Walk. The event is the largest family and pet-friendly walk on the First Coast. The festival area will open at 7:30 a.m. and the walk will begin at 9 a.m.

The Heart Walk will honor heart and stroke survivors. By participating and donating to the First Coast Heart Walk, participants are supporting the lifesaving mission of the American Heart Association and safeguarding that fewer people die from stroke and heart disease. Every walker who joins, every dollar donated, means more people trained in lifesaving CPR, more research, and more lifesaving moments for everyone.


Participants can register for the Heart Walk for free at www.FirstCoastHeartWalk.org. From there, they can create a fundraising page, download the Heart Walk mobile app, invite family and friends to participate and take part in the Heart Walk CPR Digital Experience to learn Hands-Only CPR in 90 seconds.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer unites community

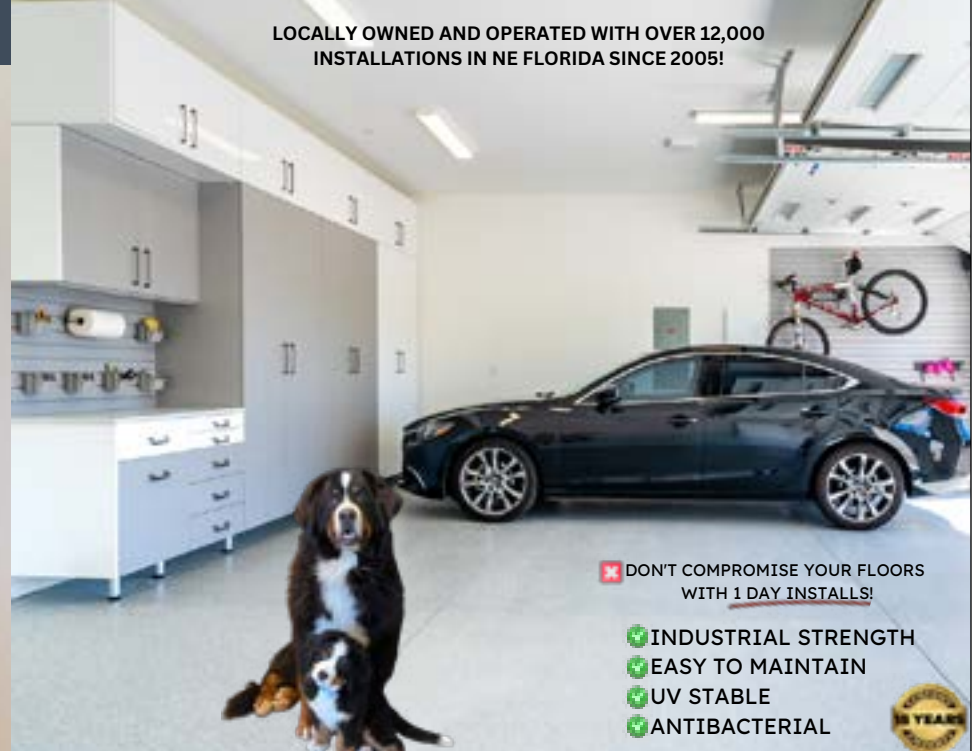
Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of the First Coast will take place on Saturday, Oct. 19 beginning at 9 a.m. at EverBank Stadium, providing a supportive community for breast cancer survivors, caregivers, supporters and families alike.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in the United States, and more than 313,510 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in 2024. Of that number, 23,160 will be Floridians. For more than 30 years, the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer has united communities across the nation in an effort to end breast cancer as we know it, for everyone. Visit makingstrideswalk.org/jacksonvillefl for more information or to register your team.

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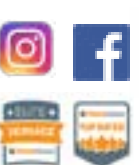
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Sisters-in-Arms cont. from pg.1

Chip O’Steen, O’Steen Automotive Group president, said the event is one that he likes to sponsor as well as attend.

“It is amazing to see what Mary and the Sisters-in-Arms organization is doing in our community. We could not be prouder to stand behind and support such a wonderful organization, in helping young women change their circumstances and secure a better future for themselves and future generations,” he said.

Inspired by the support that she has received during her life, especially during challenging times, Saenz founded Sisters-in-Arms to lift up young women in the community who are aging out of foster care and provide a strong support system. The non-profit offers tools to empower young women to achieve economic independence and acquire personal development skills.

“We want to provide the resources needed to succeed once they enter society,” said Saenz.

Sisters-in-Arms has a team that provides etiquette classes, instruction in how to look and dress with confidence and money management skills. One day programs, focused on education, mentorship and community, are offered at Sisters-in-Arms, providing young women with a laptop, resume support and an interview outfit. That program is delivered at no cost to the young women through donors and sponsors.

Saenz said that the community has

embraced her organization, and she is grateful to so many, including Seamark Ranch, where Saenz is able to bring her program. Seamark Ranch is a non-profit organization in Green Cove Springs that offers a nurturing Christian home and family system, giving children from families in crisis the tools needed for a bright future. More partnerships like this are on the horizon, she said.

“Sisters-in-Arms partners with Seamark Ranch to invest in the young women we serve, helping prepare them for success in adulthood. They spend time mentoring the girls on how to dress professionally on a budget, business etiquette and how to eat at a business luncheon or dinner. They have also given computers to our high school senior girls to help with job applications and resume writing,” said Seamark Ranch executive director Nathan Stanley. “We are so grateful for the partnership with Sisters-in-Arms.”

Saenz said Sisters-in-Arms serves women between the ages of 18 – 24 — a critical time for many young people coming out of foster care. Saenz and McFee have a goal to build a house for the young women as a transitional and safe space. The fundraiser will bring them one step closer, they said.

[Author’s note: For more information about Sisters-in-Arms and the fundraiser, go to sisters-in-arms.org. The Arm-in-Arm Showdown will begin at 2 p.m. at The Yards. To learn more about sponsorship availability, email mary@sisters-in-arms.org.]

Potpourri of programs offered by First Coast Cultural Center

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

From mixology to jazz, yoga, and unique art workshops, First Coast Cultural Center has a potpourri of adult programs and kids’ winter break camps available, and registration is now open.

“Art comes in many forms, and our new programming offers something for everybody,” according to Donna Guzzo, president and CEO of the First Coast Cultural Center. “When you register to participate in various events, you are helping to support educational programs that reach our community.”

Creativity is at the center of the mixology workshop on Oct. 5 from 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Guzzo and Dr. Carla Rodrigues, First Coast Cultural Center board chairperson, will lead participants through a delicious and fun evening of libation creation.

Additionally, a three-day oil painting workshop led by master artist Christina Mastrangelo will be offered on Oct. 18 – 20 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Instead of painting an entire portrait, participants will create an eye, nose, and mouth on separate canvases — focusing on subtle elements that

make master portraits look powerfully realistic.

Another noteworthy presentation features Hiromi Moneyhun, a paper construction artist from Japan, on Oct. 25 at 10 a.m. Refreshments will be provided during this lecture which highlights Moneyhun’s three-dimensional cut paper pieces that are best viewed in person.

On Oct. 26 from 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., attendees will be treated to a piano and bass jazz duo performance with Raymond Clines and Corbin Schmid from the University of North Florida, Department of Music.

Presently, First Coast Cultural Center has art and music therapy programs going on at many schools around St. Johns County. During the holidays, they will also offer winter break kids’ camps. Sweet Sculptures four-day art and drama camp will be held Dec. 30 – 31 and Jan. 2 – 3. It will be led by Disney acting coach, Sheri Lahris, and First Coast Cultural Center staff. A winter break culinary camp is also available, and both camps are for ages six to 12.

Visit <https://firstcoastculturalcenter.org> for more information or to register for any of these classes.

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- Rate cuts are finally coming. However, a lot must go right for stocks to move higher through year-end¹
- 2024 Year-end Checklist²
- Committee Perspectives, Midyear Update: Can the momentum continue in the second half?³

Space is limited. Please make a reservation by calling **904-380-2302** or email sarah.blackley@ampf.com

Wednesday, October 2

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Wednesday, October 9

Pusser’s Bar & Grille
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Wednesday, October 16

Murray Bros Caddyshack
455 Legacy Trail, World Golf Village

Wednesday, October 23

Julington Creek Fish House
112 Bartram Oaks Walk #102, St Johns

Wednesday, October 30

Pusser’s Bar & Grille
816 Hwy A1A N, Ponte Vedra Beach

¹ Rate cuts are finally coming. However, a lot must go right for stocks to move higher through year-end. Anthony Saglimbene – Chief Market Strategist, Ameriprise Financial, Weekly Market Perspectives – August 26, 2024
² AMP5492060.3 (8/2024)
³ Committee Perspectives – An Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee publication – Midyear Update: Can the momentum continue in the second half?, Anthony M Saglimbene – Chief Market Strategist, July 8, 2024

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Adventure awaits Ocean Palms students

By Lisa Farese
mail@floridanewsline.com

Students at Ocean Palms Elementary School are embarking on a storied school year. The Sunshine State Young Readers Award Program, a statewide reading program that features new titles each year, is turning a new page at

Ocean Palms as the 2024 – 2025 books arrived.

Brought to the students by the PTO, classrooms and the library received a total of about 400 new books, so students could set out on adventures with a new tale. Those who read all 15 books, make the Otter Wall of Fame.



Photos courtesy Lisa Farese
A class in the library at Ocean Palms gets a peek at the new Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books that just arrived!

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Champion of endangered Monarch Butterfly recognized

By Viky Divertie
mail@floridanewsline.com

At its September meeting at Marsh Landing Country Club, the Ponte Vedra Chapter of DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) awarded Ramona "Monie" Burdick King, the National Conservation Award in recognition of her outstanding achievement for environmental protection and awareness.

The 94-year-old King has been supporting Monarch butterflies first in Michigan and now Jacksonville. Every year King plants a yard full of milkweed, which is the only plant that monarch caterpillars feed on. She plants many varied species of flowering plants whose pollen is a food source and many different broad leaf plants to provide locations for the monarch chrysalises to

lodge. Every spring she seeks out eggs and protects them from pests, pets, and people. Further, she avoids the use of pesticides and never sprays her yard for mosquitoes so that her pollen is not a contaminated food source.

King has released more than 220 monarch butterflies this year. In addition to her personal efforts, she has been passionate and vocal encouraging others to protect the endangered Monarch Butterfly species as well.

DAR is a non-political, genealogical women's service organization whose purpose is to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Visit DAR.org or contact regent. darpontevedra@gmail.com for more information.

Stealth hits a home run with mindset

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Batting, fielding, pitching, catching ... and mindset? Yes, mindset is part of this year's practice schedule at Florida Stealth, home to a 10u, a 14u and two 12u softball teams. At this year's season kickoff, they welcomed author Allistair McCaw who discussed his book, "Mindset is Your Super Power: 77 Ways to Achieve Excellence in Your Habits,

Routine & Life." McCaw is an author of more than six bestselling books and is a leading speaker and expert on team culture, leadership and mindset.

McCaw shared ideas from his book and led the girls in discussions at the kickoff. The teams will continue their mindset journey throughout the season by reading a chapter from the book each week and discussing it as a team.



Photo courtesy Lisa Farese
The 12u and 14u teams pose with author Allistair McCaw at the Florida Stealth softball kickoff.

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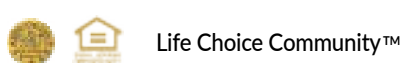
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