LPA NEWS



NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 9 NOVEMBER 2025

LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY

Hello LPA Families!

30 Days of Thankfulness

In the season of giving thanks, each day this month, we started our day with a small thing that made us reflect upon and be thankful for. This "30 Days of Thankfulness" allowed us to stop and remember how the little things in life add up to make a huge difference in our lives. Here is the full list of our "30 Days of Thankfulness":

30 Days of Thankfulness:

Day 1: Waking up to the cool air outside this morning.

Day 2: Sleeping in an extra hour when the time changes.

Day 3: The fresh start of a new week.

Day 4: The kindness messages of the week.

Day 5: Fur babies that are like children to us.

Day 6: The smile we receive from a staff member when walking by them.

Day 7: A beautiful morning to celebrate our Veterans at our Liberty Parade.

Day 8: The love that surrounds us from our family and friends.

Day 9: Spending time with our children and grandbabies.

Day 10: The "aha" and "lightbulb" moments when it clicks for our students.

Day 11: The men and women who have served, or are currently serving, to protect and maintain our freedoms. Happy Veterans'

Day 12: Supportive classroom parents.

Day 13: Our LPA community (students,

families, staff, and admin).

Day 14: Yummy Cheer Snacks on a Friday morning.

Day 15: The small, sweet moments when you get a thank you note, a silly joke, or a student proudly showing their work.

Day 16: The smell of freshly cut grass on a Sunday morning.

Day 17: A smile, greeting, or random act of kindness from a stranger.

Day 18: The first sip of coffee in the morning.

Day 19: Your favorite song on the radio.

Day 20: Knowing that today is Friday-eve! 😊

Day 21: Having the power to choose to be better every day.

Day 22: Knowing that we are on Thanksgiving

Break until December 1.

Day 23: Football Sundays!

Day 24: An overtime victory by the Jaguars.

Day 25: Finding cash in your pants pocket.

Day 26: The sounds of birds chirping in the morning.

Day 27: Spending quality time with family and friends on Thanksgiving Day.

Day 28: Decorating for the Holidays.

Day 29: Driving around the neighborhood to look at the holiday lights and decorations.

Day 30: Taking a moment each morning to reflect on the little things that made a big

Mark your calendars for the events below:

-Dec 2: Moonlight Howlers St. Augustine Lighthouse Performance

-Dec. 3-16: FAST/STAR Progress Monitoring Round 2

-Dec. 4-5: Drama Christmas Show

-Dec. 8-11: Student Council Carolgrams Sales in the mornings

-Dec 9: Winter Band Concert

-Dec. 11: Musical Theater, MS

Choir, and Elementary Moonlight **Howlers Showcase**

-Dec. 15: SAC Meeting at 4:00pm

-Dec. 16: DC Chaperone only meeting

-Dec. 17: Kindergarten Holiday Show

-Dec. 18: 1st Grade Holiday Show

-Dec. 19: End of Quarter 2 -

Early release day at 2:00pm

-Dec. 20-Jan. 4: No School -Winter Break

-Jan. 4-9: 8th Grade DC Trip

-Jan. 5: Beginning Quarter 3

Gratefully together,

Mr. Hoessler, your proud LPA Principal

During this past month of November, our students experienced many exciting events. Kindergarten students experienced their Thanksgiving Feasts, our students also experienced an amazing bookfair sponsored by our fantastic PTO, we celebrated our School Related Employee of the Year, Mrs. Patty Barerra-Moore, and we celebrated our students for their recognition of the Citizenship Character Counts! Pillar of the month. Our Spelling Bee contestants from fifth grade and middle school battled it out to see who will represent LPA at the district competition. Congratulations to the fifth-grade winner, Robert Davenport, and to the middle school winner, Ariana Ali. We experienced our first annual "Family Night" where we honored the family tradition of spending time with one another without any school related commitments. Our volleyball teams made it to the semi-finals, we enjoyed a full week off for the Thanksgiving Break, and of course, we honored our Veterans for their service to our country with the 17th Annual Liberty Parade! I'm so proud of how our students celebrated and performed for our Veterans! Also, this past month, I made an announcement of my departure to begin the process of opening the new K8 school. Although this is bittersweet because LPA is a place like no other, I want to thank everyone for their kind words and well wishes.

As we progress into December and near the end of the first semester, I want to thank all our families for a wonderful first half of the school year! We are blessed to have all our families' continued support. May your holiday season be bright, full of love and laughter from family and friends, and offer plenty of opportunities for relaxation! From our Wolf family to yours, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Gratefully together, Mr. Hoessler, your proud LPA Principal

WOLF NEWS

Study Tips for Testing!

By Navya Sadanaveni and Anupama Deshmukh

Worried about testing season? Here are some useful tips to help you feel confident and ready for testing!

Preparing yourself

Avoid distractions - Make sure that you're in a comfortable and quiet place to study. This way, your brain is focused and can study the best.

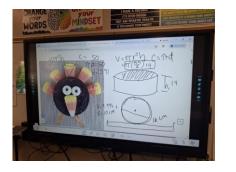
Break down topics - Break down your subjects and divide each subject into a couple important topics. Then, you can focus on one topic at a time and not overwhelm yourself with too much information.

During testing

Scan test first - Scan the test to get a sense of what's on the test, as well as reading the questions and directions completely before answering.

Check your work - If you have the extra time, go back to check your answers. Make sure you change answers only if you are sure that your new answer is correct.

Overall, don't stress over testing or studying. Do your best and give it your all, and you're sure to do amazing!



SPELLING BEE

By: Ashweja Mechineni, and Sarah Cheng

LPA's Spelling Bees were a wonderful experience, with both elementary and middle school students competing to go to the district spelling bee. Let's start off with the winner for middle school, Ariana Ali. She won the spelling bee here at LPA but will not be competing in the District Spelling Bee due to her going

on the DC field trip. Instead, 7th grade runner-up Jahnavi Doneparthi will be representing LPA at the district level bee. Ariana's winning word was "veil", and she said, "it doesn't sound like a hard word, but I was happy to win with it."



Moving on to the elementary winner, Robert Davenport. His winning word was "chignon", and the runner up was Junayna Ali. Robert will be representing LPA at the district level. When asked how he felt about going to the district bee, he said: "I am very happy and excited, but it seems like a lot of work." He practiced with his sister every day for the spelling bee, and he says he will continue to do so for the district's spelling bee. Let's congratulate this year's Spelling Bee winners and their runners-ups



MathCounts Update

This year there are 18 students attending the MathCounts meetings twice a week before school! These mathletes have been sharpening their math skills in preparation for the school and North Florida MATHCOUNTS competition. This year's regional chapter competition will be on February 20 at UNF. Mrs. Brun and Mrs. Bridenbaugh have been facilitating these meetings. The names of the students that will represent LPA will be announced soon! According to Mrs. Bridenbaugh, "Meetings have been fun..... there is no reason to not have fun when doing math!"

MORE WOLF NEWS





We are so proud to share Mr. Wolfe's beautiful artwork in our main hall. In honor of the Liberty Parade Mr. Wolfe created an amazing "Agamograph" titled "Veterans at Sunet". It is an artwork that requires the viewer to move/interact with it by changing their perspective or position. Thank you for sharing your talent, Mr. Wolfe!



"God Bless the USA" for the grand finale is always an emotional end to the Annual Liberty Parade!

Liberty Day Parade

By Spoorthi Sindheval and Sylvia Thomas

Our annual Liberty Day Parade was a huge success! All the kids in LPA contributed by playing instruments, singing, or even giving a speech to honor our wonderful veterans! Liberty Parade is a special event that LPA does to honor all the veterans who have been sacrificing their lives to help make America a better place. LPA continues to host this event every year to show its support and thanks to veterans. Everyone enjoyed the band performance, as well as the Middle School Chorus and elementary class performances. Student Council President Ashley Windness gave an amazing speech. Staff helped with decorations and organizing the marvelous parade! Overall, the LPA Liberty Parade was a masterpiece.

Student Council Update!

By: Collins Haney and Spoorthi Sindhaval

The Student Council at LPA is in full swing for the holidays! They just finished selling Boo Grams in the hallway in October. They raised a whopping amount of \$430! After the smashing success, Student Council is heading down the holiday road to Carol Grams!



This year, Student Council is taking Carol Grams to another level. They are going to sell their amazing world-renowned holiday treat that comes with a delightful candy cane and a side of a festive video featuring the amazing LPA Student Council for \$1! Make sure to purchase Carol Grams and share a holiday greeting with your friends!



NJHS Update

By: Julia Radecki and Mallori York

This November we began preparing for the Christmas Food Drive! We worked in the morning, and at lunch getting the bags and posters ready. We decorated with Christmas trees, presents, and so much more!

We also had our monthly Wolfie Warehouse! With a new selection of toys and food, it was a hit! With such good behavior, there was a reward for kids that earned 60 points minimum in a certain amount of time. There will be so many more fun rewards for good behavior!





Purple Star School of Distinction Designation

By Gianna Zardetto

Recently LPA was named 1 of only 7 schools in St. Johns County School District to receive the honor of the Purple Star School of Distinction Designation from the Florida Department of Education.

This prestigious honor celebrates our school's outstanding commitment to supporting military-connected students and their families. Through compassion, understanding, and dedicated programs, LPA staff and students have created a welcoming environment where every student can thrive, no matter where the journey begins or takes them.

Last month Ms. Lewis's class enjoyed a Geometry Glow Day!







Fun Stuff by Ariana Ali

Jokes:

- 1. My new thesaurus is terrible... It's also terrible.
- 2. I'm terrified of elevators...
 So, I'm taking steps to avoid them.

Riddle:

Last month's riddle was:

What is the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space, the beginning of every end, and the end of every race?

This is the answer: The letter E. Congrats if you got it correct!

This month's riddle is:

How can the number five be half of four?

Answer using this form Riddle – Fill out form

Trivia:

Q: Which planet in our solar system rotates the fastest?

A: Jupiter, with a rotation time of about ten hours.

Q: In chess, which piece can only move diagonally?

A: The bishop

Weird Fact:

The current design of the American flag was made by a high schooler! In 1958, Bob Heft, a junior, created it for his history class. His flag design had fifty stars, but there were only 48 states at the time (Alaska and Hawaii weren't states then, but he had a hunch that they would achieve statehood soon). However, President Eisenhower approved of the design anyways, and it became the official flag of the U.S.A. After hearing that, his teacher changed his grade on the project from a B- to an A.



By: Ava Harper and Ella Madelly

The staff spotlights of the month are Ms. Cox and Ms. Lorensen. These are two of our amazing school counselors at LPA. Ms. Cox is the 7th and 8th grade counselor while Ms. Lorensen works with the 3rd and 4th graders.

Ms. Cox helps 7th and 8th graders talk about important things in their life in a welcoming environment, without feeling pressured or anxious. She is especially helpful to our 8th graders by helping them prepare for high school. She is great at presenting all their different

options with plenty of details and then letting students ask questions and help them through their decision making.

Ms. Cox has been counseling for 16 years and 9 of those years have been at LPA. Her favorite part of being a school counselor is helping students problem solve. "I love seeing them learn to navigate tricky situations successfully and grow confident in their abilities!" She also enjoys helping the 8th graders prepare for high school. Outside of school she enjoys traveling with her family.

Ms. Lorensen is the amazing 4th and 5th grade counselor here at LPA. She talks through any difficulties students may have in school or outside of school. She is also great at helping the kids get ready to mature for middle school. She helps the 5th graders with deciding their electives and their best course of action for middle school, making it easier for them to understand.

Ms. Lorensen has been counseling for 4 years, and all those years have been at LPA. Her favorite part of being a school counselor is working with and encouraging students. Outside of school she enjoys spending time with family and watching kids' sporting events.

Congratulations to our November Character Counts Winners!

By: Collins Haney

This month the character count award represents citizenship. The students that got picked this month were all great representatives of the students who do their share to make their school and community a better place. They get involved, stay informed, respect authority, and protect their environment.





Student Spotlight

By: Mallori York and Stella Alexander

Danio Halilovic is in sixth grade. His favorite subject is ELA because he loves his teacher. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Strillchuck because she is very nice, funny, and a good teacher. His favorite electives are band and ICT because he loves seeing his friends and having classes with them. He plays soccer outside of school and it's his favorite out of school activity.

Eleanor Linder is 3rd grader in Mr. Mengal's class. Her favorite subject is math because she enjoys doing multiplication. After school she likes to play with her friends and go on her trampoline. Her favorite grade after being at LPA for 4 years is Kindergarten because she really liked her teacher. Eleanor won the citizenship Character Counts award this month.













MORE LPA SPOTLIGHTS!

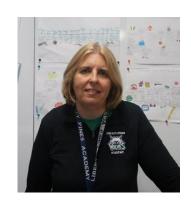
LPA's Wonderful Teacher Spotlights

By: Nora Maas and Hannah McFadzean

Teacher spotlight is where we students can show to our school the teachers that truly make an impact. For example, Ms. Lutts and Coach Forrester are our teachers' spotlights for this month and both are an incredible asset to our school. These teachers make a real difference to us, and we can't imagine our school without them.

A little about Ms. Lutts is she has always loved history and civics because "I love to make connections with the past and to share them". As a student of Ms. Lutts, I can truly say she was meant for teaching, and it is clear to see. Another thing about Ms. Lutts is that every year she helps hold the Washington DC trip for eighth graders. Although it is a lot of work, Ms. Lutts looks forward to it every year. That's not it, she is also a coach for the cross-country team and the girls' basketball team.

Coach Forester is one of our gym coaches here at Liberty Pines. He is the gym teacher for seventh grade, and coaches with coach Dill and Coach Eisenhuth. Coach Forester likes teaching gym because he "enjoys seeing the kids have fun and be active". His favorite part of his job is interacting with the students and joining in on the fun games during the day.





Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast

By: Ellie Thorpe, Julia Radecki, and Lucy Collins

November 19th through the 21st was our annual thanksgiving feast for the kindergarteners! After weeks of preparation, the kindergarteners performed songs celebrating the history of The Mayflower colonizing in New England. During this time the kindergarteners learn about Pilgrims and Indians coming together to help each other, creating the first Thanksgiving!

The kindergarteners dress as boys and girls of native tribes as well as pilgrims. They perform musical numbers with dancing and singing, props and all sorts of fun things. When all the practice is finished, the students finally get to put into play what they have been working so hard for. The parents come and are presented with the most talented pilgrims and Natives they have ever seen!

This tradition has been a part of the kindergarten experience here at LPA for years, and the show only gets better every time. We are so proud of our littles and the spectacular performance they have displayed this Thanksgiving!



D.C Field Trip Preview By: Elena Heavener and Alice Poynton

Every year in January, the 8th graders at LPA go on a 5-night trip to Washington D.C. The students will get there on January 4th and come back on Friday morning of January 9th. They will leave at 6:00am and will arrive at Arlington at 7:00pm.

On Monday the 5th, the 8th graders will visit the National Archives, museums, tours, memorials, and finish the day with dinner and games at Top Golf. On Tuesday the 6th, they will visit more memorials, museums, and at the end of the day the students will have dinner and games at top golf. On Wednesday January 7th they have a tour of the capitol building; this is the day we will take our group photo so all students must wear their dc hoodies. We will then end the day on a dinner cruise on the Potomac River. On the last day in DC January the 8th students are going to Mt. Vernon and taking a guided tour. Then they take a tour of Arlington Cemetery and participate in the Wreath Laying Ceremony. Finally, they will board the buses and start to depart home. On Friday the ninth eighth graders arrive back at school at 6 am.

NEWS FROM THE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Christmas Play: An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas

By Ella Madelly and Ava Harper

"An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas" is this year's play directed by Ms. Herkel. It is about a woman named Margie who owns a bookshop. Her sister, Ellen and Ellen's daughter Annabelle are staying with Margie until Ellen can find a new job. The characters from the books come to life at night, while no one's watching. These iconic characters include Dorothy Gale, Ebeneezer Scrooge, the Nutcracker Prince, and many more! The book characters try to help Ellen secure a job before Christmas Day!

The play is heartwarming with plenty of comedic moments and suspense that will keep you on the edge of your seat. So come out and support the drama department on December 4th and 5th at 6:00 pm! You can buy tickets for \$5 on SchoolPay or at the door!

Media Matters

By Ariana Ali and Sarah Cheng

This month, both the book fair and the November Book Float Contest happened in the media center. During the book fair, students had the opportunity to buy books and other amazing items for sale! There was a large selection of books to choose from, so everyone found something they liked.



William Freo's

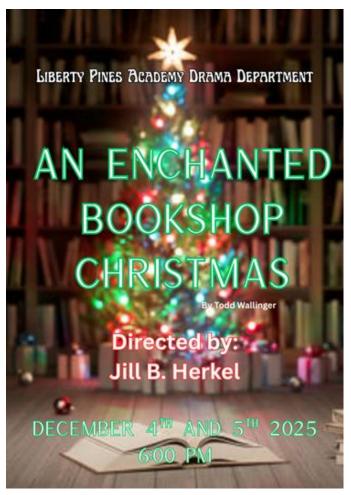
Magic Tree

House Float



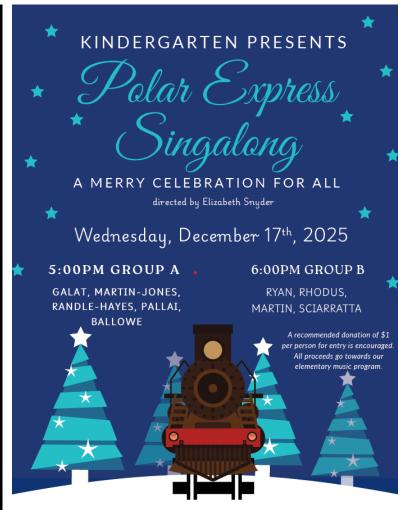
Rolando Salsedo's <u>I</u> <u>Survived the Sinking of</u> <u>the Titanic, 1912</u> float. This year was the second annual Book Float Contest! There were so many amazing floats made by our awesome students! The winner for the K-2 category was William Freo with second place going to Kendall Baskin and third place going to Wesley Pagan. For 3-5, the winner

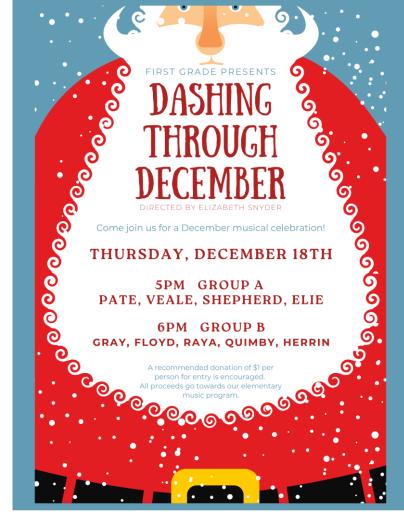
was Ryan Sadhu, second place was Hannah Tomaiuolo, and third place was Isaiah Waters. For 6-8 there were only two entries, so there were only two winners. First place went to Rolando Salsedo, and second place went to Ben Young. There were so many entries, and everyone did so wonderfully!

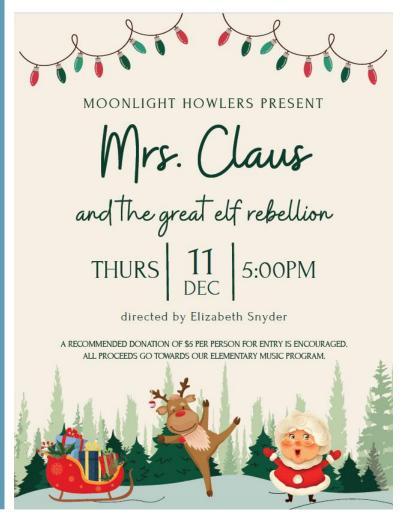












SPORTS NEWS!!!





Basketball Preview

By: Anupama Deshmukh and Navya Sadanaveni

Basketball tryouts are coming up! Tryouts are starting December 1st for all middle school grades from 3:30 - 4:45. The first cut begins December 2nd from 3:30 - 4:45 and the final cut starts December 4th from 3:30 - 4:45.



The girls' basketball coach, Ms. Lutts, is looking for players with confidence, teamwork skills, and more. Our coach looks forward to defending our championship and proving our skills. Coach Willman will return to coach our middle school boys. The first basketball games start the week after the Washington DC trip. We look forward to another wonderful season here at Liberty Pines Academy!

Staff vs Students Volleyball Game

By Sylvia Thomas and Gianna Zardetto

The staff vs student volleyball game was an exciting event for LPA's middle school students. This annual event was a reward for middle school students receiving 60 PBIS Points for positive behavior in the month of November. After a very successful season for both our boys and girls volleyball teams,





they finished up with a fun game against staff before going off to enjoy their Thanksgiving break. The game ended with a rigged teacher's win with the actual score posted as "67-67", but it was fun for both teams. Middle school students got to enjoy a fast-paced game with their peers and teachers. School spirit filled our gym, as the students participated in cheering on their classmates while watching the game.

Girls Volleyball Update

By: Nora Maas and Brielle Coppola

The girls volleyball team fought hard in the district playoffs and ended up placing 3rd. They had extreme growth throughout the season and bonded as a team. They ended their season at a end-of-season party at the Saint Johns Golf and Country Club pavilion. Ella Palacios stated, "My favorite memory of the season was finding out the gender Coach Sullens' baby boy." Their practices were full of hard work and determination. Although they were working hard, Coach Sullens always found ways to make practices fun! Most girls joined this team to grow their volleyball skills, but they ended up earning great friends and creating memories. We are very proud of these girls and their fight this season.

Catching Up with Boys Volleyball!

By: Brielle Coppola and Nora Maas

Our boys made it to the district playoffs and also placed 3rd. They joined the girls at their end-of-season party. They played volleyball on the sand court and had some friendly competition. 8th grader Dylan Brand said, "My favorite memory from a practice was Coach getting on the court and blocking our spikes." Most 8th graders joined the team for their last year at LPA and to make it memorable. They all came out of this season with amazing friends and gained volleyball skills.



Fortify FL FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows students or parents to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. By accessing FortifyFL at https://getfortifyfl.com or https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/blog/fortifyfl-app/, individuals can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. The Office of Attorney General, Department of Education and Florida Department of Law Enforcement coordinated its development and rollout.



By: Sarah Cheng

















Don't forget to purchase your amazing 2025 – 2026 yearbook today!! Yearbooks would make a great gift to give yourself in the spring, but you should order them now while supplies last, so you don't forget. The LPA Code is #381802 c at www.buytheyearbook.com

Just \$40 - we are one of the few schools that has never raised our prices!

CHARACTER COUNTS! In St. Johns County

6131

RUN • WALK

Saturday, February 7, 2026 9 A.M.

Palencia Elementary School







Register by December 31, 2025, to receive a race t-shirt and other give-aways from sponsoring businesses and community organizations!



REGISTER AT RACESMITH.COM





PTO NEWSLETTER

PTO INFORMATION



Thank you to everyone who supported our school during the fun run as well as all your support for our book fair.

We hope that all families, teachers and staff have a wonderful Thanksgiving Break. We are thankful for YOU!!

PTO HIGHLIGHTS

Sunshine of the month

Ms. Martin is one of our amazing teachers and she helped one of the students during a health crisis. We are very grateful for her as is the family of the student.



Upcoming PTO events

Thanksgiving Pies for our teachers and staff as well as our bus drivers. 11/21st

> Teacher and staff holiday experience. Dec. 2nd

Next PTO meeting Dec. 18th at 9am in the cafeteria



REMINDERS



Birthday marquee announcements are now available for purchase at www.lpapto.com.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Living in a state of gratitude is the gateway to grace." -Arianna Huffington



LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY PTO Business Partner Spotlight

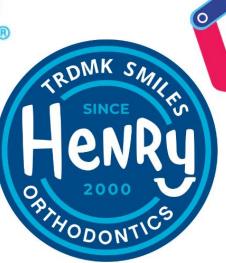
December

PLATINUM WOLVES

















LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY PTO Business Partner Spotlight

December

SILVER WOLVES



The youngest members of the pack begin their journey at Primrose School, where learning, play, and character development come together. Their Balanced Learning® approach helps little wolves grow curious, confident, and kind.

When the pack comes together to celebrate, Bounce for Love brings the excitement with bounce houses and event rentals for all occasions. Their family-run business keeps community gatherings fun, safe, and full of laughter.







Loyalty and service run deep in this pack, and The Sanders Team proudly supports military families with trusted home financing guidance. Their expertise helps veterans and active-duty members build strong futures in our community.