

The Links, Inc. presents STEAM event at GYAC

Jackie Holfelder

Recently, a group of youngsters from the Gifford Youth Achievement Center (GYAC) took part in a virtual STEAM presentation that was coordinated by the Treasure Coast Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.



Holmes

The 12-15-year-old students enjoyed a power point and conversation with Kenny Holmes, who is a Gifford native, former all-American football player at University of Miami and former NFL player for the Tennessee Titans. Holmes, who is now a successful businessman and avid collector of Highwaymen art, explained the history of the genre to the teens and remarked that the artists were gatekeepers of the old Florida.



Jordan Mcpherson, grade 8 PROVIDED BY THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

The exciting activity was one component in the latest in a series of "STEAM engines" that The Links, Incorporated has presented, dating back to 2018 in Martin County.

The Gifford effort was organized by the non-profit's Services to Youth Facet



Tyjah Warner, grade 7 PROVIDED BY THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

and was entitled "Linking Together to Get STEAMed". The five-week program used the fun and exciting approach of STEAM education to help students to understand and use Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics.

As part of the presentation, Holmes inspired the students to put on their critical thinking caps and paint their own creative Highwaymen-themed masterpiece.

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of more than 16,000 professional women of African descent in 288 chapters. Core values are friendship, integrity, honesty, service, commitment, family relationships, courage, respect for self and others, legacy, confidentiality, responsibility, and accountability. The Links, Incorporated has five facets: which Services to Youth, The Arts, National Trends and Services, International Trends and Services and Health and Human Services.

To learn more, visit www.linksinc.org.

Navy SEAL Museum donates working dog to vet

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The Navy SEAL Museum's K9 Project recently donated a working dog to a retired member of the Special Operations Forces community.

With the partnership of Baden K-9, and a gift from the nonprofit Swim With a Mission, a 14-month-old German shepherd was presented to the retired Navy SEAL at the museum.

"Canines have provided protection and supporting comfort for thousands of years. The Navy SEALs have used dogs in combat since Vietnam, and continue to today," said Grant Mann, retired Navy SEAL and museum executive director. "These combat K9s are saving Navy SEAL lives. The specifically trained K9s that the U.S. Navy SEAL Museum provides to our Special Operations Warriors are saving and assisting with their lives too! These K9s are highly assessed and then selected to meet the specific requirements of the recipients after they receive hundreds of hours of focused working dog training. The canine given to the recipient is loyal, protective and serves the needs of the recipient without hesitation. It is only through generous donations that we are able to provide these deserving Special Operations Warriors a dedicated work-



The Navy SEAL Museum's K9 Project has donated a working dog to a retired member of the Special Operations Forces community. THE NAVY SEAL MUSEUM

ing K9 assistant, a close companion and a new family member all in one."

Formally called Buck, the young dog has been renamed Able from the joint Army/Navy phonetic alphabet known

as the Able Baker. K9 Able hails from a long line of dogs known for their exceptional intelligence, athleticism, agility and even temperament. Due to the initial training he received at Baden, the shepherd is well versed in obedience and already understands several commands. Able's scope of service is broad to support routine activities while providing comfort, camaraderie and companionship.

"To those who have seen, to those who have heard, to those who have felt, the dog becomes closer than any human arms or voice, said Mike McConnery, founder and owner of Baden K-9. "The honor — the privilege — is in the uniting."

The dog's training is ongoing and will continue through the K9 Project curriculum at the museum, elevating his capabilities as a working dog for the support his handler requires. This canine donation was made possible by contributions from donors at the 2019 Swim With a Mission event in New Hampshire, specifically in support of the Museum's K9 Project.

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