**Press Release - 38th “Spotlight on Talent” Competition - the COVID Version**

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We are contacting you with information about this upcoming event in two forms – a long, detailed press release and the following shorter, bulleted one with vital facts that should not be omitted in case of shortening the copy for space reasons. At our web site (newly launched version) you can find additional information and download your choice of labeled photographs in .jpg form – go to heritagearts.org, then News/Press Room/Spotlight on Talent. Please use as much as you can – this is a HUGE popular event in its 38th year. Because of the virus pandemic, many are wondering if this competition will be possible in the spring, and we want talented students and families to know that producers are committed to see that happen. We need your help to see that the word gets out soon! Please use at a minimum this information:

* 38th year of regional performing arts competition “Spotlight on Talent” for young people through high school seniors.
* Decision will be made on Jan. 1 between the usual events on Feb. 13 and March 6, or the Plan B Covid one day contest on March 6, with safety protocols in place, and no audience.
* Deadline for entering is Thurs., Jan. 28, 2021. Applications available online at heritagearts.org, or at area schools, music & dance studios, and Chambers of Commerce.
* $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior who is a Pasco county resident with highest scores from the judges.
* Participants vie for over $4,000 in trophies, ribbons and cash prizes.
* All types & styles of performing talents are accepted, both as solos & in groups.
* Panels of paid, professional judges will select finalists/winners in several age categories and the Pasco senior scholarship.
* Contact exec. producer with any questions at spotlight@heritagearts.org, or 352-567-1720, and more information at [heritagearts.org](http://www.heritagearts.org) .
* Community sponsors needed – contact producer.