

Ponte Vedra

Recorder

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

December 20, 2018
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Hope FOR THE Holidays

The Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation partnered with the community last week to pack 4,100 meals for underprivileged, First Coast children to ensure they don't go hungry over the holiday school break.
Read page 4 for more.

Photo by Ben Jared/PGA TOUR

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Sports

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CAR OF THE WEEK

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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to jonb@opcfla.com by Monday at 5 p.m. All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

Eleven readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Adventure Landing sign. The winner of the random drawing was **Marie Kuhns**. Congratulations, Marie — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Miska is a 7-year-old male declawed cat who was brought to the Pet Center by his owners. Miska is looking for a new home and is good with other household pets. Please be aware that a declawed cat may take additional time to adjust to a new home. Come spend some time with this furry friend today. #48049



DOG OF THE WEEK

Casper is a 3-year-old male dog who is looking for a new home. He was brought to the Pet Center as a stray. As Casper is a stray, there are traits that may be unknown. Come into the Pet Center to visit with Casper today! #42688



Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to its new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training, and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions are currently \$15 and are being sponsored by the Friends of the Pet Center! They are usually \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The pet center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road in St. Augustine, off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. For more information, please call the St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

GRAB		SHE		ORT
NOGO	AHOY		ENNUI	
POUR	RICE		DELIS	
	FESTIVUS		GWYN	
	CROSS		FEY	
WISHES		BOREDOM		
ARP	TOPDOG		AIDE	
DARTS	EEL		ARMOR	
ETUI	ENBLOC		ERR	
SEEDPOD			GRASSY	
	ION		FELIZ	
	RANI		HOLIDAYS	
HOGGS		ELAN		LOPE
OBESE		LING		EGIS
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8	7	1	4	9	2	6	3	5
9	3	2	7	6	5	4	1	8
3	2	8	5	1	6	7	9	4
7	6	9	3	8	4	5	2	1
1	5	4	9	2	7	8	6	3

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

ZOO LIGHTS

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A ton of holiday fun.

Dec. 7-9
Dec. 14 - Jan. 5
Closed Christmas Day



jacksonvillezoo.org



Intracoastal Waterfront Condo
Marina San Pablo 2nd story condo featuring open floor plan, luxury amenities, and private balcony with water views. **2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths \$475,000**



Most Desired Oceanfront Location in NE Florida
This first-floor unit was totally renovated with the finest finishes & craftsmanship. Includes an office, saturnia floors, mahogany doors & built-in custom cabinetry. **2 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms + powder room \$1,700,000**



The Perfect Beach Escape
Located between The Lodge and the Cabana Beach Club, this second-story condo gives elevated views of the beach while maintaining the unit's privacy and security. Includes a large covered balcony and ground floor storage. **3 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms \$1,625,000**



The Perfect Oceanfront Lot for Your Ideal Home
This property is being sold for lot value only. This lot has a brand-new vinyl sea wall that is already installed on the property and valued at close to \$70,000. Great deal to build your oceanfront dream home! **\$395,000**

OPES STUDENTS PERFORM 'SOUNDS OF THE SEASON'



Donning festive colors and holiday costumes, kindergartners, first graders, the Choir and Orff Ensemble of Ocean Palms Elementary School performed their "Sounds of the Season" concert on Dec. 11 to celebrate the holiday season. Photo provided by Susan Samko



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LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL®

Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation packs 4,100 bags of food for local children, families at 'Hope for the Holidays' event

By Jon Blauvelt

The Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation partnered with the community last week to pack 4,100 bags of food for underprivileged kids and families in the greater Jacksonville area at the organization's seventh annual "Hope for the Holidays" event.

Held on Dec. 12 in the parking lots adjacent to the TPC Clubhouse, the event resulted in 30,000 pounds of food being donated to kids in need, with 32 schools in Duval and St. Johns counties receiving holiday bags of items including ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, chicken broth, hot cocoa and more. The Ponte Vedra-based foundation packed bags for 3,705 students in the local Blessings in Backpack program, a nonprofit organization that provides consistent weekend nutrition for children on the federal free and reduced meal program.

"There's a lot of need," PGA Tour player and Ponte Vedra Beach resident Jim Furyk said. "There are a lot of kids who are food insecure in Jacksonville. Forty-one hundred bags are scratching the surface."

The foundation also donated food to children and families at the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, Daniel Kids, the Hubbard House, Community Hospice & Palliative Care's Community PedsCare program and the Sulzbacher Center.

The event's outcome continues to grow every year. In 2017, the foundation packed over 3,500 bags. In 2016, it was 3,000. When the foundation first held the event in 2011, the organization packed 500 bags. Because the number of bags has increased so dramatically, Tabitha Furyk said they didn't have much of a choice but to hold the event in the TPC parking lots. Not many other locations would have been able to fit all the food and volunteers, she said.

"What we're hoping that people realize is when they come and they realize our numbers are growing, they realize that the need is out there," Tabitha explained. "We're still not even making a dent in the number of families and children who need this food. So, hopefully when they come out and have this hands-on opportunity to give back, they realize hey this is something we need to take care of in Jacksonville."

The event is a true community collaboration, as the foundation enlisted the support of CAA Sports, JAX Refrigeration, the Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Power Tee, TMM and TopGolf to set up the food at the event. The foundation also works with Feeding Northeast Florida, PepsiCo, Publix, Quaker and Target to fill the bags with food. Funds for the food and the event were raised during the annual Furyk & Friends Concert and Celebrity Golf Classic, as well as from online donations and in-kind donations from CSC Security, Republic Services, Ring Power, TPC Sawgrass and the chefs at NINETEEN, who



Photo by Ben Jared/PGA Tour

The Furyk family gathers at their foundation's seventh annual "Hope for the Holidays" event on Dec. 12 at the TPC Sawgrass parking lots, which resulted in 4,100 bags being packed for local children and families in need.



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

The Ponte Vedra lacrosse team helps out at the event.

provided hot cocoa.

In addition, dozens and dozens of members of the community attended to help pack the bags, and the Nease and Ponte Vedra lacrosse teams carried and loaded cars and trucks with bags.

Attending the event for the first time, Nease lacrosse coach Max Gurowski said it was definitely an impactful experience for his boys.

"We talk all the time about how fortunate we are and it's bigger than lacrosse," Gurowski said. "To see them take that to heart is really all that you want as a coach. It's not about wins and losses. It's about creating great, young men, and these guys are well on their way to becoming that by continuing to serve people less fortunate and helping others."

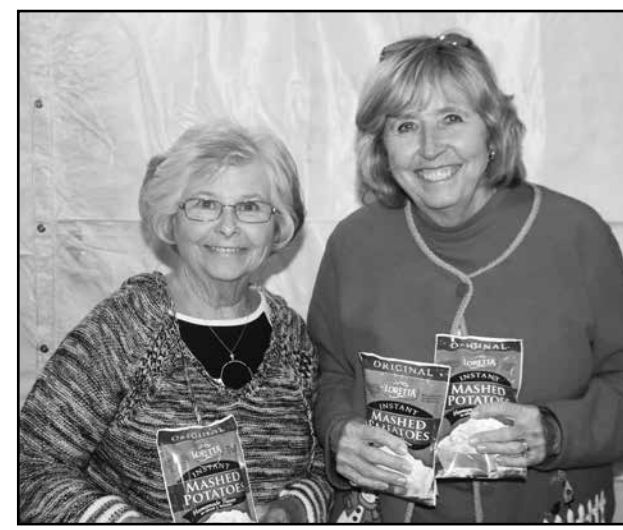
Lisa Kessler has volunteered at "Hope

for the Holidays" for many years. She noted that she was part of the Blessings in a Backpack effort when it started in St. Johns County, so she's been impressed by the growth of the foundation's annual event. Overall, she said she's thankful to have the Furyks in the community.

"We are so blessed to have them," Kessler said. "I don't even know many of the things that they do, but I know that this event is so impactful for our community. And I'm really grateful that we have them around."

For the Furyks, the feeling is mutual about the community's support.

"When all these families come out here," Tabitha said, "all of their kids, some people bring grandkids, and they look forward to doing it every year, it just completely warms your heart."



Linda Bass and Carolyn Pugh enjoy volunteering at "Hope for the Holidays."



A volunteer helps to fill the bags.

Local Girl Scouts troop uses Silver Award project to benefit area's refugee children

By Paris Moulden

Chantal Mbiya and Badura Kiza love to dance. Chantal does ballet. Badura is into hip-hop and isn't afraid to show off her dance moves. The girls almost finish each other's sentences and were happy to share how they fared at their recent science fair — a first-place finish for Chantal and second-place for Badura. And, at just 11 years old, Chantal, a refugee from Rwanda, and Badura, a refugee from Burundi, are also trying to navigate the challenges of adjusting to a new country, new culture and a new way of life.

Tasked with finding a way to make a change for the betterment of their community, four Girl Scouts from Troop 27 in Ponte Vedra Beach wanted to make sure kids like Chantal and Badura continue to have what every kid deserves — to feel safe, to be happy and to have the skills and opportunity to succeed.

Alexis Magnano, Lindsey Blisko, Julia Peiris and Emily Rohan decided for their Girl Scouts Silver Award project they would assist area refugee students with much-needed school supplies, educational instruction and, as it turns out, genuine friendship.

What began as a community service project to fulfill their Silver Award requirement, however, became a full-fledged effort to help shape a better future for refugee children around the First Coast, and, eventually, around the country.

MOTIVATING FACTORS

The troop was initially inspired to help area refugee children after witnessing the work of JaxTHRIVE, a nonprofit, peer-facilitated teen mentoring program that assists refugee students and that was co-founded by Alexis' brother, Chase Magnano.

Through JaxTHRIVE, the troop members were also introduced to Kim's Open Door, an area nonprofit that works with local at-risk youth and offers programs focused on refugee children.

Alexis Magnano, an eighth-grader at Landrum Middle School, had been working with refugees for two to three years through World Relief, and saw the impact her brother's nonprofit and Kim's Open Door were having in the community. As government funding for refugee organizations continue to decline, the Troop 27 members saw a greater need in the community.

"If you work together and get enough people involved, then you can make a change," Alexis Magnano said. "I wanted to leave a positive imprint on my town."

All four of the girls sympathized with the need to help young refugee students acclimate and recognized the difficulty of the transition. Blisko noted that some of the students were afraid of fireworks during the holidays or frightened by Halloween costumes because they were unfamiliar experiences or because of what they had witnessed in the places they fled.

"Having to leave your home and coming to a new place that you're not familiar with, that has a different way of



ABOVE: Girl Scouts Troop 27 leader Tiffany Blisko (from left), Emily Rohan, Lindsay Blisko, Julia Peiris, Alexis Magnano and "team mom" Elizabeth Paul

Photo by Paris Moulden

LEFT: Magnano, Peiris, Blisko and Rohan stand next to supplies they collected for area refugee students.

Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Paul

doing things, is really scary," said Blisko, a ninth-grader at Bolles. "Some of them are used to being in a place where there's a lot of war and fighting. ... And I just wanted to help them and make them feel more accustomed to what we do here because it's really tough to have to leave your home, especially to go to a completely new place."

For Peiris, also a ninth-grader at Bolles, the project took on a personal component. Both of her parents are immigrants to the U.S., and helping younger kids acclimate to their new environment was particularly special.

"We went to JaxTHRIVE, and saw the refugee children, and for me, personally, it really touched me, and to hear their stories and see how we could help them," she said.

THE SILVER AWARD

The Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout cadette can earn. According to the Girl Scouts guidelines, the Silver Award "gives you the chance to show that you are a leader who is organized, determined and dedicated to improving your community."

To fulfill their project requirement, the four members of Troop 27 came up with CORE (Creating Opportunities for Reading and Empowerment), which focuses on helping refugee children in Northeast Florida obtain the necessary tools to succeed in their new environment.

"We came across the idea of doing a library, and then we wanted to incorporate getting them needed supplies, like schoolbooks, uniforms, etc.," Magnano said. "It was all really fun, but I liked seeing how they reacted to all the stuff, all the supplies they received. They were all so excited."

The troop organized book drives, partnered with other groups on donations drives and asked friends, family and community members for donations of clothing, backpacks

and other school supplies. Rohan, also a Bolles ninth-grader, persuaded her Florida Stealth softball team to contribute to the project. The four girls also spent Saturdays mentoring and bonding with the refugee students.

"Seeing the kids grow and learn through our help was really inspiring," Rohan said.

The shared bond between the troop members and refugees was largely forged through reading.

"I like reading to them and teaching them the stories, because watching them learn the words is really cool," Peiris said. "I personally love reading, so sharing that love with them was really cool."

The troop also refurbished an old bookcase and created a mobile library to encourage more reading — and the escape from everyday life a good book can provide.

"Reading for me is a big thing, because it expands your vocabulary, you learn about things, and it's a way to relieve your stress, because with certain books you can travel, and feel like you're in the book and in a completely different place, and normally those are good places," Blisko said. "So, for them, it could be adventuring somewhere they can't go or haven't been."

TEACHING ... AND LEARNING

The refugee students weren't the only ones who benefited from the project. Although the troop members mentored and tutored the refugee students, they received valuable life lessons in return from the interaction.

"It's taught me that not everybody has the same backstory, and you don't really know what somebody's been through until you talk to them, although you still can't

Major Tim Williford is the corps officer for the Salvation Army's St. Augustine Corps, which encompasses all of St. Johns County. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset.

Tim Williford



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

My parents are retired Salvation Army officers, so it was kind of like to me a “womb to tomb” type thing. They were officers when I was born. I grew up in the Salvation Army and then at age 19, I felt called to be a Salvation Army officer. I’ve been doing it ever since.

What are your primary roles and responsibilities with the Salvation Army?

On a weekday basis, I’m responsible for administration and making sure all the needs are met. For example, we do a food pantry, housing assistance, we pay utility bills. So, we have to make sure all those reports are due. We have a staff of about four or five, so I oversee them, I wind them up and I let them do their job.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

What a lot of people don’t know is that the Salvation Army is actually a church. We are in 127 countries. So, I’m a Sunday morning preacher. I enjoy being able to preach on Sunday mornings, plan and program and lead my congregation in worship.

How can people help the Salvation Army’s cause these last few days of the holiday season?

Money is always a good way. Many people think they should donate used clothing during times of disaster, when in fact, we’re buying pallets of food that need to be prepared into 5,000 meals. That’s not really a good time for us to have a bunch of used clothes. Most of the time, we wouldn’t even have a place to store it anyway. So, money is always a good way to help the Salvation Army’s mission throughout the year.

People are most familiar with the Salvation Army during the holidays. How can people help outside of this time of year?

There are always volunteering opportunities. We do feedings on a regular basis. We provide peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to a boys club every Wednesday. One day a month, we do Dining with Dignity feedings downtown. There are always volunteer opportunities. People can get in contact with our office or the office in Jacksonville to help out. *Contact the St. Augustine Corps at (904) 824-6956.*

What do you enjoy most about living in the area?

I love the beauty of it. I love driving up and down A1A and looking out at the ocean. I love coming across the Vilano Bridge at night and looking off to my right and seeing the St. Augustine Lighthouse. I love that it’s still a very hometown, small-town type atmosphere. It’s a place I feel safe. I moved here from Orlando, where it’s hard to navigate and home to a lot of crime. So, I really like the openness and the beauty of all there is that we have here in Northeast Florida.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Probably one of my biggest passions is riding motorcycles. I currently have two Harley Davidson motorcycles. I have one that’s a Cruiser and one that’s a Bagger. I probably ride 10,000 to 15,000 miles a year.

Edited by Jon Blauvelt

To watch a video portion of the interview, visit pontevedrarecorder.com and click One of Us.

Special Olympics Florida hosts Polar Plunge at Adventure Landing

By Amber Lake

One holiday tradition gaining traction in the least likely of places — the sunshine state of Florida — is the annual Polar Plunge.

Floridians, however, aren't as big of fans of cold water as they are of worthy causes, such as raising funds for Special Olympics athletes.

On Saturday, Dec. 15, participants dressed in everything from Christmas-themed onesies to pirate attire joined together to take the plunge in the chilly 60-degree wave pool at Adventure Landing's Shipwreck Island Water Park.

Overall, the event managed to exceed its goal of raising \$12,000. This year's campaign was the fourth to be held in Jacksonville and with the help of athletes and participants managed to raise \$13,316. Highlighting the fundraising efforts was Polar Plunge participant Finley Boerema with \$2,160.

The event isn't just about raising money, however. In addition to helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities afford transportation, uniforms and accommodation while traveling for events, it brings the athletes closer to the community.

"So, what we like to do is have the community interact with the athletes at



Finley Boerema wins first place in raising money with \$2,160.

the event," said Hilary Kendrick, the development and special events manager for Special Olympics Florida. "We want to show that there is no difference in ability and no difference in excitement. We want to bring awareness to what our athletes

POLAR PLUNGE continues on **Page 11**



Photos by Amber Lake

Participants of the Dec. 15 Polar Plunge benefitting Special Olympics Florida celebrate running into the cold water of the wave pool at Adventure Landing's Shipwreck Island Water Park.

May Peace be your gift at Christmas and blessings all year through!

Suzie Connolly
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Thursday, Dec. 20	Friday, Dec. 21	Saturday, Dec. 22	Sunday, Dec. 23
<p>A Grief Support Group A Grief Support Group meets on the third Thursday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church. The group is for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. The event is in room 102 of the Family Life Center at 578 1st Ave. N in Jacksonville Beach. For information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665.</p> <p>'Aquaman' at IMAX Theater Arthur Curry learns that he is the heir to the underwater kingdom of Atlantis and must step forward to lead his people and to be a hero to the world. This film premieres on Dec. 20 and is showing at the IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame. Visit www.worldgolfimax.com for show times and ticket pricing. The IMAX Theater is located at One World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p>The 1904 Holiday Party This event features the Heavy Pets, Universal Green, the Good Wood Band and Colored Sound at 1904 Music Hall on Dec. 20 at 8 p.m. The event is located at 19 N. Ocean St. in Jacksonville. Tickets can be purchased from www.1904musicall.com.</p> <p>Holiday High Tea at One Ocean Resort & Spa High Tea at Azurea Lounge runs every day through Sunday, Dec. 30. The elegant afternoon refreshment is offered from 2 to 4 p.m. at \$35 per person at One Ocean Resort & Spa. Guests can also enjoy finger sandwich assortments and miniature tartlets. Reservations are required and may be made by calling the hotel directly at (904) 249-7402.</p> <p>Comedy Hour at Dahlia's Pour House Attend the "conservatory" at Dahlia's Pour House in the King Street District for fun and laughs with some of Jacksonville's best comedians. This free event starts at 9:30 p.m. Dahlia's Pour house is located at 2695 Post St. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Brightway hosts The Christmas Classic Movie Night in the Park series A three-part movie night series will be held in San Marco this December every Friday night before Christmas. The last event will be hosted Dec. 21 for "Elf." Attendees should bring their own seating and blankets. The event is free to the public and attendees can look forward to food trucks and complimentary hot chocolate and popcorn. The event will take place at the Southside United Methodist Church at 3120 Hendricks Ave. from 6 to 9 p.m. For additional details, visit the Facebook event page.</p> <p>A Real Rad Holiday Party with SWIMM and guests Jax is Rad's final party of the year ends with the Holiday Party Edition. California band SWIMM, will be playing along with another musical act. This festive party will feature work from several local artists to help you find your perfect holiday gift. Southern Swells will be providing the space with a selection of beer. Holiday-themed attire is encouraged. This free event will take place at Southern Swells Brewing Co. on Dec. 21 from 7 p.m. to midnight. Southern Swells Brewing Co. is located at 1312 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>A Very Merry Nightmare A Very Merry Nightmare is coming to Warehouse 31 Unleashed in Jacksonville on Dec. 21 and 22 from 7 to 11 p.m. Four horrifying holiday-themed houses feature roaming monsters and photo-ops. Warehouse 31 is located at 11262 Beach Blvd in Jacksonville. Go to warehouse31unleashed.com for more information and ticket pricing.</p> <p>Catty Shack Friday night feeding This is a 45-minute guided walking tour with the opportunity to see resident animals, which include tigers, lions, cougars, leopards, lynx, coatimundis and foxes. At 7:30 p.m. watch the feeding when Catty Shack hands out over 600 pounds of meat. Night feedings are held every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for more information and ticket pricing go to http://cattyshack.org.</p>	<p>Love Me True Rescue Love Me True Rescue, located at 5150 Palm Valley Road #403, will hold adoption events every Saturday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.lovemetruerescue.com. The rescue is also looking for volunteers (18+). Interested suitors can contact Peggy Hatfield at peggyhatfield63@comcast.net.</p> <p>'It's a Wonderful Life': A Live Radio Play This beloved American holiday classic will come to captivating life on Dec. 22 and 23 as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble that brings a few dozen characters to the stage, the story of idealist George Bailey unfolds as he considers ending his life one fateful night. Hosted by Apex Theatre Studio, this event starts at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18. Apex Theatre Studio is located at 5150 Palm Valley Rd. unit 205 in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Full Moon Paddle Join Anastasia Watersports on Dec. 22 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at Anastasia State Park to experience breathtaking views as the sun sets and the full moon rises, illuminating the Salt Run tidal basin. Multiple watercraft options include single kayaks, tandem kayaks and stand-up paddleboards. The paddle includes an interpretive storytelling element. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Cost varies for rentals. Anastasia State Park is located at 850 Anastasia Park Road in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Intro to survival class: Fire, Water, Food and Shelter This one-day introduction class to basics of survival is for anyone just starting to learn survival skills or an experienced adventurer in need of a quick refresh. It will examine the key components of survival: shelter, fire, water and food. Students will also learn about survival psychology and signaling. This course is a great starting point, and the information can be life-saving in an emergency situation. This event is on Dec. 22 at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is hosted by Flint & Steel Critical Skills Group, LLC and American Survival Co. at Eat Your Yard Jax, located at 8220 Moncrief Road in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Christmas StoryWeaver at the Corazon Cinema and Café Music, laughter and wonderful stories are told by Lee Weaver, St. Augustine's own playwright/actor. The event is on Dec. 23 at 2 p.m. Admission is \$20. The Corazon Cinema and Café is located at 36 Granada St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Luminaria Luminaria is one of Riverside and Avondale's premier celebrations. It is taking place on Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. The event was established by local volunteers as a way for neighbors to commemorate the season by walking amongst the sidewalk candles to a social event with friends. Over 20,000 candles will be on display throughout the historic district. This event is hosted by the Riverside Avondale Preservation and will take place in both Riverside and Avondale.</p> <p>Movie night in the beer garden: 'Christmas Vacation' Movie Night will take place in the Beer Garden on Dec. 23 at Wicked Barley Brewing Company. The featured movie will be "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," which starts at 6:30 p.m. Movie snacks such as popcorn, nachos, pretzels and beer will be available for purchase. Admission is free and seating is first come, first serve. This event is weather permitting and attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs. Wicked Barley is located at 4100 Baymeadows Road in Jacksonville.</p> <p>'Elf' at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining Buddy is a young orphan who sneaks into the present bag of Santa and is taken back to the North Pole. There, the would-be elf is raised unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. Alhambra Theatre & Dining will host this adaptation of a Christmas classic on Dec. 23 from 6 to 10 p.m. Ticket pricing includes a meal. The Alhambra is located at 12000 Beach Blvd in Jacksonville. For more information visit www.alhambrajax.com</p>

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Monday, Dec. 24	Tuesday, Dec. 25	Wednesday, Dec. 26	Thursday, Dec. 27
<p>Charity Tap Takeover: The Salvation Army St. Johns County Join Mulligans Pub every Monday in December for the Charity Tap Takeover. Mulligans teamed up with The Salvation Army of St. Johns County to take over the taps for the month of December. One dollar from every beer on tap ordered will go to The Salvation Army of St. Johns County. Mulligans Pub is located at 43 PGA Tour Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Gingerbread Extravaganza Visitors can enjoy incredible gingerbread creations built by professionals and amateurs alike. These creations will be on display at the Jacksonville Historical Society's Old St. Andrews Church through Dec. 28. Themes this year encompass Jacksonville's historic landmarks in the holidays. Displays will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 317 Philp Randolph St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>The Rescue of Santa On Saturdays and Sundays through December and on Christmas Eve, Santa Claus joins the crew of the Black Raven. Right before attendees leave the dock, Santa comes onboard, followed by Chumbucket and his crew who steal his bag and ultimately kidnap Santa. It's up to the crew and the kids to save Santa and Christmas. The event includes sword fights, face painting and photos with Santa. The tour departs at 2:15 p.m. from the St. Augustine Municipal Marina. The cost is \$34.95 for adults and \$24.95 for youth. The Municipal Marina is located at 111 Avenida Menendez in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Feast of the Seven Fishes Experience a traditional Italian feast full of the bounty of the sea. This event is hosted on Christmas Eve and features a traditional feast of the seven fishes buffet at TPC Sawgrass from 4 to 9 p.m. Cost for adults is \$80 and requires advanced reservations. TPC Sawgrass is located at 110 Championship Way in Ponte Vedra.</p>	<p>Christmas Dinner Seafood & Steak Buffet at Renaissance Celebrate Christmas evening on Dec. 25 at the Renaissance Resort with a delectable seafood and steak buffet dinner from 6 to 9 p.m. Dinner costs \$52 for adults, \$45 for seniors and \$25 for kids. Please make reservations by calling (904) 940-8696. Renaissance is located in the World Golf Village at 500 S. Legacy Trail in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Eclipse Nightclub's Very 80's Christmas! Eclipse hosts one of its largest parties of the year on Christmas. Attendees can ditch that holiday stress on the dance floor with free admission and holiday drink specials. DJ Canaan will be playing 80s and early 90s music videos. Doors open at 9 p.m. Eclipse is located at 4219 St. Johns Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Christmas Buffet at GiGi's Buffet at the Ramada Mandarin GiGi's will be hosting a holiday buffet featuring traditional carved selections including, rosemary leg of lamb and honey glazed ham. Price is \$32.95 for adults. The buffet will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. GiGi's Buffet is located at 3130 Hartley Road inside the Ramada Mandarin.</p> <p>The Light of Christmas Join Turning Point at Calvary for its yearly Light of Christmas event. Experience a Christmas light display. Guests can also take a stroll through the nativity tent and winter wonderland. This is a free, family friendly event from 6 to 9 p.m. This event is located at 3500 S.R 16 in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Christmas at Gaylord Palms featuring ICE! Gaylord Palms hosts an all-new theme featuring the beloved classic holiday movie, "A Christmas Story." Watch this family tale come to life through interactive ice sculptures and displays. Everything is hand-carved from two million pounds of ice. This event will take place until Jan. 6 at Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention center at 6000 W. Osceola Pkwy in Kissimmee.</p>	<p>Yoga at the church Grab a mat and enjoy a weekly yoga session at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. All ages and skill levels are welcome. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville. Call (904) 249-4091 Ext. 103 for more information.</p> <p>Venardos Circus This popular American circus with the heart of a Broadway show returns to the St. Augustine Amphitheatre from Dec. 19 to Feb. 27. Tickets range from \$45 to \$15. Visit www.staugamphitheatre.com for dates and show times. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340 A1A S. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>The African Village 5th Annual Kwanzaa Celebration Join the African Village International for the 5th Annual Kwanzaa Celebration - Umoja! Free entry to the community. Come learn about the history of Kwanzaa, why people celebrate and hear from local community influencers. This event is on Dec. 26 at the Ritz Theatre and Museum. Please feel free to honor the Kwanzaa tradition and bring a fruit or crops to place at the table set-up. For more information on vending, volunteering, speaking or to order your Kinara set please contact AfricanVillageInc@gmail.com.</p> <p>'The Polar Express' at IMAX This holiday-themed film is based on the classic Caldecott medal-winning children's book written by Chris Van Allsburg and is directed by Oscar winner Robert Zemeckis. It stars two-time Academy Award winner Tom Hanks. The Polar Express tells of a doubting young boy who takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole and embarks on a journey of self-discovery that shows him that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe. General admission is \$10. This event is on Dec. 26 at 11 a.m. at the IMAX Theater at World Golf Village. For more information visit www.worldgolfmax.com.</p>	<p>Downtown Wine Down at Cowford Chophouse Join Jacksonville's rooftop bar for the Downtown Wine Down, a monthly happy hour and cocktail mixer held at Cowford Chophouse on Dec. 27. Live entertainment will include a performance by The Chris Thomas Band. Additionally, guests can enjoy food and drink specials, a giveaway for a \$100 Cowford Chophouse gift card and a complimentary holiday inspired cocktail. The roof will be open to ticket holders at 3:30 p.m. and be closed to anyone without tickets the remainder of the night until 9:30 p.m. The Cowford Chophouse is located at 101 East Bay St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Friends Trivia at Hoptinger Jax Beach \$600 in prizes will go to winners of Friends themed trivia. Fans of the show should arrive on Dec. 27 at 8 p.m. to sign up. This event is for those ages 21 and up only. Hoptinger is located at 333 1st St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Exhibition: Ponte Vedra Artisan Market Come enjoy this special holiday exhibition and arts market on Dec. 27 at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Works will be available to purchase and take home as the perfect holiday gift or personal treat. Artists include Amy Dove, Tim Bullard, Masha Sardari, Marlene Scheer, Valarie Forrester, Karen Bullard, Midge Scelzo and Simran Arora. The Cultural Center is located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Song Stories with Dixie Rodeo, The Willow Sisters & Ronnie Gainey Join the Blue Jay Listening Room for a writers in the round style show of original music and stories features Dixie Rodeo, The Willow Sisters and Ronnie Gainey. All original music will be played. Hear the stories behind the songs. Seven musicians will be playing on Dec. 27 at 8 to 10:30 p.m. The Blue Jay Listening Room is located at 2457 S. Third St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to Amber@opcfla.com or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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Girl Scouts

Continued from 5

really fully experience it,” Blisko said. “They could have been extremely stressed where they came from, but you want these kids to have a normal childhood, playing outside, hanging out with their friends, and learning is obviously a big part of it.”

Said Rohan: “Going to Bolles, sometimes you don’t often have to think about people going through those kind of struggles, and, for them, fleeing persecution and coming to a new country and not

really knowing anything just really opened my eyes.”

The project was aimed at increasing awareness of the plight of refugee children, including for the troop members involved.

“I think each one took something different away, but I think the main thing they took away was seeing how others live, and realizing it’s a scary thing,” troop leader Tiffany Blisko said. “Thinking about what if they had to leave their country and go to another one to learn their customs and their language and their educational system? So, I think that each one benefited from that.”

GOING FOR GOLD

Next, the troop members will go for their Gold Award, which is the highest award any Girl Scout can attain and must be done individually. According to the Girl Scouts, “as a Gold Award Girl Scout, you’re challenged to change the world — or at least your corner of it.”

The girls plan to take one aspect of the Silver Award project to individually focus on for their Gold Award project, and Troop 27’s leader said serving the community is the Girls Scouts’ primary objective.

“I think it’s their No. 1 priority,” Tiffany Blisko said. “To be involved in the community and helping families and children and showing girls where they can go and that nothing can hold them back as long as they’re willing to do the work.”

The girls are also working on a video to share their project with other Girls Scout

troops across the country and hopefully motivate other girls their age to get involved and realize what they can accomplish in their communities.

“It’s showing that although we’re just eighth-grade and ninth-grade girls, we created this big of a project,” Magnano said. “We’re showing other girls what they can do if they work hard and set their minds to something.”

And being able to help make life a little easier and more pleasant for young students who are trying to find their way in a new world is the icing on the cake.

“They just have so much potential, and I just want to see them reach their highest potential,” Lindsey Blisko said. “It’s just really cool to see them develop and grow. You just want to see them happy, and you

want to do everything you can to make that attainable.”

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ABOVE: Alexis Magnano and Emily Rohan supply books for refugee students.



LEFT: Lindsey Blisko and Julia Peiris join two young refugee students for a meal. Photos courtesy of Elizabeth Paul



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Polar Plunge participants Beccia Cleveland, Lapeachtriss Turner, Lakisha Cotton and April D.

Polar Plunge

Continued from 7

are capable of. Events like this are great because it gives an opportunity for the community to mix with our athletes and gives them the chance to maybe break down some barriers.”

Sarah Appleton joined her friend, Elizabeth Zahn, to raise money and join the fun of the event. The duo was dressed as characters from one of their favorite movies, “The Blues Brothers.”

“It’s optional to do the costumes,” said Appleton, who was dressed as Elwood Blues. “It’s good to do though because it’s more about support.”

Appleton has participated the last two years in the event. She said she does not feel nervous about getting in, however. She said the cold water doesn’t affect her.

In fact, she likes it.

“I am actually more Norwegian than I let on,” she said.

For anyone interested in donating to the Special Olympics, Publix will host its annual Torch Icon Campaign this January, at which customers will be able to purchase paper torches at the check-out register. The torches will be displayed



Photos by Amber Lake

Bill Bissonette and Jennifer Hartley participate in the Polar Plunge.

in-store and donations go to providing year-round training for competitions for Special Olympics athletes.

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Magazines’* “Top 250 advisors” in the US, and one of Forbes* “Best in State Wealth Advisors” for Florida. His advice has been featured in the Wall Street Journal for years, and he’s been quoted as a financial expert in the national press for decades. Barron’s* has called advisors like Jeff “the best people in the business” and “truly great financial advisors” and says that they are “accepted in the industry” as the “top 1%” who set “the highest standards of their profession.” Forbes says it “scours... financial services industry” and has “uncovered great advisors” like Camarda “that are leading the way” and apply “best practices” to deliver a “high-quality experience for clients.” Camarda’s completed the CFP®, ChFC®, CLU®, CFS® and BCM™ designations**, and currently holds the CFA® investments expert and EA tax expert designations, as well as graduate degrees in financial planning, including a PhD in Financial and Retirement Planning. Dr. Camarda has written hundreds of articles and dozens of financial reports, whitepapers, and guides, and founded Wealth Education Radio. He is also an award-winning academic researcher into advisor competence and ethics. Camarda Wealth is A+ rated by the Better Business Bureau and has offices in Ponte Vedra Beach and Fleming Island.

Dr. Camarda’s Weekly Wealth Nugget ESTATE TAX & ASSET PROTECTION OVERVIEW

We are living in a very volatile financial environment. I see situations all the time where the financial security clients have worked all their lives to attain are threatened to be wiped out in a lawsuit. Unfortunately, our legal system provides little disincentive for people to sue when they believe they have been wronged, and there are many unscrupulous lawyers who encourage coercive litigation. While we used to have continuity in our taxing system, we now see “permanence” as being four years or less, and the tax increase pressures on our legislators will continue to grow with our increasing deficit and threatening inflation, especially as the Medicare and Social Security systems run out of money as projected. While the current estate tax exemption is \$5.45 million per person, to be adjusted for future inflation, we cannot guarantee that it will remain at that level, and do not recommend planning for it to remain there. The Democrats advocate a reduction in the exemption and an increase in the maximum transfer tax rates (generally, estate and gift taxes work in unison, and we refer to both as “transfer taxes”), as well as a new capital gains estate tax. If you are close to the current taxation level, in my view current planning should be focused primarily on keeping your taxable estates values from increasing beyond the tax free amount, which we call “freezing” the estate, with the option to build in additional planning should it appear that the exemption will be decreased. New regulations already on the books will make this much more difficult to accomplish. If you think you may be exposed, the time to begin is now. Email me at j@camarda.com for more information.

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Photos by Amber Lake
 Preschoolers at Christ Episcopal Church show off their hard work during the school's annual Christmas program.

Preschoolers at Christ Episcopal Church share the 'Sounds of the Season'

By Amber Lake

The Christ Episcopal Church Preschool held its traditional Christmas program last Friday, Dec. 14.

The program, "Sounds of the Season," was practiced for four weeks before the performance of each class. Local families gathered to watch their loved ones sing and dance along to Christmas classics. Songs included were "Jingle Bells," "O Christmas Tree" and "Joy to the World."

"It's the best part of the job," music teacher Laura Young said. "A lot of people don't think about it, but for many of these kids, it's their first experience with these songs. I am just so happy to be a part of that."

Deno and Lee-Catherine Hicks came to watch their daughter, Melina Hicks, perform.

"She has been practicing since Thanksgiving for this," Lee-Catherine Hicks said. "A lot of times at home, too. She was just so excited to perform today. Part of that, however, was that this officially starts her three-week Christmas break."

After all their hard work, the preschoolers are now ready to start the countdown to Christmas morning.

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A happy girl enjoys her visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Nocatee Farmers Market on Dec. 15.

Nocatee Farmers Market features Christmas festival

Nocatee families and their friends had the opportunity to enjoy the best of the holiday season at the Nocatee Farmers Market last weekend.

Held Saturday, Dec. 15, the annual Christmas festival featured local shopping, a petting zoo, crafts and face painting and live music by Str8 Up. Perhaps most importantly, Santa and Mrs.

Claus paid the Farmers Market a visit, took photos with little ones and listened to their Christmas wishes.

Along with the seasonal and festive theme, the market included over 70 local vendors offering items such as organic produce, herbs, spices, unique foods, crafts, jewelry and more. In addition, the event included a bounce house.



ABOVE: Attendees of the Farmers Market participate in arts and crafts activities.

RIGHT: A little one gets up close and personal with a few animals in the petting zoo.



Photos courtesy of Nocatee Ponte Vedra Nocatee.com

COASTAL WINE MARKET HOSTS TASTING WITH BRYAN PAGE OF REVOLVER WINE CO.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Steve Lourie and Allen Horne of Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room in Nocatee gather with Bryan Page of Revolver Wine Co. (center), who stopped by the local business Dec. 12 for a tasting of his portfolio. In addition to the tasting, a bottle of Page's Stash Cabernet was auctioned off during the evening.

Toll Brothers announces plans to build Oakwood at Nocatee

Toll Brothers, a luxury home building company, has announced plans to build Oakwood at Nocatee, a gated townhome community in the Nocatee development.

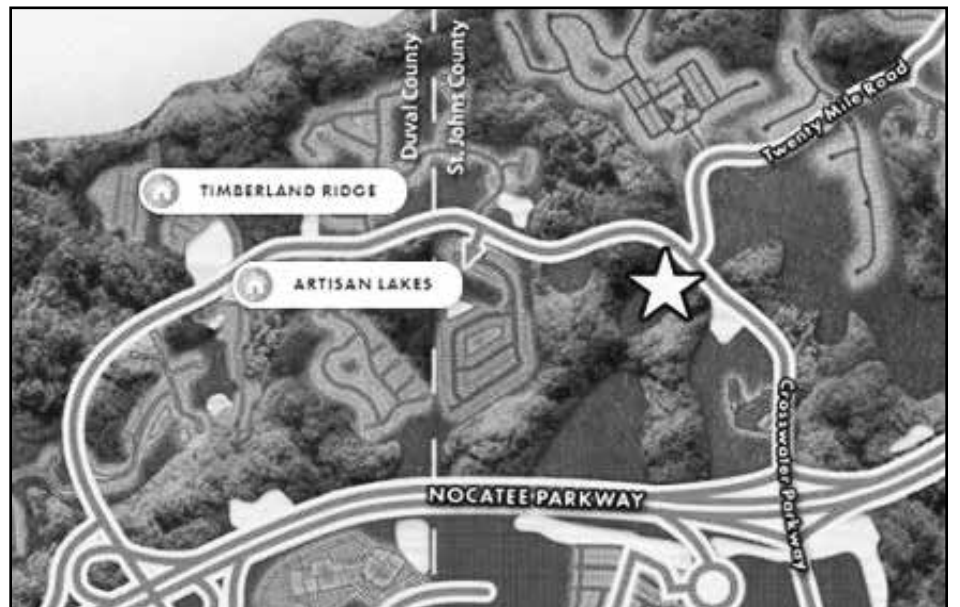
Located off Valley Ridge Boulevard, Oakwood at Nocatee will include 43 townhomes. Ranging in size from 2,250 to 2,500 square feet, each townhome will include first-floor master bedrooms and extensive interiors. Construction of the Oakwood at Nocatee sales center and model townhomes will begin in early spring, and the community is expected to

open in fall of 2019.

Oakwood at Nocatee will include a community park and numerous mature oak trees.

"Oakwood at Nocatee will be the ideal community for home buyers who desire low-maintenance luxury living with access to an array of exciting, interactive amenities," said Steven Merten, president of Toll Brothers' Northeast Florida division.

Call (844) 871-7466 for more information.



Map courtesy of Nocatee Ponte Vedra Nocatee.com

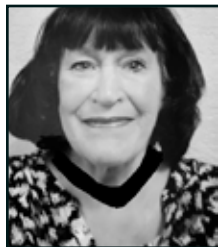
A map shows the expected location of Oakwood at Nocatee, a new gated townhome community coming to the community in fall 2019.

OBITUARIES

Ingra Puckett Adair

Ingra Puckett Adair, 74, died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018 in Jacksonville, Florida of multiple system failure.

She was born on Sept. 25, 1944 in Auburn, Alabama.



Ingra Puckett Adair

She was an alumna of the University of South Carolina. Ingra was employed by the Columbia Symphony Orchestra as a principal flutist. She also played the piccolo.

Ingra taught private lessons and encouraged students of all ages.

In the 1970s, Ingra met with the First Lady of North Carolina, Jessica Scott, to discuss reformation of mental health laws in North Carolina; and, she won an award for her achievements in support of this effort.

Ingra loved children and was a director of two daycare centers, in addition to serving as a substitute teacher in St. Johns County schools. She was on the Writer's Roundtable in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she was published and wrote poetry and short stories.

In Florida, Ingra worked for the Orlando Convention Center. Later, the family would relocate to South Carolina, and there she became a librarian at the Laurens County Public Library. In addition, Ingra was a talented cook and seamstress. She made her sister's wedding dress in two days.

Ingra was married from 1966 to 1995 to Thomas C. Adair Jr. and is survived by a daughter, Elizabeth (Beth) Adair, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; a sister, Becky (Dan) Nunnally; two nephews, John and Allen Nunnally; and one niece, Ashleigh Nunnally — all of Nashville, Tennessee. She was predeceased in 1994 by her son, John Thomas Adair.

The family is grateful for the excellent care she received from Life Care Center of Hilliard, Florida and the compassion shown by the doctors and nurses in her final days at UF Hospital. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to befrienders.org, an organization that

provides emotional support to prevent suicide. A private memorial service was held at Ponte Vedra Valley on Dec. 15, 2018.



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Blake Sanders

Blake Julian Sanders, 30, died suddenly on Dec. 11, 2018.

Blake was born in Jacksonville, Florida on March 23, 1988, to Sandy Smith Sanders and Bernie Sanders. He grew up in Ponte Vedra Beach and is survived by his parents; his brother, Brett Sanders (Kelli), of St. Johns, Florida; sister, Brooke, of Jacksonville, Florida; grandparents, Leonard and Ruth Smith, of Jacksonville, Florida and formerly of Grayson, Georgia; nieces, Kaileigh and Everley Sanders; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. He was predeceased by his grandparents, Bernard Sr. and Jean Sanders of Atlanta, Georgia.



Blake Sanders

Blake was born loving baseball and seized every opportunity to play the game he loved. He graduated from Nease High School, and he was awarded a baseball scholarship to Marshall University, although he ultimately graduated with honors from the University of South Carolina.

Blake was a member of Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church. After playing professional baseball in the American Baseball League in Texas, he especially relished his acting role in the movie "42." This opportunity led Blake to relocate to California to pursue acting. In addition, he loved to travel on family trips with the Smiths and Sanders. Blake was the first in line to explore new horizons.

At the time of his unexpected death, Blake was back in Jacksonville living near his family. Blake will be greatly missed by his family and many friends who loved him. The family received friends on Dec. 15 at Ponte Vedra Valley. Pastor Richard Cooper gave a Message of

Hope immediately following the visitation. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church.



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Lora June Duckett

Lora June Duckett, 88, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Dec. 12, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Jean Helmke

Jean Helmke, 91, of Jacksonville, died Dec. 12, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com.

Evan L. Kostick

Evan L. Kostick, 88, of Jacksonville,

died Dec. 8, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Klara Margit Moffitt

Klara Margit Moffitt, 78, of Jacksonville Beach, died Dec. 11, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Geoffrey High Ulrich

Geoffrey High Ulrich, 70, of Jacksonville Beach, died Dec. 15, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Ann Marie Wooten

Ann Marie Wooten, 85, of Neptune Beach, died Dec. 17, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Victoria Consuelo Zimeri de Hasbun

Victoria Consuelo Zimeri de Hasbun, 87, of Doral, Florida, died Dec. 14, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

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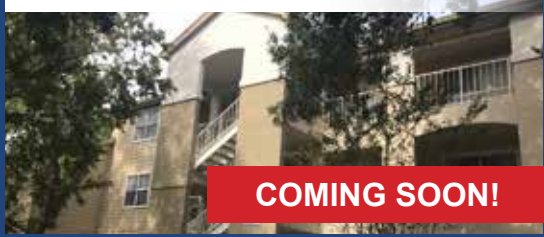
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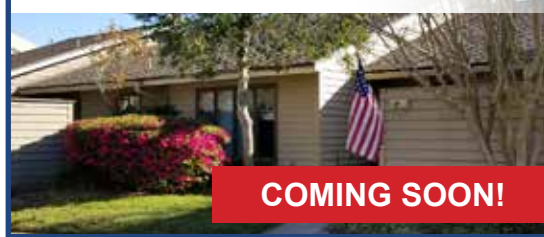
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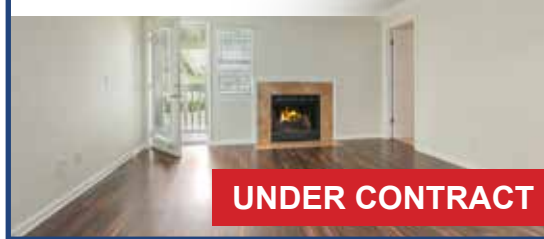
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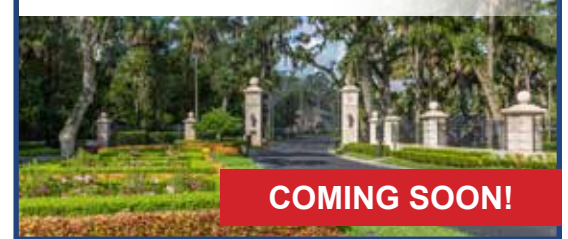
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Deck The Chairs announces 2018 award winners

During the annual Night of Music & Dance held on Sunday, Dec. 9, Jacksonville Beach Deck The Chairs (JB-DTC) Executive Director Kurtis Loftus announced the 2018 Chair Decorating Award winners.

Ballots were distributed to visitors of JB-DTC during the first two weekends of the event. More than 500 votes were cast. The winners were:

- **Best of Show:** “K9s are Coming to Town” by K9s for Warriors
- **Blue Ribbon:** “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” by American Legion – Post 129
- **Red Ribbon:** “Holiday Fishing Bear” by Pablo Towers
- **Yellow Ribbon:** “Follow the Moon”

by Atlantic Beach Country Club

Honorable Mentions

- “Welcome to Our Dog House” by Fur Sisters
- “Time Machine” by First Coast News and Andrew Jackson High School
- “Little Chapel School House & Tree Farm” by St. Paul’s Catholic School
- “Santa Retires to the Good Life at Fleet Landing” by Fleet Landing

Creative Appreciation

- “Beaches Go Green Jellyfish Park” by Beaches Go Green, Republic Services and Artistic Contractors

DECK THE CHAIRS continues on Page 20



TOP RIGHT: “K9s are Coming to Town” by K9s for Warriors was awarded Best in Show for the annual Jacksonville Beach Deck The Chairs event.

LEFT: The American Legion – Post 129’s “I’ll be Home for Christmas” chair won the blue-ribbon award.

RIGHT: Pablo Towers’ “Holiday Fishing Bear” won the red-ribbon award.

Photos by Hal Padgett



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To All My Friends and Customers

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Beaches Rotaract raises \$14,000, collects over 600 items for PACE Center for Girls with 'A Night at the Alhambra'

By Jon Blauvelt

The Rotaract Club of Jacksonville's Beaches put Rotary's official motto, "Service Above Self," into action in a big way last week.

After months of preparation, the local young professionals service organization — also known as Beaches Rotaract — hosted their fourth annual holiday fundraiser at Alhambra Theatre & Dining's production of "Elf" last Thursday, Dec. 13. "A Night at the Alhambra" ultimately raised \$14,000 for the event's beneficiary, PACE Center for Girls. Through a supply drive, Beaches Rotaract also collected over 600 items — including beauty and craft items, blankets, clothing and more — and \$500 in gift cards for the local nonprofit.

"I just can't help but be so thankful to everyone who supported our event, from our sponsors to our individual patrons," said Nicole Hamm, the Alhambra event



ABOVE: Beaches Rotaract President Magda Cichon gathers with Misty Burbridge, Rebekah Hope and Noela Smart at "A Night at the Alhambra" benefitting PACE Center for Girls on Dec. 13.

LEFT: Rotarians Dick Williams, John Drake and Ed Dalton

Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Rotary Club Past President Billy Wagner with his family

either being placed in programs designed for boys or placed further into the system for their own protection.

PACE President and CEO Mary Marx said the funds raised by the Beaches Rotaract event will be used to support some of the extracurricular activities for the girls, such as the organization's holiday prom that took place last week.

"I thought it was a tremendous effort," said Marx, a Rotarian, about the efforts of Beaches Rotaract, "and it really spoke volumes about their commitment to 'Service Above Self.'"

ALHAMBRA continues on Page 20

chair and coordinator for Beaches Rotaract. "It means a lot to see people coming together for a good cause."

PACE provides girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy. Starting with one center

serving 10 girls in Jacksonville in 1985, the nonprofit today includes 19 centers throughout Florida that serve over 2,000 girls each year, according to the PACE website. The organization began as a community response to the realization that girls involved with the justice system were

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AREA RESIDENTS RAISE GLASSES FOR GOOD CAUSE AT MULLIGANS PUB



Photo by Susan Griffin

Members of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset and friends gather at Mulligan's Pub in Ponte Vedra Beach on Monday, Dec. 10 for a fun evening and to raise money for the Salvation Army. Every Monday in December, Mulligan's is hosting its "Charity Tap Takeover," at which \$1 from every beer on tap goes to the Salvation Army.

TPC Storytellers present annual donation to local nonprofits

On Dec. 5, the TPC Storytellers hosted a luncheon at the TPC Clubhouse to present four local nonprofits with a monetary award of \$25,000 divided among the organizations.

The donations went to C.O.P.S., Northeast Florida Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors, Vets 4 Vets, Foster Closet and Friends of the St. Johns County Pet Center. St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Director of Corrections Sam Williams and Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Sheriff Mike Williams were in attendance.

The donations were made possible by the volunteer group of storytellers who give tours of the TPC Clubhouse and the course's famous 17th and 18th



Photo taken by TPC Sawgrass staff

Charles Shinholser and Janis Lampe of C.O.P.S., Steve Miller of the Friends of the St. Johns County Pet Center, Bob Adelhelm of Vets 4 Vets, Robert Landon, the chairman of the STAAC Committee, and Tammy McGuire and Alice Wilson of Foster Closet gather at the TPC Clubhouse on Dec. 5. The four charities received a monetary award of \$25,000 from the TPC Storytellers that was divided among the organizations.

holes. There is no charge for the tours, but gratuities are accepted, and this is the source of the annual donation.

This was the 11th year of the

awards to local charities. Many of the storytellers have been giving tours for 10 years or more, with Jim Kleck being the captain of the group.



Photos courtesy of Ponte Vedra High School Ocean of Sound marching band

PVHS Ocean of Sound marching band poses outside of Tropicana Field at FMBC Championships.

PVHS Ocean of Sound band makes history with fifth-place finish at FMBC state championships

The Ponte Vedra High School Ocean of Sound marching band made history on Nov. 17 with its best finish ever at the FMBC State Championship competition in Tampa.

Dazzling the crowd with its 2018 show, "The Mistress of All Evil," the Ocean of Sound was the only band in Northeast Florida to make it to state finals this year, ultimately placing fifth in Class 4A.

Preliminaries featured performances by 89 Florida bands, with only 15 bands (five from each class) progressing to finals at Tropicana Field later that day. This year was just Ponte Vedra's third year competing at the state championship, having placed ninth in 2017 and 12th in 2016.

"This year was a dream come true for this hard-working bunch of kids, and I'm pretty certain I blacked out for a moment when they announced we had made it to finals," Band Director Jermaine Reynolds said. "I'm so incredibly proud of how much this program has grown in such a short period of time. Our show this year featured some of the toughest music in the competition and we really pushed the kids both physically and as musicians. I promised them it would pay off, and it did."

Taking critiques from each regional competition during the season, the band pushed to perfect the show leading up to FMBC State Championships. The band defended their grand champion status at the Golden Eagle Classic and placed second at both the Echoes of Excellence and the First Coast Marching Invitational regional competitions earlier in the season, while honing the complicated music and visuals in preparation for the state championship.

"I was absolutely euphoric at state and so proud of everyone," senior Band Captain Hope Headrick said. "I can't believe that it was just my freshman year when there were less than 70 of us and we were marching in jeans. We've come a long way and I know all 27 seniors will miss this band family next year."

The Ocean of Sound is comprised of 107 musicians and 13 color guard. In his third year as PVHS band director, Reynolds acknowledged that the band's success is not only the result of a lot of hard work by his students, but also the contributions of the parents, his staff, the Band Boosters and the program's generous sponsors. The band's new marching season will begin in July of 2019.

North Florida Land Trust receives award from NE Florida Regional Council

North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) recently received the Environmental Stewardship Award from the Northeast Florida Regional Council.

The award was presented to Ponte Vedra resident and NFLT President Jim McCarthy and Associate Land Protection Director Rebecca Perry during the Regional Awards for Excellence ceremony at WJCT studios.

The Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship is given each year to an individual or organization who focuses on long-term protection, conservation and enhancement of Northeast Florida's natural resources. NFLT was chosen for the work the organization has been doing in the Ocala to Osceola, or O2O, wildlife corridor, specifically the more than 2,500 acres they protected through the acquisition of two conservation easements.

"We are very proud of the land we have been able to conserve within this critical wildlife corridor, which not only keeps these thousands of acres free from high intensity development in perpetuity, but also protects Camp Blanding from the threat of encroaching development," McCarthy said. "We are honored to have been chosen for this designation and will continue to work closely with Camp Blanding to identify lands prime for conservation and important to protect the base. Our partnership is a combination of conservation, community relations, national security and economic development."

NFLT also recently took possession of 2,300 acres located near Lawtey that connects Camp Blanding to Jennings State Forest. The properties are also within the O2O wildlife corridor, a critical wildlife corridor that stretches from the Ocala National Forest to the Osceola National Forest. According to NFLT, the O2O corridor provides an important habitat for the Florida black bear and endangered species like the red-cockaded woodpecker, indigo snakes and gopher tortoises. There are numerous imperiled species and rare habitats within the O2O, per NFLT.

AWARD continues on Page 22



Photo courtesy of Kelly White

Northeast Florida Regional Council Board President Hon. Catherine Robinson presents the Environmental Stewardship Award to North Florida Land Trust Associate Land Protection Director Rebecca Perry and Ponte Vedra resident and NFLT President Jim McCarthy.

“Follow the Moon” by Atlantic Beach Country Club was awarded the yellow ribbon for the annual Jacksonville Beach Deck The Chairs event.

Photo by Hal Padgett



Deck the Chairs

Continued from 15

- “Coolsculpting Winter Wonderland” by Patrick Basile, M.D.
- “Santa’s Workshop” by Sidney Cardel’s

Upcoming JBDC events

- Monday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. – Christmas Eve service
- Sunday, Dec. 30, 3 p.m. – TaxSlayer Gator Bowl Pep Rally

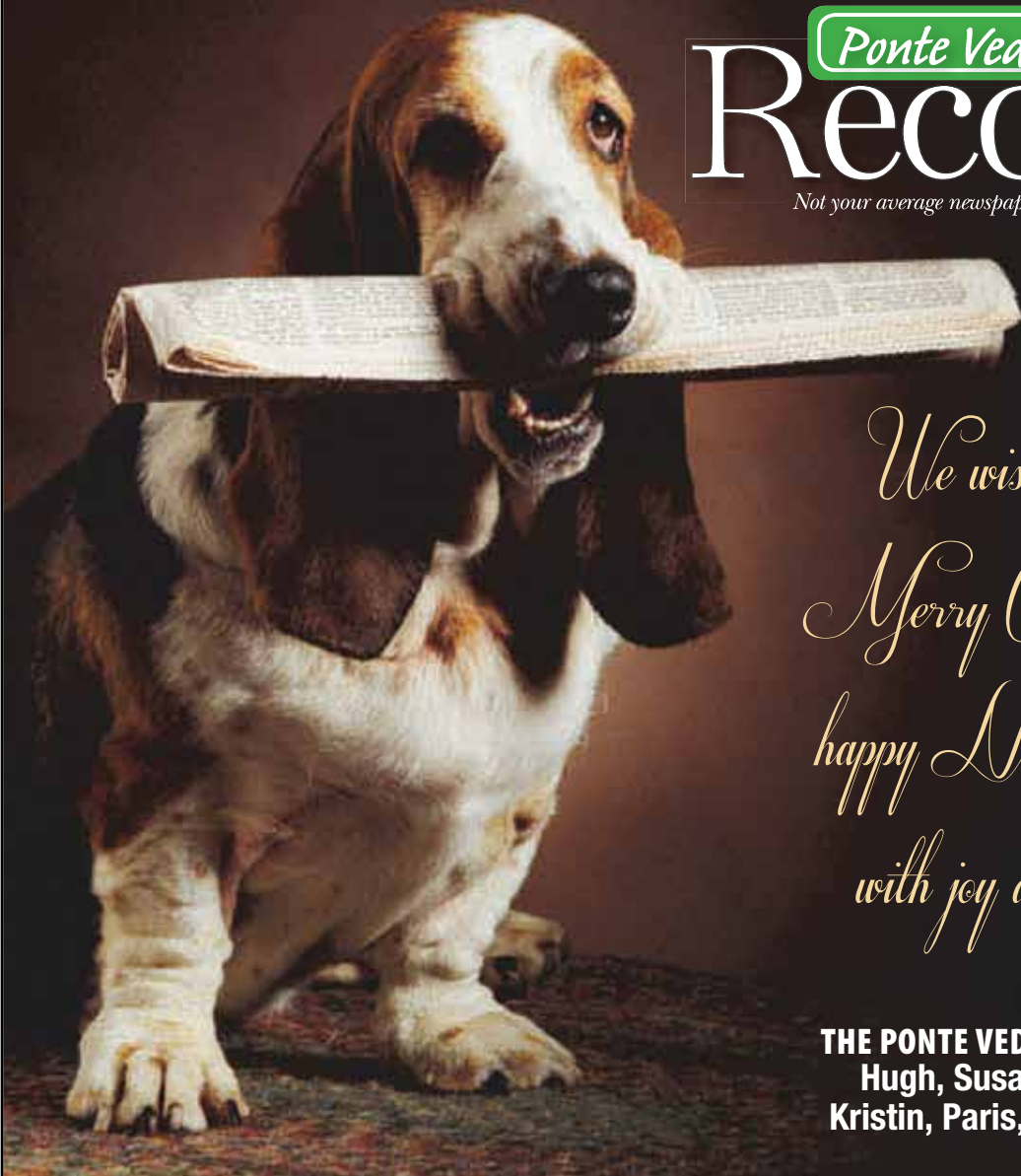
JBDC is an annual, lighted, sculptural exhibit using the chairs of The American Red Cross Life Saving Corps. Marking its sixth year in community service, JBDC gathers community to decorate and display the Beaches lifeguard chairs during the month of December to promote local business, instill public pride and share cultural diversity through creative expression. All net proceeds from JBDC benefit the historic Volunteer Life Saving Corps of Jacksonville Beach. To learn more about JBDC and upcoming events, visit www.deckthechairs.org.

Dear loyal readers,

As 2018 draws to a close, we’d like to thank you for your readership and continued support this year and every year since we became Ponte Vedra’s hometown paper of record in 1969.

Being a community’s source of local news and information is a great responsibility. Our staff works tirelessly to bring to you thoughtful, in-depth articles on important issues that matter to you and your neighbors. Along the way, we try to spotlight some of the inspiring and uplifting people, events and happenings that make Ponte Vedra and the Beaches such a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

But we couldn’t do it without you. We thank you for your news tips, your readership, your advertisements and most of all, your commitment to our community. It is our privilege to serve you.



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 happy New Year filled
 with joy and happiness.*

THE PONTE VEDRA RECORDER STAFF
 Hugh, Susan, Jon, Ed, April,
 Kristin, Paris, Amber & Suzanne

Alhambra

Continued from 18

The local Rotaract Club’s fundraising goal for the event was a bit over \$10,000. The organization exceeded that goal due to ticket sales that led to a sold-out show, sponsorships and proceeds from a silent auction. Sponsors of the event included The CSI Companies (title sponsor), Kilashee Investments, Beachside Wealth Partners, Joni Zwick, P.A., Neil and Kristina Powell, Smith-Books Accounting, Inc., Aegis Pension Services, Eastern Quality Foods, Brightway Insurance Ponte Vedra Beach and Forcura. In addition, members of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach joined the “Rotaracters” for the holiday outing and contributed to the effort.

“It was very humbling,” Hamm said. “It meant that this program that started from such small beginnings can continue to serve the girls of this community and of the state.

“I think that’s very important because we have so many great nonprofits, but children are our future,” Hamm continued. “So, for someone to be specifically looking out for them and to take whatever situation they’re in and try to make it better is so awesome.”



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Rotaracters Rachael Daven and Rachel Hiar at “A Night at the Alhambra” benefiting PACE Center for Girls on Dec. 13



Photo courtesy of Landrum Middle School Cheer

Landrum Middle School cheerleaders support the S.A.F.E. holiday pet adoption event held Dec. 8 in the parking lot of Pet Supermarket in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Landrum cheerleaders support S.A.F.E. holiday pet adoption event

A group of 12 Landrum Middle School cheerleaders recently helped local non-profit S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue with its holiday pet adoption event on Dec. 8 in the parking lot of Pet Supermarket in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The cheerleaders baked, organized, set up display tables, cared for 11 puppies, helped take pictures with Santa for donations and invited people to the event's

sing-along. The girls encouraged visitors to join in the fun, socialized the puppies and adult dogs for adoptions and helped to walk, feed and hug the furry friends.

According to the cheerleading team, the girls helped find homes for seven of the 11 puppies and three of the nine adult dogs at the event. After the bake sale, the girls took the leftover goodies to the local fire station.

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The Palms at Ponte Vedra Director of Sales and Marketing Kay Tober and Executive Director Barbara Matteson gather with Santa & Mrs. Claus at the community's resident Christmas dinner on Dec. 13.

The Palms at Ponte Vedra hosts resident Christmas dinner

The Palms at Ponte Vedra, an assisted living and memory care community on Solana Road, hosted their resident Christmas dinner last Thursday, Dec. 13.

Attendees enjoyed a spread of food, entertainment and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. In addition, Chef Dhurata Asllani, who was dressed as an elf, brought in more than 100 teddy bears for every resident.

For more information on the Palms, visit www.palmsatpontevedra.com.



The Christmas dinner featured a spread of food and treats.



ABOVE: Chef Dhurata Asllani (right) gives a teddy bear to a resident at The Palms.



LEFT: The Palms at Ponte Vedra Culinary Director Darryl Young prepares the Christmas feast.

Photos by Susan Griffin

AROUND THE COUNTY

St. Johns County to hold annual Christmas "tree-cycling" program

St. Johns County is once again hosting its annual Christmas "tree-cycling" program for those who wish to recycle Christmas trees after the holiday.

Residents are encouraged to bring Christmas trees from Wednesday, Jan. 2 to Friday, Jan. 4, between 2 and 6 p.m. and on Saturdays, Jan. 5 and Jan. 12 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to the following locations:

- Ron Parker Park – 607 Old Beach Road, St. Augustine
- Cornerstone Park – 1046 A1A North, Ponte Vedra
- Al Wilke Park – 6140 South Main St., Hastings
- Mills Field – 1805 Racetrack Road, St. Johns
- First Tee – 4401 Cypress Links Blvd., Elkton

Artificial trees will not be accepted as only natural trees can be recycled, and trees should be free of decorations and debris. Designated areas and signage will direct participants where to drop off their trees. For more information, call (904) 209-3740.

St. Johns County offering volunteer opportunities with various boards, committees

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners is providing residents who have an interest in serving their community and participating in local government with a variety of board and committee opportunities.

The volunteer positions consider and make recommendations regarding a myriad of topics including planning and zoning issues, development projects, libraries, parks and recreation facilities and programs and arts, culture and tourism matters. The following boards and committees are currently accepting applications:

- Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (application deadline: Dec. 28)
- Recreation Advisory Board (application deadline: Dec. 28)
- Architectural Review Committee (application deadline: Jan. 4)
- Cultural Resource Review Board (application deadline: Jan. 4)
- Mid-Anastasia Design Review Board (application deadline: Jan. 4)
- North Coastal Design Review Board (application deadline: Jan. 4)
- South Anastasia Design Review Board (application deadline: Jan. 25)
- Fire Code Board of Appeals (application deadline: Open until filled)

Visit the Appointed Boards and Committees webpage at www.sjcl.us/Boards to view the requirements and duties of each board and committee or download an application. For more information, contact the Board of County Commissioners office at (904) 209-0300 or mlundquist@sjcl.us.

Award

Continued from 19

NFLT is leading the Ocala to Osceola (O2O) Wildlife Corridor Partnership, a partnership of public and private organizations striving to improve land management and conservation within the O2O. The 80,000-acre Camp Blanding Joint Training Center is central to the O2O landscape and partnership.

The Northeast Florida Regional Council is a network of local governance that serves Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, Nassau and St. Johns counties. It was established to promote area-wide coordination and cooperative activities of federal, state and local governments. Its mission is to engage people, businesses, governments and organizations to communicate issues, convene stakeholders, collaborate with others, calculate and analyze and construct solutions.

NATIONAL MS SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS TO CONTINUE OFFERING FREE GIFT WRAPPING

Free gift wrapping for area shoppers continues through Sunday, Dec. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., outside sponsoring stores Betsy's Hallmark and Five Below in the South Beach Regional Shopping Plaza in Jacksonville Beach. Gifts from any store or purchases made online will be wrapped by National Multiple Sclerosis Society volunteers. Any donations will be used to support programs and services for those in North Florida impacted by the disease.

Photo courtesy of Bruce Reid



Business Weekly

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Pineapple Post hosts VIETRI founder for book signing event

Page 24

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Gentle Dentists Beaches hosts grand opening, open house

Gentle Dentists USA held a grand opening and open house for its Beaches office on Dec. 13 that was attended by over 200 community and business leaders.

Providing guests with an opportunity to see the new office and meet the staff, the event also allowed visitors to meet former Jaguars players Paul Frase, Dave Widell and Mike Hollis, who were among the people in attendance. During the event, the dental clinic's staff showcased some of its state-of-the-art equipment, including the Magic Wand for anesthesia, hand held low dose X-ray units and dental rooms with TVs in the ceiling and wireless headsets available for comfort.

Located at 3316 Third St. S., #101, in Jacksonville Beach, the dental clinic opened in October with several innovative approaches to healthcare. One of



Photo by Ed Johnson

Dave Widell, Steve Pirnia, Dr. Holly Nadji, Dr. Shankeertha Sundar, Paul Frase and Dr. Shyam Paryani gather at the grand opening and open house for Gentle Dentists Beaches on Dec. 13.

these is a café located in the reception area. Local artist Pat Murphy designed a custom mosaic sign for the Gentle Café that was unveiled at the grand opening.

In addition, Gentle Dentists Beaches is open late in the evening and seven days a week for ease of access.

"We want to deliver gentle care in a state-of-the-art facility that is convenient and accessible to all of the Beaches

communities," said Dr. Shankeertha Sundar, director of the Beaches Clinic.

Dr. Shyam Paryani, CEO of Gentle Dentists USA and a Ponte Vedra Beach resident, echoed those sentiments.

"We are thrilled at the support the community has given us so far in launching this new concept, which we feel is a great asset for the whole Beaches area," he said.

Local attorney David Dunlap receives ABOTA's President's Award

Attorney David M. Dunlap of Dunlap, Ravis and Miller, PLLC recently received this year's President's Award from the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) Jacksonville Chapter.

The local chapter presented Dunlap with the award Nov. 30 at its 30th anniversary celebration at Timuquana Country Club, which was attended by more than 130 members and guests from Jacksonville and the Beaches, including several judges. Dunlap was recognized for his commitment, support and involvement in the various programs that ABOTA sponsors and offers to the community.

ABOTA is a national organization comprised of plaintiffs and defense trial attorneys who have met certain trial skills and professionalism criteria for admittance. Membership is



Photo courtesy of Dunlap, Ravis and Miller, PLLC

ABOTA Jacksonville Chapter President Curry Pajcic (left) presents local attorney David M. Dunlap with the President's Award.

by invitation only. There are approximately 100 members in the North Florida chapter.

Dunlap, who practices in the Beaches communities, was additionally installed as the chapter secretary for 2019, in addition to a handful of other people who were inducted as new members or officers. Dunlap is also a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach.

63 questions you need to ask yourself before year end



By Harry Pappas

Harry Pappas
Columnist

I can hear you uttering John McEnroe's famous meltdown quote, "You can't be serious." Make no mistake; I am dead serious. Perhaps the immortal words of Dr. Phil are more appropriate: "It simply ain't gonna happen." I get it, as this

exercise is probably as exciting as rearranging your sock drawer.

Nevertheless, I proclaim that there are two types of pain: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret, and without question the pain of regret is often far more excruciating! Therefore, just do the work and get it done ... now! Yes, you. Yes, right now. I'll wait ...

Tax planning

- Have you reviewed your realized gains and losses?
- Have you determined your loss carry-forward?
- Have you considered a tax loss harvesting strategy?
- Have you determined your tax deduction/credits?
- Have you identified ways to improve your tax situation?
- Have you determined your net investment income?
- Have you located missing cost-basis information?
- Have you scheduled a strategy meeting with your CPA?

Estate planning

- Will your estate avoid probate upon your demise?
- Are your beneficiary designations correct?
- Do you have a will? Should it be updated?
- Do you have a durable power of attorney? Should it be updated?
- What is in your safe deposit box? If stocks or bonds, deposit with your advisory firm.
- Who has access to your safe deposit box now and after death?
- Do you have assets held with transfer agents? If so, deposit with your advisory firm.

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Susan Hamilton, Porter Hamilton and Craig Hamilton gather with VIETRI owner Susan Gravelly (second from right) at a meet-and-greet event hosted by Pineapple Post in Ponte Vedra Beach on Dec. 6.

Pineapple Post hosts VIETRI founder for meet and greet, book signing

Susan Gravelly, the founder of VIETRI, recently visited Pineapple Post in Ponte Vedra Beach's Sawgrass Village to meet with area residents.

Attendees of the Dec. 6 event had the opportunity to speak with Gravelly and learn more about VIETRI, which offers fine Italian ceramic dinnerware and décor for the home or garden, all handmade and painted in Italy. Gravelly also read and signed copies of her new children's book "The Magic of Old St. Nick." Signed copies of the book are available at Pineapple Post.

According to the VIETRI website, Gravelly, her sister and mother founded the company after taking a trip to Italy in 1983 and falling in love with Italian culture. Captivated by their hotel's handcrafted, colorful dinnerware, the women met with the artisans of the dinnerware at a nearby factory in the town of Vietri sul Mare and were inspired to share the treasure they had discovered. Upon



Photos provided by Pineapple Post


Gravelly reads her new children's book, "The Magic of Old St. Nick," to a girl at the event.

returning to the U.S., the women ultimately decided to import the dinnerware and sell it to American retail stores. They named their company Vietri, a tribute to the town where it all began. Visit www.vietri.com for more information. For more information on Pineapple Post, visit www.pineapplepostgifts.com.

*Greetings
of the Season!*

'Tis the season of holidays! We hope your celebrations bring you joy and peace as you come together with the ones who are special to you.

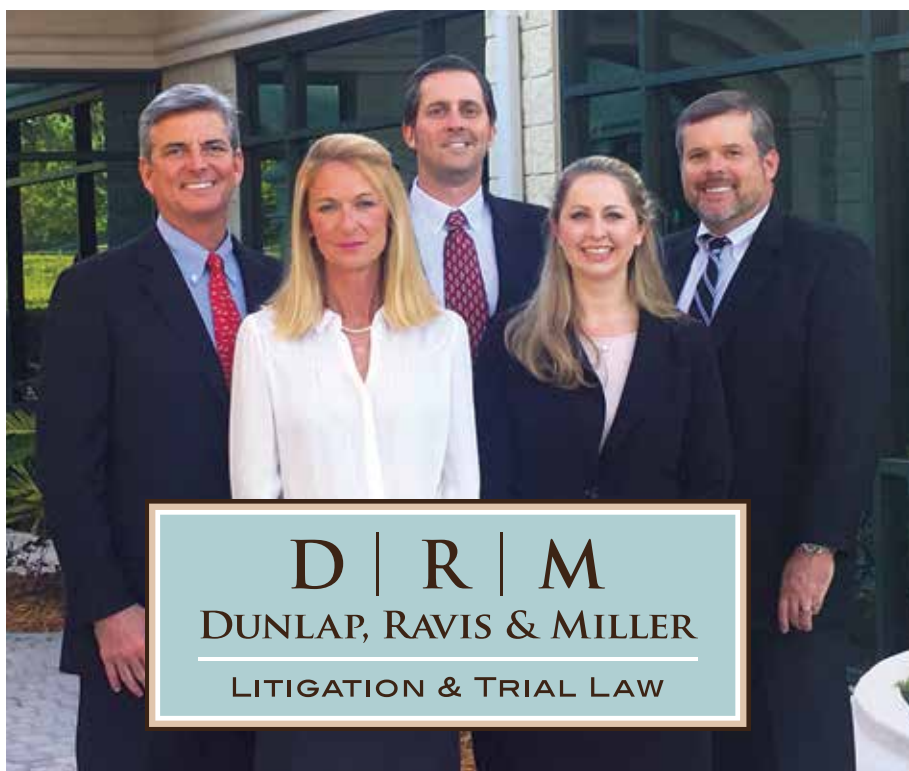
We thank you for sharing your time and your lives with us over the past year. We treasure those memories!



We have some wonderful properties for your consideration. Please see them and more at www.clareberryrealestate.com.

All the best to you.
Lauren Spiller, Carol Burns and Clare Berry

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Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa names Aaron Weegar director of sales and marketing

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa recently announced the appointment of Aaron Weegar as the director of sales and marketing.



Aaron Weegar

In his new role, Weegar will oversee the property's sales, marketing, public relations and social media teams. He will also be responsible for planning and implementing innovative strategies to drive revenue from group, leisure and business clientele.

"We are delighted to welcome Aaron Weegar to Sawgrass Marriott Resort," General Manager Todd Hickey said. "His extensive experience within the industry and strong emphasis on teamwork are guaranteed to leave a lasting mark on our team and our guests."

With over 14 years of hospitality experience, Weegar brings with him a wide variety of knowledge of the Florida market. Most recently, he held the position of director of sales at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin in Lake Buena Vista. Prior to this role, he gained experience at The Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa in Hollywood Beach and the Caribe Royal All-Suites Hotel and Convention

Center in Orlando.

With a full-service spa and numerous on-property dining options, guests at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa can enjoy themselves without ever stepping foot off the Audubon-rated grounds. Ad-

ditionally, the resort is home to multiple pools, the nearby Cabana Beach Club and beautifully maintained grounds to explore by bicycle or on foot.

Visit www.sawgrassmarriott.com for more information or to book a reservation.

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Vernon's First Coast Kitchen & Bar to host Christmas dinner

The team at Vernon's First Coast Kitchen at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is inviting area residents and their guests for a Christmas dinner.

To be held from 12:30 to 6 p.m., the dinner costs \$65 for adults and \$24 for kids ages 4 to 12. Featured menu items will include brown butter and cognac infused lobster bisque; snow crab claws with drawn butter and datil remoulade; bluepoint oysters with pomegranate mignonette and lemons; Sawgrass Smoker's glazed ham with bee hill honey; apple cider-brined turkey with herb gravy and cranberry chutney; peppercorn and roasted garlic crusted prime rib with horseradish gremolata; smoked sea salt whipped potatoes; eggnog cheesecake with gingersnap crust; and hot chocolate mousse shooters.

For reservations, call Vernon's First Coast Kitchen directly at (904) 280-3405 or go to OpenTable.com.

Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR celebrates the holiday season with charitable giving initiatives

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty (HSFNR) is continuing its long-standing tradition of giving back to the community during the holiday season.

Along with Luminaria benefitting local neighborhood charities, company associates throughout Northeast Florida are supporting additional initiatives to make the holidays brighter for those in need.

“We are mindful that the holiday season is a season of giving, and it provides many opportunities to make a positive difference in others’ lives,” Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty President and CEO Christy Budnick said. “Our agents and employees appreciate our many blessings, and we are grateful to be in a position to help others.”

The company’s home office raised nearly \$750 for The Donna Foundation. Founded by Donna Deegan, a three-time breast cancer survivor, the foundation provides financial assistance and support to those living with breast cancer. From October to December, the home office held Friday Jeans Day fundraisers, offering team members the opportunity to

get comfy at work and support a good cause.

Agents at the company’s Fleming Island office recently supported the Salvation Army’s annual red kettle campaign by serving as volunteer bell ringers. The red kettle campaign helps the Salvation Army assist families by providing food, shelter, clothing and other services to those in need.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has a team of more than 400 real estate professionals in nine offices throughout Northeast Florida. The real estate firm has been recognized for its corporate philanthropy, contributing to numerous charitable programs throughout the year including Dreams Come True of Jacksonville and the company’s annual Backpack Challenge.

“We proudly support many wonderful organizations and charitable initiatives,” Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder and Chairman Linda Sherrer said. “There is nothing more satisfying than the gift of giving back to our community.”

For more information, visit www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com.



ABOVE: Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty’s home office has held Jeans Day Fridays as a fundraiser for The Donna Foundation.

LEFT: Realtors Kat Wetmore (left) and Anne Ochsner of the Fleming Island office participate in the Salvation Army’s annual red kettle campaign by serving as volunteer bell ringers.

Photos courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Pappas

Continued from 23

- Do you have assets titled only in your name? If so, do you know the potential problems?
- Do you have assets titled with children? If so, do you know the potential problems?
- Have you considered rolling over old employer retirement plans to your traditional IRA?

Investment planning

- Have you confirmed that your investment strategy is prudent?
- Do you know your investment performance for 2014?
- Is your asset allocation prudent?
- Have you determined your income needs for next year?
- Have you contributed to your retirement accounts?
- Do you know the overall expense of your investment portfolio?
- Are you receiving value for what you are paying for?
- Do you own annuities with riders? If so, do you understand their benefits and cost?

Insurance planning

- Are you adequately insured for death?
- Do you have a comprehensive “umbrella” liability policy?
- Have you requested an in-force life insurance illustration (does not apply to

term insurance)?

- Are your premiums sufficient to keep your policy in force?
- Should your cash value pay your premiums?
- Have you reviewed your health insurance coverage?
- Should you consider a long-term care insurance policy?
- Is your “estate” the beneficiary? If so, do you understand the consequences?

Retirement planning

- Have you maxed your 401(k) contribution limit?
- Have you maxed your IRA contribution limit?
- Have you rebalanced your 401(k) (if applicable)?
- Have you determined if a Roth conversion is in your best interest?
- Have you taken your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA?
- Have you created a retirement plan (self-employed)?
- Have you considered a health savings account (HSA)?

Real estate planning

- Is your real estate titled properly?
- Is your real estate subject to probate upon death?
- Should you refinance your mortgage?
- Do you have a home equity line of credit (HELOC) for emergency funds?
- Should you eliminate or pay down your mortgage?

Identity theft planning

- Did you establish a credit freeze?
- Did you set privacy settings on your social media sites?
- Did you put security codes on your smartphone/tablets/device?
- Did you install your “locate my phone” application on your smartphone/tablet device?
- Did you shred papers with personal information?
- Did you review your credit report?

Important age indicators

- Are you aware at age ...
- 50: you can make catch-up contribution to IRA and 401k?
 - 55: you can take money from 401k without penalty if retired?
 - 59½: you can take money from IRA without penalty?
 - 62-70: you should consider applying for Social Security benefits?
 - 65: you should apply for Medicare?
 - 70½: you must begin taking RMD from your IRA?

Nickel and dime planning

- Are you charged for your checking account? If so, identify ways to eliminate the fee.
- Does an advisory firm levy annual administrative or IRA fee? If so, identify ways to eliminate the fee.
- Have you called your cell phone provider to discuss a potentially more cost-effective plan?
- Have you considered the cost savings/convenience of online banking?

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Ponte Vedra Wellness Center holds Pop Up Sip and Shop

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center recently hosted guests at its location in Nocatee for a holiday-themed Pop Up Sip and Shop event.

Held Dec. 4, the event featured displays from local Nocatee merchants, allowing attendees to get a jump start on their holiday shopping. Ponte Vedra Wellness Center also offered festive drinks and holiday treats, as well as relaxing chair massages and free child care with special kids activities.

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center has locations in Nocatee and Ponte Vedra Beach. Visit pontevedrawellnesscenter.com for more information.



ABOVE: The Ponte Vedra Wellness Center staff gathers at its holiday-themed Pop Up Sip and Shop event on Dec. 4 at the business' location in Nocatee.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Ashley Barrington of Color Street



Megan Hulling of CrossBarre



Dr. Kristen Zalud of Crosswater Animal Hospital



Lori Adams of cabi



LASH partners with 904 Boss Babes to host holiday party

On Dec. 11, LASH and 904 Boss Babes collaborated to host a “Very Versace” holiday party.

Held at LASH on Beach Boulevard in Jacksonville Beach, the event provided attendees with an opportunity to meet and mingle with members of 904 Boss Babes, a networking and empowerment group for female entrepreneurs in the Jacksonville area. Visit the group’s Facebook page for more information.

Thanks to the LASH team and friends, guests also enjoyed treatment demonstrations, a question and answer session with on-hand experts, boutique sales and raffles. LASH is a high-end studio specializing in the application of eyelash extensions, full service facials, brow services (microblading and waxing) and permanent makeup. The business is also a boutique filled with unique merchandise and skin care products. Visit www.lashjax.com for more information.

ABOVE: Attendees of a “Very Versace” holiday party hosted by LASH and 904 Boss Babes gather on Dec. 11 at the studio on Beach Boulevard in Jacksonville Beach.

RIGHT: Tammy Barr, Maria Poole and Kira Ferandes

Photos by Susan Griffin



Sarah Depasquale



ABOVE: Attendees of the event enjoy a photo booth thanks to Pompy Portraits.



LEFT: Susan Stone

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Lauren Braddock Alcorn of SERVPRO of The Beaches/ Ponte Vedra named 2019 ImpactJAX Board chair

The JAX Chamber recently announced that Lauren Braddock Alcorn, commercial business development representative for SERVPRO of The Beaches/Ponte Vedra, will lead the 2019 ImpactJAX Board of Directors as chair.



Lauren Braddock

ImpactJAX is the young professionals organization of the JAX Chamber. Other members of the ImpactJAX 2019 Board of Directors include:

- Mike Belle, Catholic Charities Bureau, service and giving chair
- Jon Cagan, Cagan & Cagan Law Firm, community pride chair
- Ebony Carter, Black Knight, at-large board member

- Elizabeth Feustel, Jacksonville University, public policy chair

- Graham Hawkins, CenterState Bank, professional development chair

- Richard Naylor, Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation, chair-elect

- Kayla Nocella, AXA Advisors, at-large board member

- Ashley Rogan, River City Science Academy, immediate past chair

- Britten Shea, Black Knight, social chair

- Amanda Trottenberg, Burdette Ketchum, at-large board member

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Community First Credit Union purchases former Atlantic Coast branch

Community First Credit Union recently announced it has acquired an existing bank branch location in Neptune Beach.

The credit union purchased the building and property at 1425 Atlantic Blvd., which was formerly an Atlantic Coast Bank branch. Community First purchased the land and building for \$2.2 million and closed on the sale Wednesday, Dec. 12.

The existing building is 3,850 square feet and sits on two acres. It will undergo extensive renovations and remodeling in early 2019 to adopt the coastal design and architectural features of Community First's nearest location in Jacksonville Beach. The current in-line shopping center location of Community First at 1650 San Pablo Road will move to the new Neptune Beach branch once it's complete in early 2020.

The acquisition is part of the credit union's Branch Transformation Project, the institution's most aggressive and comprehensive branch and facilities upgrade and update in its history, which seeks to align physical branch locations with modern banking needs and customer uses.

"We are excited to expand and enhance our in-branch banking experience for our intracoastal and beaches members," said John Hirabayashi, CEO and president of Community First. "We have long sought a strategic site in this area and this location is a great improvement to our network."

The building will undergo renovations, improvements and an expansion. Community First will add 400 square feet that will serve as an exterior tower — a feature in all its new branches — and provide interior space for a community room. The loca-



Photo courtesy of Maria Coppola

Community First Credit Union has acquired a former Atlantic Coast Bank branch in Neptune Beach that will undergo extensive renovations and remodeling. The new bank will look like the newly-renovated Jacksonville Beach location, which is displayed in this photo.

tion will offer members a drive-thru teller window and a drive-thru ATM, which the San Pablo location lacks. Community First will also offer safe deposit boxes at the new Neptune location, something not available at its other area branches.

The interior features a redesign for modern banking, including an open floor

plan, bright colors and advanced technologies. The branch experience includes full, self-service and assisted service options. Specialized financial experts are instantly available through the credit union's Expert Nearby solution. TTV Architects will design the new branch, and Auld & White has been selected to perform the renovation.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20			21	22				
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25	26	27		28		29			30	31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39			
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44				45		46					47		
48					49		50			51		52	
				53		54			55		56		
	57	58	59					60			61	62	63
64						65	66			67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

THEME: YEAR-IN-REVIEW

ACROSS

- 1. Bundle of wheat
- 6. ____-been
- 9. Urban apartment
- 13. Peter, South of the border
- 14. In the manner of, French
- 15. Photo-editing color option
- 16. Chieftain
- 17. Not well
- 18. Lively
- 19. *Late McCain
- 21. *American Duchess
- 23. "Some Kind of Wonderful" actress Thompson
- 24. Your majesty
- 25. Floor cleaner
- 28. Greek portico
- 30. *Super Bowl champs
- 35. Swear, not curse
- 37. Place for an ace?
- 39. Type of newspaper
- 40. Bar order neither red nor white
- 41. *Halfpipe winner
- 43. Toothy wheel
- 44. Be needy
- 46. Hindu dress
- 47. Unfavorable prefix
- 48. Ballpark grub
- 50. Lion's share
- 52. It can be red or black
- 53. Burden
- 55. Break bread
- 57. *First North Korean to cross Demilitarized Zone

- 60. *October disaster
- 64. Acoustic output
- 65. In the past
- 67. Tanzania's neighbor
- 68. Coral reef island
- 69. First off sinking ship?
- 70. Type of closet
- 71. Not there
- 72. Dashboard unit
- 73. Clear the board

DOWN

- 1. R&R destinations
- 2. Part of hemoglobin
- 3. "I Dream of Jeanie" star
- 4. "He's _____ nowhere man," Beatles
- 5. Strong suit, pl.
- 6. Age of Aquarius flick
- 7. Nothing alternative
- 8. Game ragout
- 9. Onion's kin
- 10. October stone
- 11. *CA's Camp ____
- 12. "Tit for ____"
- 15. Schmeat
- 20. Often taken with a bible, pl.
- 22. Aretha's first three
- 24. Arabic greetings
- 25. "*"____ For Our Lives"
- 26. Convex molding
- 27. Suggest
- 29. Sounds of amazement
- 31. *Cooper's leading lady

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

- 32. Property claims
- 33. Fill with spirits
- 34. *April missile strikes target
- 36. Make one's way
- 38. EU unit
- 42. One born to Japanese immigrants
- 45. 10 to the power of 100
- 49. Bearded antelope
- 51. Take on, as in a project
- 54. Take gun away
- 56. Not our
- 57. Burlap fiber
- 58. Airy emanation
- 59. Cairo's waterway
- 60. "Like a ____ to a flame"
- 61. *Starred with Blake in "A Simple Favor"
- 62. Some have them on the back of their head?
- 63. Swimmer's row
- 64. Follows #29 Down, sing.
- 66. Year off

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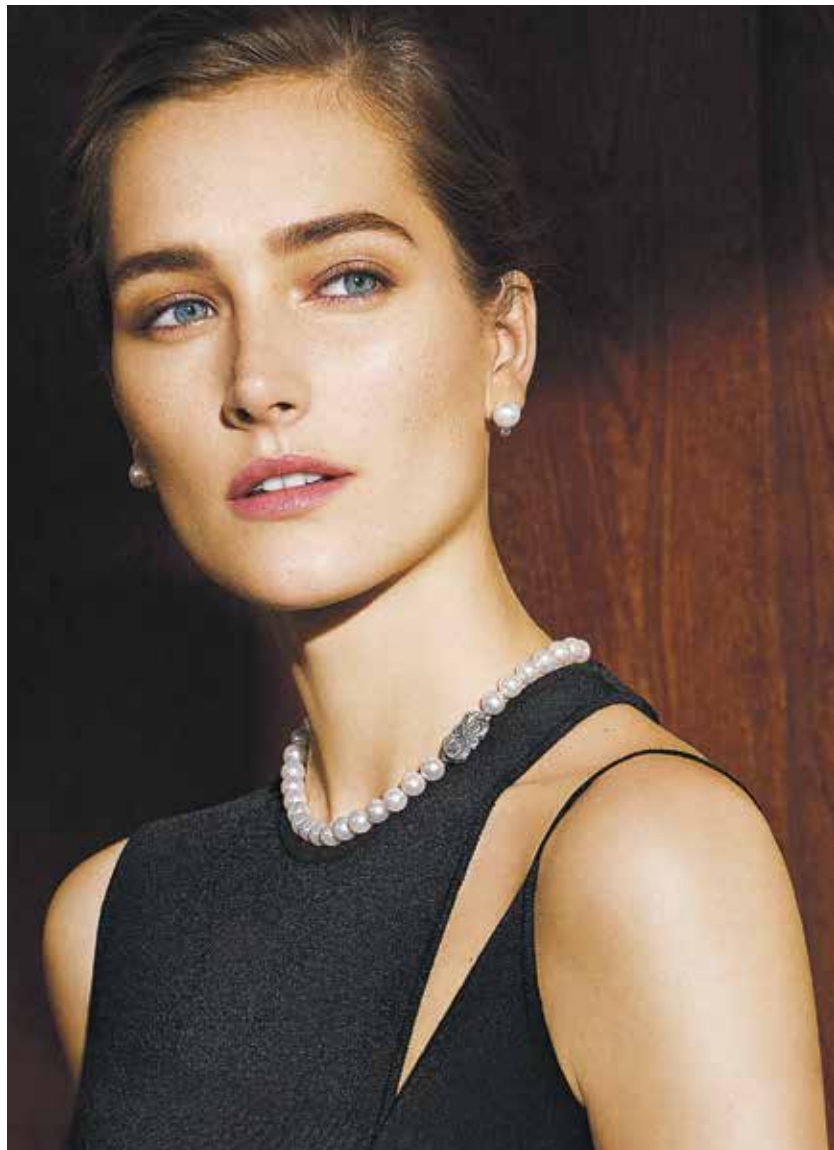
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Photo courtesy of J.R. Pitcairn

New stores are open and fully leased at Gateway Village Center, which is located on U.S. 1 just north of the entrance to Palencia.

All stores open and leased in shopping center near Palencia

According to Gateway Capital Development, Inc., the Gateway Village Center project is now complete, and all stores are open and fully leased.

Located on U.S. 1 just north of the entrance to Palencia, Gateway Village Center features a Circle K convenience store, 20 gas pumps and a car wash. In addition, the center includes an 18,000-square-foot retail center.

New stores and restaurants at Gateway Village include a Joint Bagel Company, CT Nails & Spa, Market Street Boutique, Whisker Lane Petique, Your Pie Craft Pizza, Christy's Dream Gourmet Ice Cream, Cinco De Mayo Authentic Mexican restaurant and Aviles Dental Care.

New restaurants were the most requested stores by residents, according to

project developer J. R. Pitcairn.

"Local residents have been enjoying breakfast items at Joint Bagel Company as well as lunch and dinner at Your Pie Pizza and Cinco De Mayo Mexican Restaurant," he said. "It's great to see a full parking lot. Our tenants worked very hard to create businesses to serve the local residents. They are off to a good start!"

Gateway Village Center is the latest St. Johns County development for Gateway Capital Development, Inc. Gateway is now planning another new center in the World Golf Village area along International Golf Parkway just east of I-95. The planned center will be similar to Gateway Village and will include a freestanding restaurant and 15,000 square feet of retail stores and restaurants. No timetable had been announced for the development of the new project.

"We are just gearing up to start leasing and expect to have some announcements very soon," said Pitcairn.

The new center at World Golf Village will be Gateway Capital Development's seventh development in St. Johns County. Gateway Capital Development, Inc., founded in 1998 by company President J. R. Pitcairn, III, specializes in the brokerage, development and investment of commercial real estate along the east coast of Florida.

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Medical marijuana is available in Florida; however, it remains illegal under federal law.

First Coast Opera to open 2019 with 'The Marriage of Figaro'

On Jan. 5 and 6, the First Coast Opera (FCO) will perform "The Marriage of Figaro" at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College in downtown Saint Augustine.

According to FCO, the opera, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, is one of the most popular operas of all time, performed in many locations around the world each year. Set in 18th-century Spain, it pits the Count Almaviva against his barber and valet, Figaro, as they both vie for the amorous attention of the countess's maid, Susanna. Deception and mistaken identities drive the story, as a variety of colorful characters add to the comedy. The play's four acts are famously composed by Mozart's timeless classics.

The fully-professional production will feature visiting guest artists along with local singers, accompanied by an orchestra provided by Jacksonville's Music by Pegge and conducted by FCO Artistic Director Curtis Tucker, who hurges both opera newcomers and aficionados to attend.

"This is not just my favorite opera," Tucker said. "This is the opera I would take to a deserted island to hear again and again. If you don't know opera, this is a

great place to start. If you know opera, you already know this. Either way, I hope you will join us."

The cast features bass-baritone Ryan Kuster, as the well-known barber and valet Figaro. Christina Rivera plays his bride, Susanna. Brandon Hendrickson and Lisa Lockhart play the Count and Countess Almaviva. Emily Heumann plays the young page boy Cherubino. Completing

the principal cast are Dina Barone, Anthony Offerle, Thomas Rowell, Daniel Altman, and Isabelle Scott. Nelson Sheeley, who directed past FCO productions of "La Vie Parisienne" and "Trial by Jury," will stage the opera.

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Sing Out Loud Festival honored with 2018 'Quality of Life' award by Northeast Florida Regional Council

The 2018 Sing Out Loud Festival — a free, music festival hosted in venues around St. Johns County for four weekends in September — was recently honored with an award for its significant contribution to the livability and quality of life in Northeast Florida.

This award was presented Dec. 6 by the Northeast Florida Regional Council during its 2018 Regional Leadership Awards Ceremony, held at WJCT Studios in Jacksonville. The ceremony recognized regional excellence in a variety of critical arenas essential to positioning the regional community as a model of cooperation and coordination. The ceremony hosted award recipients, elected officials and community leaders from all over Northeast Florida.

Award categories included Excellence in Economic Development & Tourism, Excellence in Education, Excellence in Planning & Growth Management and Excellence in Inclusion. In a first for the Festival, the Sing Out

Loud Festival was honored with the “Quality of Life” award due to its significant contribution to the livability and quality of life in Northeast Florida. The Sing Out Loud festival was also recognized for its fundraising efforts resulting in a donation of \$98,000 to the Betty Griffin Center.

Accepting the award on behalf of the Sing Out Loud Festival was St. Augustine Amphitheatre General Manager and Festival Organizer Ryan Murphy, alongside staff of the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division.

“It was an honor to be recognized for the positive impact that this Festival we work so hard on has had in the community,” Murphy said. “Most significant was the thunderous applause that erupted around the room when we noted the money we raised for the amazing and critical work that the Betty Griffin Center does. Thank you to all who support the Festival and to the amazing staff that works tirelessly on this event each year.”



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Director of Communications Michael Ryan
The Sing Out Loud Festival group receives the 2018 “Quality of Life” award from the Northeast Florida Regional Council.



Photo courtesy of St. Augustine Amphitheatre
JoJo Siwa will perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre July 13.

Nickelodeon star, YouTube personality JoJo Siwa to perform at St. Augustine Amphitheatre July 13

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre recently announced that Nickelodeon superstar and YouTube personality JoJo Siwa will bring her “D.R.E.A.M. The Tour,” presented by Party City, to the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on Saturday, July 13, 2019. Tickets for show are currently on sale.

Siwa is a YouTube personality, singer, dancer, entrepreneur, social media influencer, New York Times bestselling author and star on Nickelodeon’s “Lip Sync Battle Shorties.” Siwa connects with her fans through many channels. She cur-

rently has over 8.3 million subscribers on YouTube with over 1.8 billion views, over 7.5 million followers on Instagram, over 17.2 million followers on TikTok (formerly Musical.ly), over 396,000 Twitter followers, over 506,000 likes on Facebook and a significant presence on YouTube. She also connects with fans through her SIWANATORZ club, which stands against negativity and bullying, and through her global reach of consumer products, including her signature bows, accessories, apparel, arts and crafts, cos-

metics, home goods and party supplies. Her popular songs include “Boomerang,” which has been viewed almost 623 million times and is certified platinum, “Kid in a Candy Store,” “Hold The Drama,” and “High Top Shoes.”

Last month, Nickelodeon released Siwa’s first-ever EP, entitled “D.R.E.A.M. The Music.” The EP features four new songs: “D.R.E.A.M.,” “My Story,” “Everyday Popstars” and “Only Getting Better.” The music video for “D.R.E.A.M.” was released on Siwa’s YouTube channel in early November, and, to date, has garnered more than 14 million views.

Siwa also recently launched her first animated shorts series, “The JoJo & Bow-Bow Show Show” starring Siwa and her furry best friend BowBow. She has also appeared on various Nickelodeon live-action series including “School of Rock” and “The Thundermans.” Siwa performed at Nickelodeon’s 2018 Kids’ Choice Awards and has won two blimps for Favorite Viral Music Artist in 2017 and Musical YouTube Creator in 2018. This summer, she performed at Nickelodeon’s 2018 “Kids’ Choice Awards Mexico.”

Tickets for Siwa’s “D.R.E.A.M. The Tour” are on sale at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Box Offices. Save on fees by purchasing tickets at the box offices. Tickets also will be available at ticketmaster.com or by phone at (800) 745-3000. Prices range from \$44-\$74. For more information, visit www.itsjojosiwa.com or www.staugamphitheatre.com.

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Sports

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Photo by Amber Lake

Dr. Rebecca Ann Miles stands by the Ponte Vedra YMCA pool where she trained to win a bronze medal in the 500-yard freestyle race of the Senior Olympic Games in early December. Miles dedicated her accomplishment to Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz, her primary care physician of 30 years in Pittsburgh who was killed in the Tree of Life Synagogue mass shooting in October.

Local long-distance swimmer commemorates Tree of Life Synagogue victim with win at Senior Olympic Games

By Amber Lake

One of the last times Dr. Rebecca Ann Miles, 68, saw her primary care physician, Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz, he told her to stop putting off getting her eyes checked, handed her a business card and recommended she call the listed doctor.

“What’s her name?” Miles asked.

“It’s on the card,” Rabinowitz said.

“... I can’t read it,” Miles responded.

Rabinowitz laughed. His laugh is high-pitched and unusual, Miles said. It’s one of those laughs that people cannot help but join in on. She misses it.

In October, Rabinowitz was one of 11 people fatally shot at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

In memory of his life, Miles, a long-distance swimmer who moved to St.

Augustine from Pittsburgh a year ago, dedicated her recent bronze medal-winning performance in the 500-yard freestyle race of the Senior Olympic Games in Clearwater to the physician.

Miles, who trained for the age 65 to 69 competition at the Ponte Vedra YMCA, has won medals at other games before. She has competed in the Senior Games 11 times. This year, however, was her first in Florida and held different meaning following the events of October. Before she jumped into the pool on race day, she said under her breath, “This is for you Jerry.”

A REAL LIFE LOST

Rabinowitz was known for his bowtie, wire glasses, small stature and affable nature. He hung pictures of cat comics in his patient room. The comics were mostly

from “The Far Side,” which he placed on the walls to give his patients something to look at — especially when they were involved in a less than comfortable procedure. Both the doctor and his wife loved cats.

Rabinowitz was shot while praying. He was killed because Robert Gregory Bowers thought that the way that he and the others at the synagogue were praying was wrong.

In many ways, Pittsburgh and the people closest to the mass shooting are still recovering. It’s hard to believe that a hate crime could occur in their city or on their street, Miles said.

“Fred Rogers’ wife lived three blocks from there,” Miles said about the site of the shooting. “I mean this is literally Mr. Rogers’ neighborhood.”

For 30 years, Rebecca Miles went to see

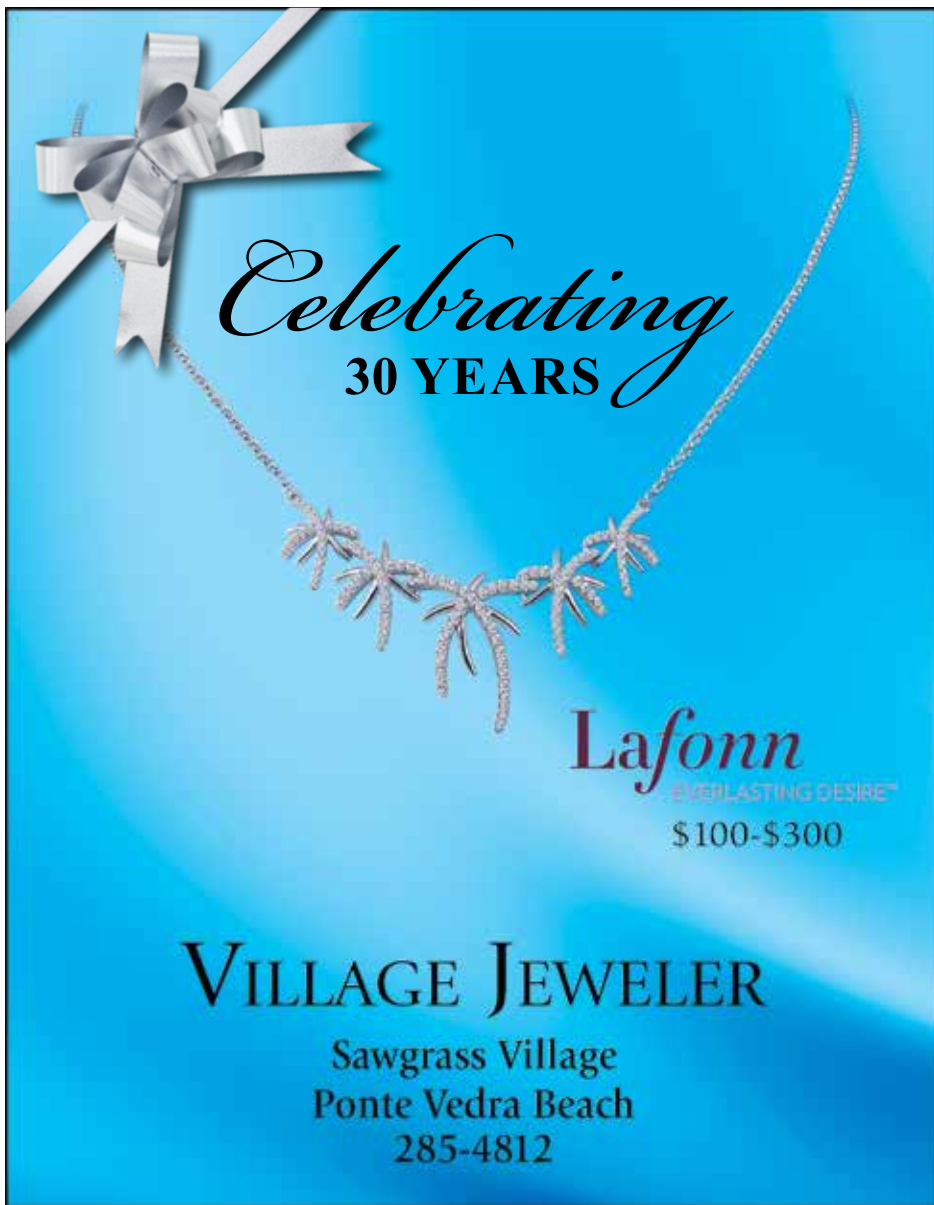
Rabinowitz every time she had an ache or rash from the pool. He always encouraged her training, telling her at one of their last visits to, “just keep swimming.”

“He was just so sincere,” Miles said.

“He was a very kind man, but very direct.

He would always go over your blood work with you or if you gained and lost weight. If he wanted you to see a specialist and you hadn’t done it yet — like he was always on me about getting my eyes checked — he would prompt you on these things. But he was never judgmental. He wasn’t somebody who would say, ‘Don’t come back until (you’ve) seen the eye doctor or lost ten pounds.’ He was very, ‘Let’s work at this together.’ That was his attitude.”

SWIMMER continues on **Page 34**



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Swimmer

Continued from 33

Rabinowitz was also known for being the doctor to go to when the HIV epidemic broke out. According to an article posted by CNN, Rabinowitz showed compassionate care when many doctors turned patients away.

"People forget this was a real guy; he saw real patients, he had a real life," Miles said. "He wasn't just a name in the paper."

SWIMMING WITH PURPOSE

While thinking about the devastation, Miles started training. In the past, she had used coaches and trainers to get her up to speed and keep her driven. This year, she reflected on her shock and grief and decided to do something with it. Miles decided to incorporate Rabinowitz into her routine.

She wanted to make his passion for wellness and commitment to medicine her motivation. Many days, instead of stopping at a point when she was tired, she thought of his face and pushed on. Miles started hitting her old

time of 9:26, the time she won Maryland with three years ago. She pushed harder because when she wanted to get out of the pool, there was, "little Jerry in my head."

"I know it sounds kind of treacly, you know, to just say you're honoring someone," Miles said. "But it really was. It was something to say, 'You know Jerry, we talked about this. I'm doing this. And this is for you.'"

When Miles got in the pool on Sunday, Dec. 2, she reflected on Rabinowitz, accepted that she had trained hard and

decided she would just do her best. She felt her doctor would have been pleased.

"I mean really, the first 150 you think you're dying," Miles joked. "You really think, okay, I'm going to die in the water. This is just how I'm going to end up ... The watery grave. I really got a second wind, (however), in the second half, but I didn't think it was enough."

When Miles finally came up, her husband told her she was in the 8s. Meaning, she shaved an entire 30 seconds off her time. In swimming the 500, 30 seconds might as well be a lifetime.

"I'm thinking, where did that time come from?" she asked. "I mean, yes, I trained for it ... But, seriously, where did that time come from?"

Miles completed her fastest time ever this year with 8:51. She won bronze and credits her doctor and personal trainer.

"I mean, what do you do with that pain?" she asked. "It can just be like an undertow like you're in the ocean and swimming and it takes you down ... or you can do something with it. You make yourself stronger."

When Miles first heard the news that Rabinowitz was one of the 11 dead, she said

she didn't know how to handle her feelings. With a hate crime, she said, it seems helpless to try to combat the situation. She said she wanted to try to make him back into the person he was before the news and trial and everything surrounding it. She also said she didn't want to just simply write a check and move on. So, instead, she did exactly what he last told her to do. She kept swimming.

"That was Jerry," Miles said. "He genuinely wanted people to be healthy. That was his legacy. His life mattered."

"I know it sounds kind of treacly, you know, to just say you're honoring someone. But it really was. It was something to say, 'You know Jerry, we talked about this. I'm doing this. And this is for you.'"

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Photo courtesy of Jeff Adams

Jeff Adams, Bob Streightiff, Ken Hicks and Duke Butler III display a \$5,000 check donation from the PGA Tour to the JAGA Scholarship Trust program. Adams and Butler are JAGA directors representing TPC Sawgrass, and Streightiff and Hicks are trustees of the scholarship program.



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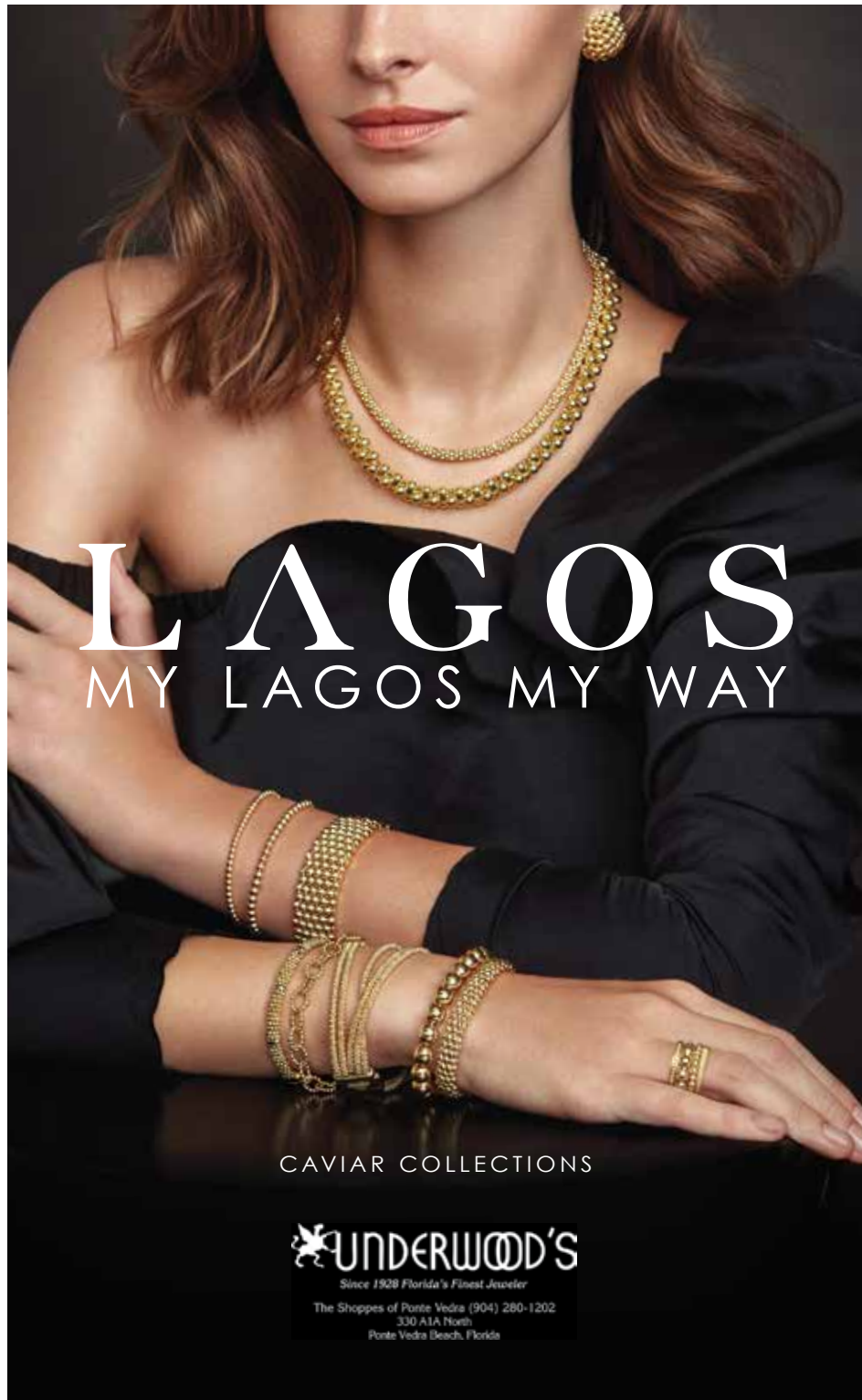


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Ponte Vedra basketball drops 6 of last 7 games

By Jim Moyes

Special to the Recorder

After a promising start to the 2018-19 basketball season, the Ponte Vedra Sharks have now dropped six of their last seven games to fall below the .500 mark.

Slow first-half starts saw the Sharks dig themselves into a deep hole in all three of their defeats last week. The Sharks trailed by a whopping 20 points against Clay before beginning a comeback that would see the locals go on a 19-0 run to eventually catch and then surpass Clay, when Johnny Corlazzoli netted a 3-pointer to give the

Sharks a 52-50 lead late in the game.

A couple of Clay 3-point bombs, including one of which was a fortuitous bank shot, however, doomed the Sharks' gallant comeback effort as they fell 56-53 to the Blue Devils.

The opening game of the Fortegra 9:12 tournament at Episcopal also saw the Sharks trailing by 14 points at the half-time break. Again, the Sharks would mount one of their patented second-half comebacks, pulling to within two points of host Episcopal late in the contest, only to see their efforts go for naught in a 51-47 loss.

The Sharks were able to salvage one

game during a week that saw the Sharks play four games over a five-day stretch, when they defeated Orange Park 51-45 on Friday afternoon.

The Sharks, however, reverted back to their previous habit of slow starts in their final tournament contest against First Coast, trailing by 18 points at halftime. The Sharks again mounted a late comeback, but it was too little too late. Outscoring First Coast by 10 points in the final quarter, the Sharks made the final score of 54-47 look more respectable.

Seniors Ben Houser, Reese Russi and Luke Martin have dominated Shark scor-

ing all season, and it was very evident this past week when the trio scored 149 of the 198 points tallied during the four-game stretch.

The Sharks fell to Providence 77-33 on Tuesday. The game against Menendez on Wednesday night took place after the Recorder went to the printer. After hosting Menendez, the Sharks will take the short jaunt over to Creekside to take on the Knights on Thursday night.

Following the Dec. 20 contest at Creekside, the Sharks will have about a three-week break until resuming play on Jan. 8 when they have a rematch at Clay.



MARSH LANDING WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION HOLDS CHRISTMAS GOLF AND LUNCH EVENT

Despite a cold day, the Marsh Landing Women's Golf Association (WGA) held its Christmas golf and lunch event on Dec. 11. First-place winners of the event with a score of 34 were Marty Evans, Elana Dietz and Gretchen Peverley. Coming in second place with a score of 35 were Amy Wallman, Beverley Tremel and Carin Greene. PGA Tour Champions player and Ponte Vedra native Len Mattiace attended the lunch and addressed the group.

Photo courtesy of Isobel Spink

THE PLAYERS announces Captain's Club presented by Citi

Tournament officials recently announced that a new venue will be available for spectators at THE PLAYERS this year March 12-17, 2019.

New this year, the Captain's Club presented by Citi is a premium club space with views of the 16th and 18th holes at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. This hospitality venue is the only daily upgraded ticket available for purchase and features indoor and outdoor seating, a full-service bar and a premium viewing experience to watch the tournament.

Now through Dec. 31, Citi Cardmembers will receive exclusive access to purchase tickets at a discounted rate (\$175 Thursday and Sunday and \$200 Friday and Saturday). The discount for Citi Cardmembers will run through the tournament. Starting Jan. 1, ticket sales will open to the public and will be \$225 per day for Thursday and Sunday and \$250 per day for Friday and Saturday. Tickets are available at THEPLAYERS.com/tickets.

"Each year our team looks for ways to elevate the on-site fan experience to make it best-in-class, and the Captain's Club presented by Citi is evidence of these 'fans-first' efforts," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. "Located between two of TPC Sawgrass' iconic finishing holes, this venue offers views of golf that are unlike any other in the world, not to mention a perfect setting for those looking for an upgraded, unique experience."

Parking is not included with the purchase of a Captain's Club presented by Citi ticket. Spectators are encouraged



Rendering courtesy of the PGA Tour

A rendering displays the plans for the Captain's Club presented by Citi, a premium club space with views of the 16th and 18th holes at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

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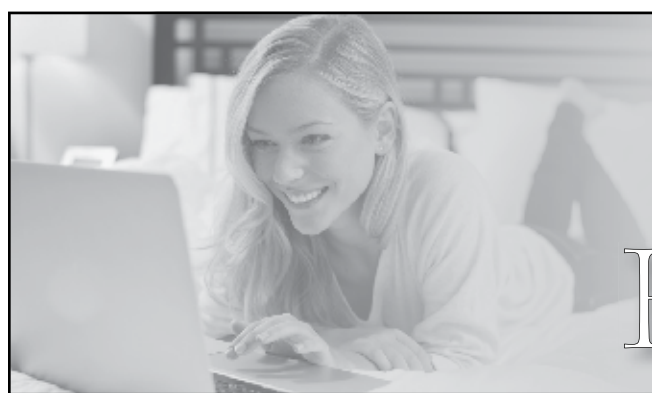
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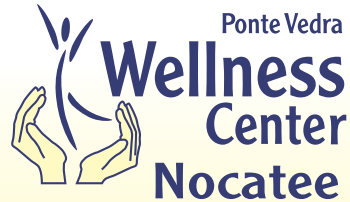
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