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Private Beach Sanctuary With gated entry and thoughtfully designed landscaping, this home backs up to the Guana, and features wood floors, screened-in pool, and a cellar. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms Offered at \$1,700,000



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The First Coast Register is a bimonthly general interest magazine published by The Ponte Vedra Recorder and OPC News, LLC. The magazine can be found throughout the upscale areas of greater Jacksonville. For advertising inquiries, call 904.285.8831.

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FIRST COAST REGISTER

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on the cover



The cover features a scene from the 2020 Nights of Lights in St. Augustine. For more about the famous holiday display, go to page 20. Photo by CRAIG O'NEAL

<u>From our family to your family, Happy Holidays!</u>



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305 Division Avenue – Ormond Beach FL 32174 WWW.WEATHERGUARDSHUTTERS.COM Malcolm Marvin is the new executive director for Deck The Chairs. The annual Christmas event, sponsored by the nonprofit of the same name, is a tradition for many area families.



Tell me a little bit about yourself and your background.

Born and raised in Neptune Beach, Florida. Attended Neptune Beach Elementary, 6th Grade Center, Fletcher High School ('97) and then University of Florida ('02). Graduated with a bachelor of arts in business administration (BABA). Both parents, Malcolm

Sr. and Kathy Marvin, were born and raised in Atlantic Beach, Florida, and attended Fletcher, as well. Our family has strong roots in Jacksonville. We were raised in the hospitality business, mostly as restaurateurs. My grandparents, Preben and Nina Johansen of Atlantic Beach, owned Le Chateau in Atlantic Beach until 1982. Johansen Park was dedicated in their name. My parents both owned First Street Grille (1989–2005) and The Homestead, so running through the "back of the house" and standing at the hostess stand greeting patrons as they entered were normal weekends. I grew up playing organized team sports, went on to play GK for the Fletcher Senators soccer team in 1997 and enjoyed anything around the water. My wife is Sara Marvin, owner of a local beach business, Luxe Hair Studio, and we have two kids, son Braxton (5) and daughter Molli (8).

You joined the Deck The Chairs board last year. What drew you to the organization?

Parenthood, honestly. I've been going to that even since its inception with my family. While we have some wonderful events in our little beach town, this one spoke directly to me and my family. Seeing the joy on my kids' faces getting to feel the holiday spirit in



Pictured from left are the members of the Marvin family: Sara, Braxton, Malcolm and Molli. Photo provided by MALCOLM MARVIN

an extremely well-managed, safe and truly "kid-friendly" event spurred an interest to get more involved in my hometown. It was a wonderful place to gather for the holidays, to run around with the cousins, enjoy the brisk weather (at times) with extended

family and just seeing kids' laughter while getting a lesson in art, holiday spirit and other hands-on activities. My mother joined in 2018 to assist with concessions (natural fit), and I've always enjoyed working with her in the holiday festivities. I can remember helping her with the old Christmas parade through Jax Beach starting at the Flag Pavilion. My sister and I used to ride tricycles around the Flag Pavilion while she volunteered her time to help the city and residents enjoy a holiday event in our beachfront parks.

What is your reaction to being named executive director, especially as you will be following Mr. Loftus, the event founder?

Honored. It was extremely humbling to be nominated and accepted as the executive director after such a short time on the board by my peers and colleagues. This event wouldn't happen without Kurtis Loftus, and I'm just thankful we can rally around his excitement and make his vision become a reality year in and year out. I'm thrilled to be able to take some of the administrative and leadership tasks off of his responsibility list and truly let him do what he's best at, and the execution of his vision for this event as a place any Jacksonville Beach resident can go to feel the city's artistic spirit collide with our holiday season. What does Deck The Chairs mean to area residents and businesses?

I'd like to think they come out to support the local businesses they interact with weekly, enjoy a festive holiday event and programming while being in the presence of family. Prior to DTC, the downtown beaches area was a little blight. It was dark in the park, events were not scheduled (rightfully so) due to the unpredictable. The vision that Kurtis and the early DTC'ers had was so inspiring and continued to pull at me, reminding me of my childhood and how we



have this opportunity to do something great.

Deck The Chairs is, without a doubt, a unique tradition. Why do you believe it has found a special place in the holiday season for so many area residents?

For the same reasons I mentioned above. The area wasn't used regularly during that time of the year due to seasonal weather and daylight savings time creating a darker park earlier in the evening. I think getting out into the open air on the ocean for a holiday event is extremely unique in itself, but to put some community leaders, wonderful spot on Earth to live. Year-round sports, wonderful weather 10 months of the year and the diversity of folks that were born here and continue to migrate here from other areas. I think you'll notice, once people move here they tend to stay here.

resident volunteers and busi-

nesses behind the foundation

of this event pulls to each city

resident and creates a more

unified community. This is a

free, truly kid-friendly, non-

downtown area, specializing

alcoholic free event in our

in art and education.

First Coast?

What do you like best

about living here on the

the opportunity to be near

fishing or boating from the

way to the St. Johns River

and beyond. We have a

ocean and Intracoastal all the

Geography. I absolutely love

the water, whether it's surfing,

What do you like to do in your spare time? Do you have any hobbies or do you take part in any volunteer activities?

Currently, it's keeping up with the kids. I enjoy coaching whatever sports they are currently interested in, I love golf and I love to be around the water (surfing, fishing, swimming).



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Deck the Chairs

Jacksonville Beach

The most wonderful time of year has officially arrived in Jacksonville Beach.

That's because the perennial holiday favorite, Deck the Chairs, is on display now through New Year's Day in Latham Plaza and the Seawalk Pavilion area.

Each year, an estimated 60,000 visitors look forward to the unique event, which features 40 brightly decorated lifeguard chairs, festive music and a 100-foot glowing octopus.

Local businesses and nonprofit organizations sponsor and decorate the displays, and this year's event is expected to be even better than in the past.

Beaches Go Green, a nonprofit that spreads awareness about waste and how it affects the environment, has installed a new light program in the Octopus Garden and synced it to music. In addition, lights and sounds have been improved at the 30-foot, 9,000-light tree.

The display lights are on from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. nightly. Also, Krystal Klean will present light shows nightly at the top of each hour, 6-9 p.m., at the Seawalk Pavilion.

Special events are scheduled at the Seawalk Pavilion on Saturdays in December. All activities are subject to change and may be affected by inclement weather.

• Dec. 5, the city of Jacksonville Beach will present moonlight movies, and there will be holiday entertainment. The lineup: 4-4:30 p.m. North Florida Women's Chorus; 4:45-5:05 p.m. Bravo School of Dance; 5:30-5:50 p.m. Switzerland Dance School; 6-8 p.m. movie (two showings); 6:15 p.m. UNF Alumni Night.





• Dec. 12, Night of Music & Dance with Tuba Christmas, presented by Fusion Light & Sound. The lineup: 1:30-2:30 p.m. Tuba Christmas; 4-4:20 p.m. East Coast Ballet; 4:45-5:05 p.m. Mazza Smith Dance; 5:30-5:50 p.m. Showtime USA.

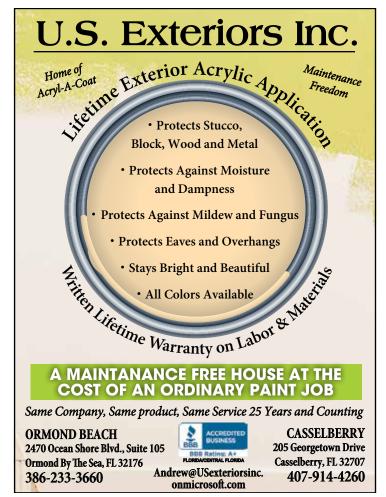
• Dec. 19, Night of Music & Dance with Santa and Chair Decorating Awards, presented by Fusion Light & Sound. The lineup: 3 p.m. Santa photos presented by Jacksonville Mom; 4-4:20 p.m. World of Dance; 4:45-5:05 p.m. PV A2K Dance Project; 5:30-5:50 p.m. Nancy Dance.

Ocean City Church will conduct a Christmas Eve service from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 24 at the Seawalk Pavilion.

The event is operated by a nonprofit organization, Deck The Chairs, founded by Kurtis Loftus. This year, Loftus has handed the reins over to new Executive Director Malcolm Marvin Jr.

"For the past seven seasons, this event has been a staple of the Jax Beach community," Marvin said. "We're honored to be here for our eighth season and to continue our mission of promoting the arts and arts education, especially during this challenging time."

For more information, go to deckthechairs.org.



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18





Cake designers Aldo and Maria

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marks 30th anniversary

> by SHAUN RYAN photos by SUSAN GRIFFIN

Lori Adams and Denise Levitch

The 2020 yuletide season kicked off this month with The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach Holiday Shoppes. This year's event marked the Shoppes' 30th anniversary. It was held Nov. 12-14 at the center, 50 Executive Way.

Local residents look forward to the annual fundraiser, where they can find a variety of items for sale, including men's and women's apparel, homemade children's toys, unique jewelry,



home goods, holiday decorations and more. It's the ideal place to find one-of-a-kind gifts.

This year, local students provided impromptu entertainment, and food trucks were on hand to keep hungry visitors fed. In addition, Divine Spirits, a mobile bartending service from Jacksonville, brought its Unbridled Bar — a vintage horse-trailer-turned-bar — to serve drinks, including a signature beverage created for the event.

Vendors offered their wares at stations in the courtyard and inside the center itself. In the main gallery, the Cultural Center had its own booth. This has always been the place to purchase homemade items from member artists. But this year, the selection was expanded to special holiday items purchased in Atlanta and donated by Hilah Autrey.

That, combined with a special balloon display created for the event by Anette Saalman of Sparkle Balloons by Anette, gave this year's Holiday Shoppes "a wow factor," according to Executive Director Donna Guzzo.

To keep shoppers and vendors protected from the coronavirus, a number of measures were put into place.

In past years, shoppers could simply show up, but this time they were asked to pre-select a time when they would visit. This helped to manage attendance so that social distancing could be observed. Also, the preview reception, normally reserved for Cultural Center members and donors, was opened up to anyone who might be at high risk and wanted to avoid the crowds.

Cultural Center staff also wore masks, disinfected surfaces, took visitors' temperatures and asked the now-familiar COVID-19 questions.

Sponsors of the Holiday Shoppes were Publix Super Markets Charities, La Macaron French Pastries and Claude Nolan Cadillac.



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THE GIFT OF Giving PAGES 12-19

GUIDE TO FIRST COAST NONPROFITS

A look at some events that have been held and some upcoming events for area charities

compiled by HOLLY TISHFIELD

MISSION HOUSE "LIGHT THE PATH TO HOPE"

On Oct. 2, Mission House hosted its inaugural "Light the Path to Hope" charity event. This event, which was virtually live-streamed on its Facebook page, allowed donors to purchase biodegradable paper lanterns. All proceeds raised from the lanterns went towards allowing Mission House to continue the programs and services that it currently provides for the Beaches community. Mission House, which was founded in 1997 by four local churches and over 160 donors, has one goal: to house the homeless individuals living on the streets of the Beaches area by offering warm showers, fresh meals, clinical services, and reemployment assistance to those in need. Donors who purchased lanterns for the event were encouraged to light their lanterns at the same time as staff at the Mission House, but not to launch them. To learn more about the Mission House and the services it provides, go to www.missionhousejax.org.

MALIVAI WASHINGTON YOUTH FOUNDATION "A NIGHT OF HOPE"

The Malivai Washington Youth Foundation held its first ever virtual gala, the The Merrill Lynch A Night of Hope, on Oct. 9, raising more than \$213,000. These funds will allow the Foundation to continue serving hope to hundreds of chil-

> dren and families in Jacksonville through the nonprofit's comprehensive youth development program. The event, hosted by Curtis Dvorak, featured a message from MaliVai Washington, a look inside MWYF's new teen center, testimonials from alumni and a live and silent auction. Former world No. 1 women's tennis player and Olympic gold medalist, Lindsay Davenport, joined the Foundation as its special guest for a

Q&A. A Night of Hope also honored the

recipients of the Foundation's annual scholarship awards. Throughout its 24-year history, MWYF has awarded more than \$1.1 million in scholarships to be used for higher education. For more information on the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, go to www.malwashington.com.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

GIVE THE GIFT THAT WILL



Making a contribution to JDRF Northern Florida helps fund critical research and improves the lives of those living with type 1 diabetes.

It's a gift of hope, of promise, and of health that you could offer this holiday season.

Visit jdrf.org or call (904) 739-2101 to learn more.



JDRF MIRACLES GALA 2020

As with other organizations, this has been a unique year for the JDRF foundation. For its 20th annual Miracles Gala, JDRF hosted a one-hour long virtual event on Oct. 17 that they dubbed "Reimagined & Closer To Home." The gala was hosted by Nikki Kimbleton and Vic Micolucci, with both a silent and

> live auction, as well as surprise performances by country music artists. Families from Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, St. Johns, and other surrounding communities came together to raise \$260,000 for the organization. All of the money raised goes toward supporting the Fund a Cure program, which improves the lives of people with Type-1 Diabetes and works on finding

a cure through new technologies. While some families gathered around the TV together to support the cause, others hosted in-home watch parties to celebrate. JDRF is still looking to raise another \$100,000 by the end of the year. For more information or to make a donation. go to www.jdrf.org.

FIRST COAST ENERGY CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT & BANQUET

At the end of October First Coast Energy, Shell's wholesale partner, hosted a charity golf tournament at Sea Island. The tournament was in support of both the Nemours Children's Health

System and the Tim Tebow Foundation. The tournament was hosted in honor of Children's Health Month and was just one of the many ways that First Coast Energy (Daily's) is doing their part to improve the lives of local children. Athlete and philanthropist Tim Tebow was the event's main guest speaker, and he gave a rather heartfelt speech on his foundation's anti-human trafficking initia-



tive. Through the golf tournament, banquet, and a live auction, First Coast Energy was able to surpass their initial goal and bring in nearly \$455,000. The money was split with a \$350,000 donation to Nemours Children's Health System and a \$105,000 donation to the Tim Tebow Foundation. Now through the end of November, First Coast Energy is continuing their work with Nemours Children's Health System by hosting a charitable pointof-sale campaign at their Shell-branded convenience stores throughout Florida and North Carolina. Customers can donate directly to Nemours by adding a \$1, \$5, \$10, or \$20 donation at the point of sale during any transaction.

Founded in 1951, Child Guidance Center (CGC) is the largest provider of outpatient and community-based mental health and behavioral health services to children, adolescents and their families in Jacksonville. CGC offers an entire spectrum of counseling and social services. Some benefits of treatment are:

- Reduction in behavioral/emotional problems
- Fewer discipline problems at home and school
- Increased self-esteem
- Improved parent-child relationship
- Early intervention which can
 prevent more severe emotional
 or substance abuse problems
- Promotes positive youth development

During this COVID-19 pandemic we are seeing many families struggling with stress, depression and financial difficulty resulting in mental health and relationship issues. CGC has experienced an increase in the demand for our services. Please consider donating to CGC by mail (5776 St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32207) or through PayPal via www.cgcjax.org. The money raised will be used to provide life changing mental health services to Duval County families.



Child Guidance Center

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- Replace failing light ballasts with new LED lighting – Electrician and materials and/or donations
- Power washing our three buildings

DONORS NEEDED FOR CGC'S HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

- Footballs, basketballs, Legos, Marvel figures, Harry Potter items, Hot wheels, Dinosaurs, baby dolls, baby doll strollers, arts & crafts
- Gift cards for older teenagers

Donations can be gift in-kind, monetary or via Pay Pal.

For additional information, call 904-448-4700 or visit our website at www.cgcjax.org. We believe that every child needs a place to call home, a place where they can play and dream and plan for their future.

Your gift can help make a home this holiday season.

Your donation will have double the impact, thanks to a dollar-for-dollar match by the family of Sandy Forsyth, founder of Aqua East Surf Shop.



Every holiday is better with a home

Beaches Habitat

ST. FRANCIS HOUSE: LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

The St. Francis House hosted its inaugural Light Up The Night fundraiser and gala on Nov. 14 in an effort to raise support for the many programs they provide the community. Tickets to the event were \$125, and all proceeds went towards directly benefiting the charity. Hosted at the Tringali Barn, this indoor/outdoor event was chalk-full of activities for every age. Hot air balloons gave adventurous guests a peek at the

horizon, while live music and axe throwing competitions kept guests entertained on the ground. The gala also featured a live and silent auction, as well as a casino and cigar bar. Popular ice pop brand Hyppo teamed up with the St. Augustine distillery to provide adult popsicles, and Kookaburra Coffee Bar also made an appearance. The St. Francis House, an organization based out of St. Augustine

that supports homeless men, women, families, and youth was founded over thirty years ago with a mission to reduce and rehabilitate the homeless population. At its Light Up The Night Event, St. Francis House was able to raise money and awareness for the important work that they do.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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Season of Giving

Mission House has seen many changes this year, and although many things in

Mission House

our world have been unstable, the programs and services of Mission House have stayed true to our commitment to serve our homeless population at the Beach. Through hard work and dedication to our mission, we have been able to continue to provide our clients with services throughout the pandemic.

Your generous contributions will transform the lives of so many men and women at the Beach!

\$20 provides a clothing voucher for a job interview

\$50 assists us with serving food to 25 individuals

> \$100 7-day bus passes for five clients

\$500 utility service for two clients

\$1000 security deposit and 1 month rent

\$2000 2-3 months of rental assistance

An automatic monthly check from your bank, or our online donation page at *www.missionhousejax.org/donate-now* is the easiest way to give.

A gift of \$84.00 monthly, or \$1,000.00 or more annually, welcomes you to our Samaritan Circle.

Tax ID# 59-3376704 All donations are tax deductible.



Betty Griffin Center

The mission of Betty Griffin Center is to work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in St. Johns County. Our focus is to offer **free** protection and quality services to victims and their families.

Please help us make the holidays a true blessing for the families in our care. Your gift today will bring them joy and hope.



Donate Today! www.bettygriffincenter.org

If you or someone you know has been abused, please call our 24 Hr Helpline:

(904) 824-1555

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD BALL

On Saturday, Nov. 21, The Salvation Army held its seventh annual Red Shield Ball, which raises funds for the Red Shield Lodge women and families shelter and the Carpenter

Family Marketplace. Red Shield Lodge families and local residents in need rely on the Carpenter Family Marketplace to keep food on their tables. At the shelter, families receive intensive case management services including crisis intervention and counseling, as well as training in personal finance, parenting skills and child development, stress management, and

health and wellness, all to boost the odds of success upon leaving the shelter. Families are also assisted in finding permanent housing. The Salvation Army's food pantry serves 250-300 Duval County households with supplemental groceries per week. In honor of The Salvation Army's longtime friend and sponsor Pete Carpenter and his compassion for helping others, the Carpenter Family Marketplace was created from the funds raised by the friends of Pete and Marilyn Carpenter and the 2019 Red Shield Ball Fund-A-Need donations. In response to COVID-19, the 2020 Red Shield Ball

"NURSE BRANDI HELPED CARE FOR ME A MONTH AGO IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM. I CAME IN BY AMBULANCE ALONE AND SHE PUT ME RIGHT AT EASE WITH HER KIND AND COMPASSIONATE CARE. THANK YOU SO MUCH BRANDI!"



Flagler Health+ Grateful Patient

'TIS THE SEASON OF GRATITUDE. THANK A HEALTHCARE HERO TODAY.

VISIT WWW.FLAGLERHEALTH.ORG/GIVE TO MAKE A YEAR-END DONATION IN HONOR OF OUR ESSENTIAL HEALTHCARE WORKERS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY! was modified, but the event offered a unique virtual experience featuring a curated cheese tasting for two or more with thoughtful charcuterie and libation pairings catered by Biscotti and delivered to guests' doors, along with entertainment and a live auction, all to raise funds for the Red Shield Lodge and the Carpenter Family Marketplace.

OPERATION NEW UNIFORM: HEROES GALA

Operation New Uniform will host its 7th annual Heroes Gala, benefiting the nation's veterans during their time of transition after service. This year's gala will be held at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach. The event will be live for sponsors and virtual for supporters to accommodate

> social distancing. The Heroes Gala is ONU's premier annual fundraiser where supporters, donors and ONU alumni come together to celebrate the organization's achievements and spotlight its successes. The keynote speaker of this event is Johnny "Joey" Jones, retired U.S. Marine and Fox News contributor. By attending virtually, a ticket purchase directly benefits each of the veterans ONU

serves. The Operation New Uniform's program is free for veterans who are accepted, but ONU relies on the generosity and support of the community to support its mission.

GIVE THE GIFT OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE

This holiday season give the most powerful present possible – a year-end donation that will help local kids in crisis move beyond their troubled yesterdays into more promising tomorrows. You can help us:

- supply counseling for an abused child
- connect a neglected child with a caring foster or adoptive family
- provide a homeless teen with shelter and support
- strengthen and reunify high-risk families

Please donate today.

Improving the odds for kids



Sulzbacher provides Housing, Healthcare, and most importantly, Hope to men, women and families with children who are homeless or at risk. With every bite, the purchase of Sulzbacher Sweets by Sweet Pete's provides Help and Hope to those in need. **And that's what we call sweet.**



Rethreaded's fundraising event was held Nov. 5 at Tringali Barn in St. Augustine.





Renewing HOPE Reigniting DREAMS

Rethreaded event helps human trafficking survivors take back their lives

story and photos by HOLLY TISHFIELD



Janine Sanders, Priscilla Jones and Stephanie Patton



Since the pandemic began, phone calls to the human trafficking hotline have increased by nearly 40%. For Kristen Keen, founder of Jacksonville brand Rethreaded, this is especially heartbreaking to hear.

Rethreaded is a company that takes upcycled materials and turns them into unique accessories. The handcrafted products are made right here in North Florida by a survivor of human trafficking.

The Rethreaded brand was created with a mission to renew hope, reignite dreams, and release potential for survivors of human trafficking and sexual abuse. Keen began her mission back in 2012 when she formed relationships with women on the streets and realized that they needed a safe and supportive work environment where they could earn money and continue healing.

Since its opening nearly eight years ago, Rethreaded has employed dozens of trafficking survivors and provided over 60,000 hours of work.

At the Rethreaded charity event that took place Nov. 5 at Tringali Barn, all proceeds went directly towards supporting the women employed by Keen.

"Every penny earned will go to ensure that these [survivors] will have everything they need to continue their journey towards healing," Keen said.

Entry to the event was \$10 and included a raffle entry for roundtrip tickets on Southwest Airlines, a partner and material donor for Rethreaded.



Tracy Stout and Michelle Dubourt



were available for purchase at the event.

"Every penny earned will go to ensure that these [survivors] will have everything they need to continue their journey towards healing."

Some of the locally made products such as candles, jewelry, and leather goods were available for purchase. Guests could listen to the live band as they mingled and shopped the beautiful collection of products.

Chris Shee, owner of the Tringali Barn at Heritage Farms, was happy to host this event for Keen's company, and he strongly believes in the cause behind it.

"Rethreaded is widely known in Jacksonville, but not so much in St. John's County," Shee said. "Part of my mission with Rethreaded is to make sure they get more exposure in St. John's County so they can not only be more sustainable, but also able to grow and help more women."

Since the pandemic began, Rethreaded has added another seven women to the team, despite the economic uncertainty, in an attempt to aid more survivors.

Its next pop-up event will be on Nov. 28 as a collaboration with Hope's Closet, a thrift store operated by Jacksonville church Eleven22.

To find more information about the charity and its products, go to the nonprofit's website at www.rethreaded.com.





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St. Augustine's famous holiday display goes on

by SHAUN RYAN

photos by CRAIG O'NEAL





What would the holiday season be without a visit to St. Augustine to see its Nights of Lights? Fortunately, 2020's merrymakers won't have to face that possibility.

In a year that saw so many events canceled in the wake of a pandemic, the Oldest City's annual holiday light display stands as a reminder of happier times. Once again, 3 million tiny white lights outline the Bridge of Lions and historic buildings, public spaces, hotels, restaurants and inns occupying about 20 blocks of the city's historic district.

The lights come on each evening at 5:30 p.m. through the end of January. Strolling the city's streets to take in the breathtaking sight is, naturally, free of charge.

However, visitors may opt to view the lights from a carriage, boat, trolley or luxury golf cart. These are operated by businesses and there is normally a charge.

One thing was different this year: The annual Light Up! Night had to be cancelled. This event typically crowds about 7,000 people into the area of the Plaza de la Constitucion to witness the ceremonial flipping of the switch.

There was just no way city officials could square that with social distancing as recommended by the CDC.

But the city expanded the Nights of Lights event this year, making it a week longer, and some improvements have been made to the display.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 ■

Janet E. Johnson, P.A.



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Criminal Defense Attorney

Janet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL "Blood, Breath & Tears" annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson has been awarded the AV preeminent rating[™] from Martindale-Hubble[®] and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America[™], as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys. She also appears as a legal commentator on CNN and HLN.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

During a virtual discussion hosted in September by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Tourism & Hospitality Council and Historic St. Augustine Area Council, City Manager John Regan pointed out the value of going ahead with Nights and Lights. "So many residents have talked to me about the importance from an emotional perspective of having a very traditional Christmas season, to bring back joy, to just celebrate," he said. "I think we're all ready for that on so many levels."

Nights of Lights has been listed among the top 10 holiday light displays in the world by National Geographic.







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ON THE FIRST COAST

Pages 24-31

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TABLE TALK with LEIGH CORT

What is a "personality-driven" restaurant? If you visit Atlantic Beach on any night of the week, you might find yourself in one of Al Mansur's VERY appealing restaurants — Flying Iguana, Mezza Luna, Al's Pizza or Coop 303. They are all distinctively stylized, innovative restaurants with an ambience like no other in Northeast Florida. That is personality driven! Nothing cookie-cutter here.

Coop 303's building is an angular hardscape of contemporary architecture with a surprise landscape of bright seasonal flower baskets from the groundfloor front porch setting to the secondstory upstairs parlor and rooftop garden! It's alluringly fresh — with huge black and white art that feels whimsical — but really tells the story about Coop 303, whether you're gazing at a giant canvas cow or a massive tractor wheel. The art represents Coop 303's and Chef Marshall Ziehm's minimalistic approach to Florida's pristine ingredients that dance colorfully on each artistic plate.

Florida regional cuisine is Chef Ziehm's heart and he wears it on his sleeve! Even on a wild and crazy restaurant night, if you mention that you'd like to see the chef, he might just appear and wow you with culinary facts. Chefs are a part of one of the largest industries in the world, without whose presence the food industry would cease to exist. Chef Ziehm represents how chefs go through laborious training and have to be extremely passionate when it comes to their profession. There has been an explosion in the number of chefs around the globe, all working toward making the food industry fascinating conversation. At Coop 303, you can't find one dish on the menu that doesn't sound fabulous!



Although most restaurant stories focus on the food — and Coop 303's food is incredible — the story belongs to the Chef here. He's squeezed a lifetime of travel and hard work into the past thirty years since growing up on a farm in rural Virginia. He came to understand the beauty and importance of a farm to table, sustainable lifestyle at a very early age — long before those words became the current mantra of dining out. Picture Ziehm cooking in small cantinas in Mexico and three-stary Michelin restaurants throughout Europe with one goal in mind: Mastering his trade!

Critical acclaim is attached to Ziehm's career resume. From L.A. Magazine that directed readers with, "You must dine at Ziehm Restaurant during the Sundance Film Festival," and the Salt Lake Tribune, "Chef Ziehm is changing the palate of Utah" — his rave reviews continued in Chicago with, "Best New Restaurant," Ena, which brought him attention throughout America's chefdom! His minimalistic approach highlights farm, water and forest. His menus are created with respect, humility and joy. It's obvious with the servers who bring Coop's experience to life too. Here it's not just a meal.

Now come with me to the table! Dinner doesn't always need to begin at 7 p.m. If you start cocktailing at 2 p.m., you can enjoy each of Coop's unique five dining spots throughout the afternoon and evening. It's known for a four-hour Hapy Hour. The bustling bars focus on California wines, local brews, irresistibly clever cocktails and 100-plus USA bourbons. Don't overlook sipping a "Helen Dobson." Why this catchy cocktail? Helen was featured in the film "Creatures of the Black Lagoon," which was filmed in Jacksonville! It's a jumpin' combination of Tito's vodka, St. Germain elderflower liqueur, simple syrup, fresh lemon juice and mint.

Did someone whisper fish? Chef works closely with specific fishing boats to serve the best local fish of the season. Each day the whole fish takes on a new personality. You'll have to call ahead to find out what each day brings. From the boat to their door, the preparation changes with Chef's



Coop 303 Fried Chicken Basket



Chef Ziehm with fried sheepshead



Pan-seared scallops

whim. My favorite salmon in the region is Crispy Skin Nordic Blue Salmon (with local vegetable couscous and Florida sweet corn broth). If scallops call your name, the Pan-Seared U10 Scallops are butter basted on crushed Florida fingerling potatoes with gremolata and chili oil. Gorgeous and irresistible!

Chef Ziehm treasures his days out of the kitchen to visit local dairy and produce farms, selecting the best Florida grown and created products. He believes in and supports Florida's rich legacy of distinctive food. It's obvious that the micro garnishes are his choice too. Each dish bursts with flavor from the tiniest stems with the biggest personality. Surprises await your appetite. He knows exactly what to do with fennel pollen, ruby streak mustard greens, micro radish sprouts and pea shoots!

Chicken and beef vie for centerstage, too, at Coop 303. A simply prepared olive oil and rosemary roasted half chicken is grilled and crispy. The filet mignon hails from Florida Cattle Ranchers beef, chargrilled to perfection. If you're wondering what the fuss is all about at Coop 303 for a fried chicken basket — just order it. Whether four or eight pieces, it's the most succulent dish when you crave a cool weather comfort dish.

If you try hard to save a little appetite for dessert, you won't be disappointed with Coop's sweet specialties — don't overlook the Chocolate Waffle. Warning: It's decadently composed with coffee ice cream, homemade peanut brittle and buttermilk whipped cream. The waffle ranks somewhere between a brownie and an old-fashioned chocolate cake with an alluring chocolate aroma — a must-share treat!

As night falls at the beach, you'll appreciate Ziehm 's great skill and self-assurance with very little preening or self-consciousness. When you eat at Coop, you might enjoy knowing that a brigade of chefs is working like crazy in the kitchen to make each dish boisterously flavorful. Let me know you're on the way. I'll share my bourbon root beer float if you let me taste your warm peach cobbler with vanilla bean ice cream!



Crispy skin Nordic Blue Salmon



Smoked Heritage Pork Belly appetizer



Peaches & Cream appetizer



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Carrabba's Italian Grill – Point Meadows brought back the 1980s with a "Totally 80's" Wine Dinner on Nov. 10.

The event featured guests donned in their best 80s attire and a four-couse meal. The menu included French onion soup with a Retro Raz bellini; tri-color pesto pasta tossed with fresh mozzarella and cherry tomatoes paired with William Hill Chardonnay; stuffed pepper with beef, pork, rice and walnuts topped with Pomodoro sauce paired with Exitus bourbon-aged red blend; and the dinner finished with a chef-made Tiramisu paired with Irish coffee.





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FESTIVAL FUN

Epcot's Food & Wine event means family bonding time

story and photos by HOLLY TISHFIELD

Every fall my mother and I run away for one weekend to attend Walt Disney World Resort's annual "Epcot's International Food and Wine Festival." We visit to enjoy the wide selection of new culinary treats and beverages, and despite regulations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had an incredibly full weekend.

Our first stop of the Festival was a small booth near the Mexico pavilion, one of over twenty booths available in different countries throughout the World Showcase. Mexico's selection of sangrias never disappoints, and this year we purchased their Passion Rose Sangria. Their food options were limited, but the Pork Tostada was a delicious surprise.

Since we attend the Festival so often, my mother and I have the day down to a routine. We throw on our matching Disney themed shirts, grab a bite to eat in every country, and wait in line for rides while we finish our drinks — but now things look a little different. Masks are required at all times throughout every Disney park, which meant that we had to sit on a bench to enjoy the foods.

After finishing our sangria in Mexico, we skipped over a few countries and made a beeline for the Italy pavilion, our favorite. The portions were small, but enough that we could share it all happily. Their Margherita pizza and La Classica cheese tortellini paired perfectly with their Frozen Italian Margarita.

Block & Hans, a booth in the American pavilion, served up a mouth-watering Spiked Frozen Apple Pie drink in a collectible cup. The Japan pavilion served up a Frothy Raman snack and a Strawberry Nigori Sake.

We rounded out our very long and very satisfying day with a trip to the Desserts & Champagne booth for a Liquid Nitro M&M's Cake Pop and a Spiked Frozen S'mores drink.

The selection of foods and beverages at "Epcot's International Food and Wine Festival" continued beyond what we could fit in our stomachs, and now that our "Girls Weekend" has come to an end, we can only count down the next 364 days until we experience the delicacies all over again. Epcot's International Food and Wine Festival entrance

The Epcot ball lit up at

night during the festival

Frothy ramen and

strawberry Nigori sake

from the Japan Pavilion

FOOD&WINE

Holly Tishfield and her

🔺 Passion Rose Sangria

from the Mexico Pavilion

Byejoe punch and chicken Dumplings from

the China Pavilion

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Holiday

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ALHAMBRA DINNER THEATRE:

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The longtime dinner theater is back in business and offering the amazing shows its is known for, as well as high-quality cuisine. Alhambra released its 2021 schedule, which kicks off with "Singing in the Rain" on Jan. 7. Other shows for the season include "The Glass Menagerie," "The Music Man,"

Music" and "Young Frankenstein." As always. the performances come with a three-course meal. For more information and show dates, go to www.alhambrajax.com.

AMELIA TOFFEE

Amelia Toffee is made in Fernandina Beach and is all gift wrapped in its signature red boxes for gift giving this Christmas season. Flavors include bourbon, sea salt, coffee an orange bliss. Cost is \$15. Amelia Toffee makes perfect gifts for teachers, hair dressers, dog groomer, hostess gifts and more. For more information, go to ameliatoffee.com.



COASTAL WINE MARKET

Visit the tasting rooms at Coastal Wine Market in Nocatee to discover your new favorite wine. Guests can try flights of three different kinds of wine, and munch on some charcuterie/small bites in the meantime. Coastal Wine Market offers popular selections such as Peju Merlot, Quilt Chardonnay, Stags Leap

Vioginer, and more. You can attend one of the many events happening at the shop, or give the gift of a Wine Club Membership and receive up to two bottles per month. For more information visit www.coastalwinemarket.com.

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cooler temperatures, Lemon Twist Boutique has everything you need to stay warm. Find a beautiful selection of sweaters, jeans, dresses, and more at this little boutique located in Ponte Vedra Beach. Or, give the special women in your life a new sun hat to wear at the beach, a vibrant blouse, or a set of ear-

rings. You can find more information about the boutique at www.sawgrassvillagepvb.com/lemon-twist-boutique.

SAWGRASS MARRIOTT GOLF RESORT & SPA

Check another name off your holiday list or treat yourself to an afternoon of pampering at this full-service spa in the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa. A gift certificate to The Spa will gain you access to their 18 treatment rooms, private pool, and nail salon. Visit www.marriott.com/ hotels/ hotel-information/fitness-spa-



services/jaxsw-sawgrass-marriott-golf-resort-and-spa/ for more information.



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SIP COZY

If you are looking for a delicious and fragrant wine for the holidays, but do not want the trouble of a hangover, then look no further. SipCozy, a brand launched in 2019 by Alex Klempf, just rolled out their newest line of drinks: SipClean. The brand specializes in creat-

ing a low-calorie, grenache blend rosé that has been alcoholremoved. The drink is infused with 40-mgs of broad-spectrum hemp extract, and their spinning cone technology makes sure to leave the natural aromas, flavors and acidity of the original grapes. Both SipCozy and SipClean are the perfect options for anyone who wants to stay alcohol-free, but still enjoy the traditional holiday toasts.

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Give the gift of rest and relaxation this year with a gift certificate to The Spa at Ponte Vedra Club & Inn. The Spa offers services such as massages, facials, and manicures/ pedicures, so there's bound to be a little something for everyone on your list. Visit www.pvspa.com for more information.

ST AUGUSTINE DISTILLERY/CITY GATES SPIRITS

It's the most wonderful time of the year to be a bourbon or whiskey lover in North Florida. The St. Augustine

Distillery has launched a brand new "Fill Your Own Bourbon Bottle" experience just in time for the holidays. At this experience, guests will be able to step behind production lines to bottle, label, and seal their very own bottle of bourbon. On-site team members guide guests through the process of creating a personal bottle of the cask-strength, unfiltered bourbon. As



for the whiskey admirers, City Gates Spirits in downtown St. Augustine recently introduced two new flavors of their long awaited holiday line: Smoked Maple and Cinnamon.

UNDERWOOD JEWELERS

Dazzle the special people in your life with a gift from Underwood's. As a proud member of the American Gem Society, Underwood's offers a variety of the finest bracelets, earrings, necklaces, watches, and more. They offer custom designs for consumers, where

their sales staff will work with you to create an extra-special, one of a kind gift. Or, if you want to repurpose an heirloom into something new, their experienced designers can help with that too. Visit www.underwoodjewelers.com to learn more about the services they offer.

VILLAGE ARTS FRAMING & GALLERY

Village Arts Framing & Gallery offers a wide selection of framing for every budget by experienced framers, who are also artists themselves. The gallery features local and regional artists with original paintings in a variety of mediums. For over 45 years Village Arts has boasted the largest selection of custom frames in



North Florida. To satisfy your inner art connoisseur, or to surprise an art lover in your life, check out more about Village Arts Framing & Gallery www.villageartspvb.com.



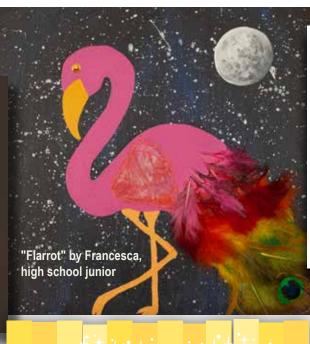
MOCA exhibits 10 years of art by pediatric patients

by SHAUN RYAN

Photos provided by MOCA JACKSONVILLE



Untitled by Robin, age 19



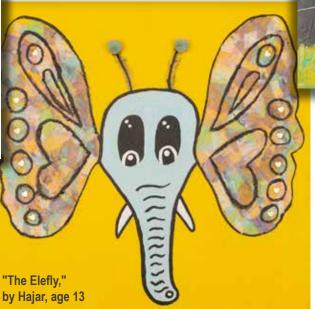


Untitled by Sofia, age 17



Untitled by Keilana, FSU senior







"Grizder" by Joshua, age 14

Over 10 of the past 12 years, a partnership between two area nonprofits has offered regional pediatric patients an opportunity to express themselves through art. Now through Dec. 13, the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville is featuring an exhibition of works created over that time.

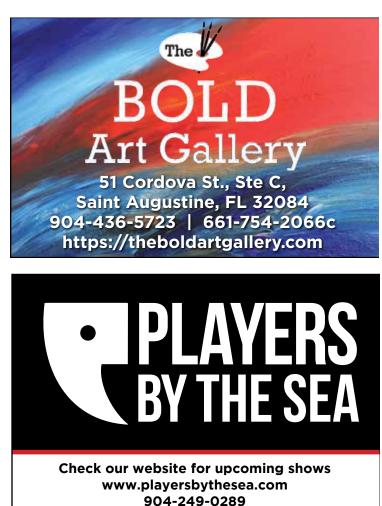
"A Decade of Art with a Heart: 10 Years of Partnership" is a kind of retrospective of the young patients' creations stemming from the partnership between the museum and a nonprofit organization, Art with a Heart in Healthcare.

A virtual reception was held Sept. 19.

"We are proud to show the works of these exceptional young artists," said Caitlin Doherty, director of MOCA Jacksonville. "This collaboration ... serves as an opportunity for the museum to both celebrate this exceptional program and the children whose creativity and resiliency shines through each exhibition."

"Preparing this show was such a journey," said Lori Presto, co-executive director and artist-in-residence of Art with a Heart in Healthcare. "The show would not be possible if not for the collaboration of so many nonprofit organizations, businesses, amazing artists and families. These pieces evoke love, healing, legacy, creativity and community."

"Special thanks to Florida Blue for their support of the arts in healthcare and Art with a Heart — we couldn't do it without them," said Christy Ponder, co-executive director and artist-in-residence of Art with a Heart in Healthcare.



The Art with a Heart program is offered at Wolfson Children's Hospital, Nemours Children's Clinic, Mayo Clinic, Baptist Health and St. Vincent's Hospital in Jacksonville. The nonprofit provides personalized fine art experiences that enhance the healing process for patients and their families.

Under the guidance of an artist-in-residence, the patients learn art-making skills while gaining self-confidence and selfawareness during their hospital experience. Each year, the museum holds an exhibition of the artwork, which then travels throughout the region over the following months.

The students learn to articulate their feelings, ideas and experiences while gaining skills in art and photography.

Different years have different themes. "Express Your #Selfie" in 2014 encouraged students to express themselves via self-portraits. For the following year's "Unmasked" the young artists used a mask as a metaphor for what was inside them. For "A World of Their Own" in 2018, participants answered the question: "If you could create your own world, what would it look like?" Last year, the theme was "Animal-Gamation" for which they explored their personalities, stories and identities in an animal form.

At this time, visitors wishing to view the works are only able to access exhibits at the museum through guided tours on weekends as well as virtual tours on weekdays. To register for either, go to mocajacksonville.unf.edu.

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Lights, Camera, Action

FIRST COAST HOLIDAY EVENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the way we celebrate the holidays, but there are still events taking place around the First Coast to get you in the holiday spirit.

compiled by HOLLY TISHFIELD



JAX ILLUMINATIONS ANNUAL DRIVE THRU HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW

When: Runs through Jan. 2 Where: Morocco Shrine Center Times: Sunday-Thursday, 6-9:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 6-10:30 p.m.

No need to worry about social distancing at this drive thru light spectacular. Load up your family and friends and cruise through millions of twinkling and sparkling holiday lights at the Morocco Shrine Center, where you can celebrate the holidays from the safety of your vehicle. Jam out to their coordinated holiday music station, or rock out to your own holiday favorites. Either way, guests are in for an illuminated treat. This year the drive-thru features a 300-ft. tunnel of lights and two mega Christmas trees. Weekday admission is \$20, and on weekends it is \$25. Passenger vans can also enter for \$35.

JACKSONVILLE BEACH DECK THE CHAIRS

When: Runs through Jan. 1

Where: Seawalk Pavilion and Latham Plaza

Starting on Nov. 21 and continuing for six weeks, guests can marvel at all the holiday magnificence decorating the Latham Plaza and Seawalk Pavilion area at Jacksonville Beach. Forty



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lifeguard chairs will be covered top to bottom in shining decorations during the month of December as a way to promote local business, instill public pride, and share cultural diversity through creative expression. The area will also be home to a 30-ft hand-crafted DTC musical tree, the Kids' Creative Space, and multiple digital light shows. All month long guests can stroll among the decorated chairs and celebrate the holiday season for free.

TPC SAWGRASS CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

When: 5-9 p.m., Nov. 27 Where: TPC Sawgrass

Hold your loved ones tight and witness TPC Sawgrass light their giant Christmas tree for the first time of the season. Guests can make reservations at the Nineteen for an a la carte style meal, and enjoy complimentary hot chocolate/ cookies on the lawn.

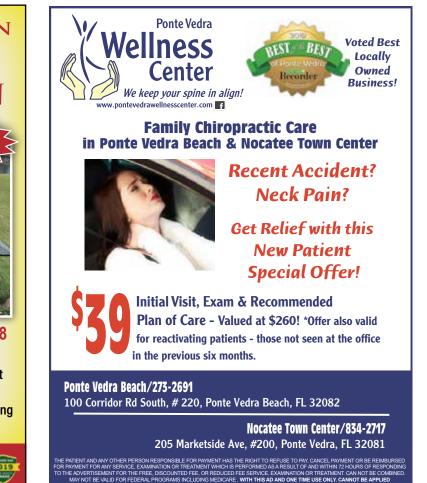
JACKSONVILLE LIGHT BOAT PARADE AND **FIREWORKS**

When: 6 p.m., Nov. 28

Where: Downtown Jacksonville

For more rhan 30 years North Florida residents have enjoyed the shimmering lights of the annual Jacksonville Light Boat Parade. This year vessels of all shapes and sizes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 41





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■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

tradition, but they can not stop it completely. This year Luminary Nights at the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum will take place over two different nights. On the first night, guests can attend a drive-thru in the parking lot where various festive stations will be set up along the way for families to enjoy. This event will have holiday elves roaming the grounds, as well as holiday carolers. For the second night of event, families around the community are encouraged to light their pre-purchased luminary kits at 6:30pm and share photos of the displays online with the hashtag #Luminary2020. To order your luminary kit or learn more about the event, visit the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime museum website.

PALM VALLEY BOAT PARADE

When: 6 p.m., Dec. 5

Where: Intercoastal Waterway, Palm Valley

A decades old tradition, the residents of Palm Valley delight in gathering together to host an annual boat parade and celebrate the beginning of the holiday season. Known as the "Mardi Gras" of boat parades, this event is like no other. Members of the community help one another pull off this amazing display, and welcome all newcomers with a friendly hand. This lighted parade stretches over seven miles of the Palm Valley waterways, where spectators can watch from hundreds of different docks, restaurants, and designated viewing areas. The Palm Valley Boat Parade hopes to create lasting memories for both guests and participants alike.

LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE

When: TBD, Dec. 5

Where: Downtown Fernandina Beach

Grab a spot along Centre Street in Downtown Fernandina Beach to "oohh" and "aahh" at their annual Lighted Christmas Parade. The parade will feature everything from marching bands and dancers to giant floats decorated with Christmas lights. You might even glimpse Santa Claus as he rides by on his sleigh. Sponsored by America's Youth, this colorful parade is sure to get you in the Christmas spirit.

SANTA BRUNCH BUFFET

When: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Dec. 13

Where: TPC Sawgrass

Experience a delicious brunch at the beautiful Nineteen restaurant and enjoy a morning of holiday magic. Kids can also meet Santa Claus and discuss their deepest Christmas wishes. Adult entry to the buffet is \$60, kids between six to twelve years old are \$30, while little elves under six are free.





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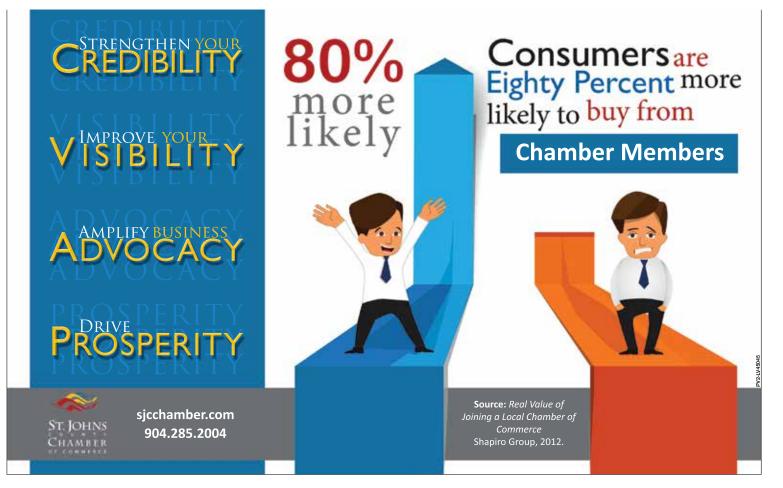
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MOSH GENESIS

Jaguars owner makes substantial investment to museum's campaign to help revitalize Downtown Jacksonville

On Nov. 16, The Museum of Science & History (MOSH) announced Shahid Khan, owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars, and his family have committed an initial \$5 million gift to the MOSH Genesis capital campaign — representing the largest private donation to the campaign to date.

Khan praised the museum's proposal to build a new museum on the Shipyards property shortly after it was publicly announced Oct. 15. In a previous statement, he said he was "all in" on the Museum's plans, and that the new museum "would be a spectacular addition to Downtown Jacksonville." This gift reinforces Khan's efforts to bring new development to the region, complementing his vision for Lot J to create a thriving sports and entertainment district surrounding TIAA Bank Field.

"The best downtown districts in the United States include urban parkland and cultural destinations, and we can have that here in Jacksonville with the Museum of Science and History anchoring a new riverfront park," said Khan. "I'm hoping my contribution to the capital campaign will spark additional commitment from throughout the region so we can get started on a new downtown. I am confident it will, because I know I'm not the only person in Jax who believes it's time to finally meet and even exceed our potential."

The Museum announced the launch of its capital campaign in March 2019, with the goal of raising \$20 million in community support from individuals, businesses and corporations, foundations and other community stakeholders. Originally called MOSH 2.0, the campaign has since been retitled MOSH Genesis to reflect a new beginning for the Museum as it casts a bolder vision for the institution, as well as the City of Jacksonville.

"MOSH would like to express our sincere thanks to Shahid Khan and his family for committing to this remarkable investment in MOSH Genesis. This gift will not only propel the project forward, but serve as a wonderful example to others," said Bruce Fafard, CEO of MOSH. "We appreciate the leadership role that Mr. Khan is taking to make Jacksonville a better place to live, work, and play."

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