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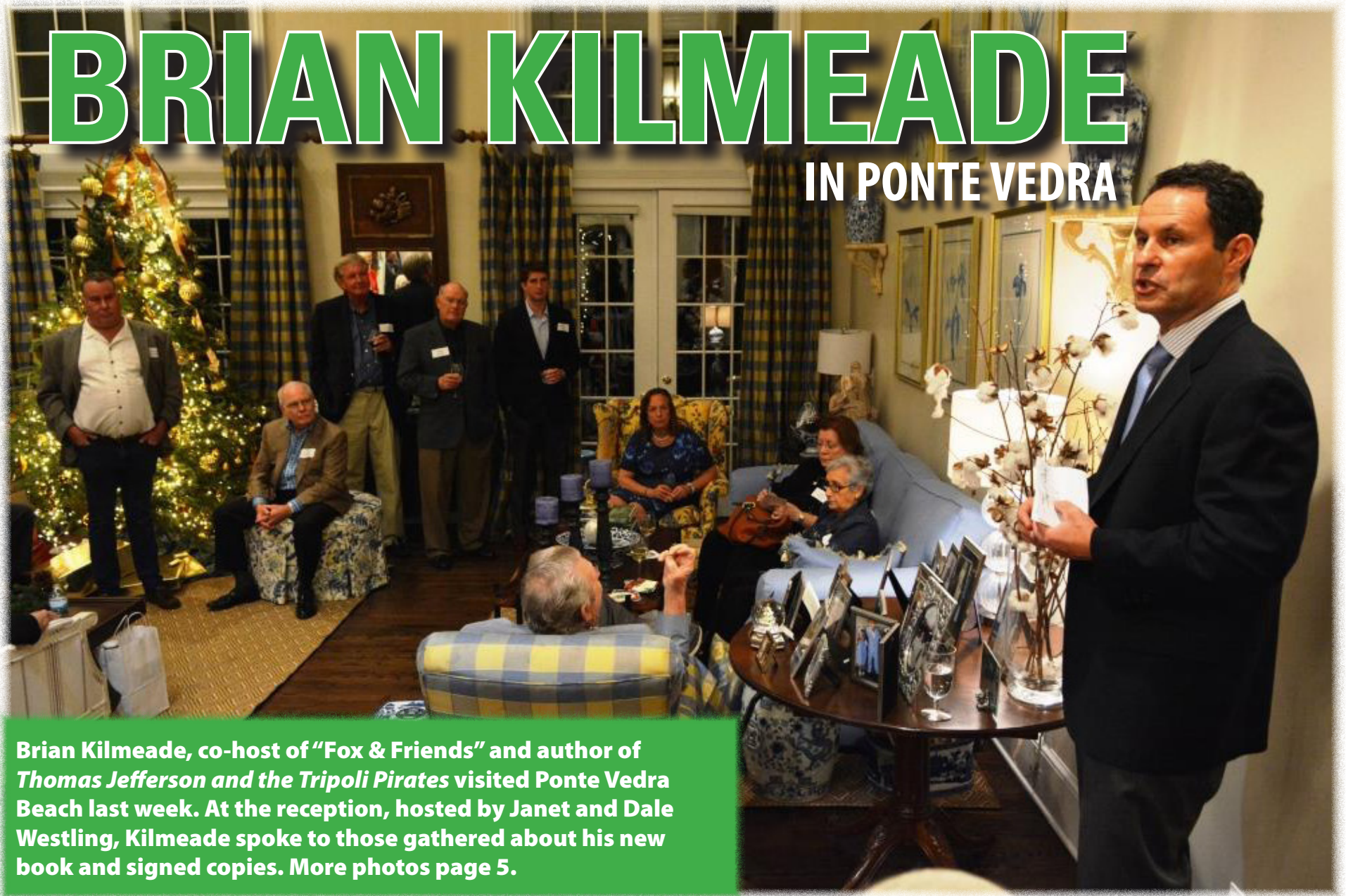
December 17, 2015
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PonteVedraRecorder.com

BRIAN KILMEADE

IN PONTE VEDRA



Brian Kilmeade, co-host of "Fox & Friends" and author of *Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates* visited Ponte Vedra Beach last week. At the reception, hosted by Janet and Dale Westling, Kilmeade spoke to those gathered about his new book and signed copies. More photos page 5.



One of Us

Rory Diamond: Executive
Director of K9s for Warriors

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LAST MINUTE GIFT GUIDE

A list of local retailers, charitable giving, First Coast holiday happenings and more

Pages 15-34

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WORLD IMPORTS USA



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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



Visit our brand new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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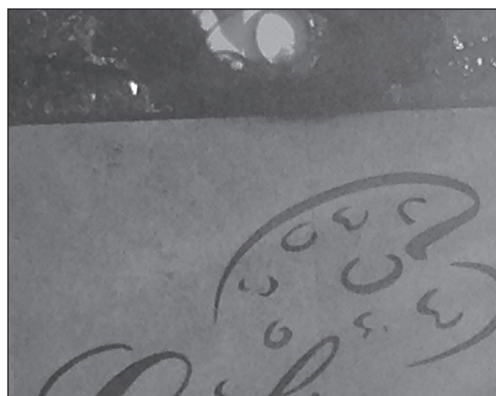
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What's this?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to kelly@opcfla.com by Tuesday at 5 p.m.

We'll throw all the correct answers in a hat and choose the winner with a random drawing. If we receive no correct answers, we'll award four Jacksonville Zoo tickets (two adults, two children) to the best wrong answer we receive.

Virginia Braschel was randomly selected from the people to correctly identified the Neptune Beach City Hall seal. Virginia, please pick up your zoo tickets!

Better luck this week, guessers! And don't forget — incorrect but entertaining guesses might also be rewarded with a trip to the zoo.



Adoptable pets at the St. Johns County Pet Center

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi my name is Pharaoh and I am a 1 year old male kitty who is looking for a new loving home. I was brought to the Pet Center as a stray but don't let that fool you, I'm super playful. I love to curl up next to someone on the sofa and purr like a fuzzy motorboat. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to their new environment. Please reinforce house-training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets. Come visit us today here at the Pet Center! #28918



DOG OF THE WEEK



Hi there my name is Halo and I am a 2 year old male dog who is looking for a new loving home to call my own. I was brought to the Pet Center as a stray. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to their new environment. Please reinforce house-training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets. Come visit us today here at the Pet Center! #28774

All cat adoptions at the Pet Center are \$20 for males and \$30 for females. Dog adoptions are \$35 for males and \$50 for females. The fee includes neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The Pet Center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. **For more information, call (904) 209-6190.**

ZOOlights



Happy Owlidays.

December 11-13, 18-Jan. 2
Closed Christmas Day.

Mon - Thurs 6 pm - 9:30 pm
Fri - Sun 6 pm - 10 pm

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Nease NJROTC victorious at Terry Parker Drill Meet

Team takes 1st in 6 of 13 events

Scott LaRochelle
Submission

Nease NJROTC's varsity drill team extended its winning streak of Jacksonville area drill competitions, winning the Terry Parker Drill Meet on December 12 in Jacksonville. Nease has now won six straight Navy northern Florida drill meets covering the past three years.

Nease won the Mandarin NJROTC Drill Meet earlier this fall. In 2013 & 2014, Nease swept both the Mandarin and Terry Parker drill meet championships beating out 11 other NJROTC challengers from northern Florida, southern and central Georgia in each competition.

Nease is currently the #1 ranked NJROTC unit in the nation.

"We needed the entire 40 cadet team's best effort today," said Cadet Battalion Commander Zach Yearwood. "We feel a bit like the New England Patriots – each week our competition takes their best shot at knocking us off, but we're still standing."

In addition to claiming the top overall trophy, Nease picked up first place

trophies for Personnel Inspection, Academics, Athletics, Unarmed Exhibition Drill, Push Ups, and Sit Ups.

With its earlier victory at Mandarin, Nease has already secured a spot in the 16-team Navy Area 12 Drill Championships to be held on March 6 in central Georgia. Before that, the team will travel to Tallahassee next month to compete at the Florida A&M University NJROTC Drill Meet.

Several Nease cadets received individual medals during the competition. Cadets Dane Barber and Zach Yearwood received recognition for Academics; cadets Christopher Babcock, Brian Swicegood and Marcus Sanders for Push Ups; and cadets Lily Short, Erin Sass, Cali Vaughn, Jerry Xiang and Mac Davis for Sit Ups.

"I've been doing this a long time (13 years)," said Nease's Naval Science Instructor Master Chief John Duffy. "These young men and women always seem to step up to the challenge."

Other top schools in the competition were Middleburg HS 2nd place, Cross Creek HS 3rd place, Coffee County HS 4th place, and Mandarin HS 5th place.



Provided by Scott LaRochelle
Nease NJROTC's 40 cadet drill marches onto the drill deck for Personnel Inspection (PI) during the Terry Parker JROTC Drill Meet on December 12. The team took 1st place in PI.



Nease NJROTC cadets stand behind their trophies as the overall champion of the Terry Parker JROTC Drill Meet on December 12.

PVHS students entertain guests at Gabriel House

Robin Kraich
Community Submission

Guests at Gabriel House of Care were treated to classical music by members of Pro Arte Ponte Veda Chamber Ensemble during a recent Chef's Night In dinner.

Pro Arte is a student run club at Ponte Veda High School and is committed to bringing the joy of classical music to the school and community.

Now in its third year, Pro Arte continues its outreach and fundraising activities through community concerts, impromptu recitals and school visitations.

"Our guests really enjoy when community groups come in and play music during our Chef's Night In dinners, especially when it's a youth group such as this one," said Valerie Callahan, executive director, Gabriel House of Care. "It's wonderful to see our local high school students using their talents to give back to the community."

For more information about the Pro Arte Ponte Veda Chamber Ensemble or to schedule them for an event, contact them at proarte.pv@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page



From left to right: Ponte Veda High School students Cassia Wang, Frankie Lukens and Cameron Black

Pro Arte Ponte Veda.

Gabriel House of Care is a 29-bed-room, hospital hospitality house dedicated to providing hope and compassionate support to cancer

and organ transplant patients as well as their caregivers by providing an affordable "home away from home" while they receive life-saving medical care in the Northeast Florida area.

To learn more, visit www.gabriel-houseofcare.org. Gabriel House of Care is a member of the Healthcare Hospitality Network.



Photos by Susan Griffin

New ABC location now open at Sawgrass Village

Orlando-based ABC Fine Wine & Spirits, one of the largest independent retailers of wine and spirits in the U.S., celebrated the opening of its redesigned location in Ponte Vedra last week with a grand re-opening event.

Although the store has been open for business through the construction at Sawgrass Village, starting in November patrons have been able to fully enjoy the more than 12,000 sq ft. of the new structure at 175 Village Main Street.

The redesigned ABC Fine Wine & Spirits, built on what used to be the previous location's parking lot, features an 18-door beer cooler and offers more than 500 beers, 5,000 wines, 2,000 rare and popular spirits, 400 cigars, gourmet foods, custom gift baskets, glass-



ware and other related items.

"We're thrilled to officially re-open the doors to our Ponte Vedra store and look forward to keep helping our neighbors make all of life's celebrations special," said CEO Charles Bailes, III. "We are eager to bring our very

best to this community, a sentiment that drove us to redesign the neighborhood's store."

The store is open seven days a week at 175 Village Main St. in Ponte Vedra.

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Photos provided by Janet Westling

Left: Brian Kilmeade with Katie, Jack & Anna Hughes. **Right:** Janet Westling, Brian Kilmeade & Laura Howson

Brian Kilmeade in Ponte Vedra



From left to right, pictured are Judge Donald Moran, Jr., Brian Kilmeade and Judge Tyrie W. Boyer.

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Rory Diamond is the Executive Director for K9s For Warriors, an organization headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach that pairs service dogs with military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual assault. Diamond was working as a lawyer at a law firm in downtown Jacksonville prior to becoming the K9s For Warriors executive director a little over a year ago, but he has been involved with the organization for several years. When the brand new K9s For Warriors headquarters opened in May, quadrupling the amount of military men and women the organization could assist, K9s For Warriors Founder and President, Shari Duval, asked Diamond if he would be interested in serving as the executive director to head up the growing operation.

Where are you from originally?

I grew up in Reno, Nevada. I moved to Jacksonville by choice. I literally opened up a map and went through cities and states and drove up A1A after a job interview and I said this is where I'm moving. I love Neptune Beach. I moved to Neptune Beach about three years ago.

What drew you to the area?

I love the beach — I love the small town community of Neptune Beach, and I needed a place where I could move my mom and my sister and her kids and my brother-in-law too, so we all moved to Neptune Beach together. We're all about a bike ride away from each other.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love to surf and I'm big into anti-crime programs. That's how I spend my extra time when I'm not here — working on the Jacksonville Journey program, after school programs and stuff like that. I have a rescue dog, a Doberman named Barron. We run on the beach every day.

Do you belong to any organizations?

I'm on the board of Beaches Watch and I served on the Jacksonville Journey, and I then pretty much spend all my time at K9s For Warriors. I used to be a lawyer and I thought that was busy, but K9s For Warriors is 24/7, it's all the time. It's awesome.

How did you get involved with K9s For Warriors?

I was a lawyer at a big law firm in downtown Jacksonville and I wanted to find a pro-bono project where I could do something good with my spare time. I Googled and I saw K9s For Warriors was brand new and down the road, so I sent an email to Shari Duval and asked her if she needed a free lawyer, and she emailed me right back in about two seconds, "Yes, God bless you."

So, I've been the lawyer for the organization all along, and I've been on the board. About a year and a month ago Shari asked whether or not because we were getting so big, so fast, whether or not I would come run it. I had just made partner at a law firm and I said, I could be a partner at a law firm or I could run K9s For Warriors — easy decision. Every day is different. Every day you're helping either someone on two legs or four legs, so it's fun.

Tell me a little about your prior work experience.

I worked in politics. I worked for George W. Bush in the White House for two years. I was there for 9/11 and that kind of got me more geared towards public service and being someone who contributes to the country. And then I went to work for Governor Schwarzenegger in California for a year as his briefing director. That was spectacular. But then it was time to put the silliness aside and go be a lawyer. I went to law school. I was a federal prosecutor for a while which I really loved doing — putting bad guys in jail is a good day.

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Thursday, Dec. 17	Friday, Dec. 18	Saturday, Dec. 19	Sunday, Dec. 20
<p>Toy Drive for BEAM at PV Wellness Ponte Vedra Wellness Center is having a toy drive for BEAM. Everyone is invited to drop by Ponte Vedra Wellness, 100 Corridor Road S., #220, Ponte Vedra Beach, Thursday, Dec. 17 from 4-6:30 p.m. Bring a new unwrapped toy and receive a thank you gift from Ponte Vedra Wellness. For more information, call (904) 273-2691.</p> <p>North Beaches' Art Walk The North Beaches' Art Walk is from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Atlantic and Neptune Beaches' Town Center. For more information, call First Street Gallery at (904) 241-6928 or Archway Framing and Gallery at (904) 249-2222 or visit www.nbaw.org.</p> <p>Grief support group A Grief Support Group meets on the third Thursday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church in the library of the Family Life Center at 578 First Ave. North in Jacksonville Beach. The next meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. The group is for adults who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. For more information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665.</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity volunteers Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County is currently seeking qualified homeowners. Habitat does not give away homes for free. Instead, homeowners pay an affordable monthly mortgage payment and we help build them a simple, decent place to live. If you know someone who might benefit from Habitat homeownership, please refer them to our website. To find out more about how you can donate, volunteer, or qualify visit habitatstjohns.org.</p> <p>Annual Activity Member Become an Annual Activity Member at The Players Community Senior Center! There are so many reasons to become a member: discounts on fee-based classes, designated events and Coastal Travel, complimentary participation in a wide variety of scheduled activities, to name a few! Please call Darlene Mahany at 280-3233 for all the details.</p>	<p>Small Objects Holiday Art Sale The annual Small Object Holiday Art Sale takes place from Dec. 4-28 at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, 50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach. Over 30 local artists will be displaying and selling their small hand-crafted art including handcrafted jewelry, glass work, paintings, pottery and more. All items are priced between \$25-\$350. For more information, call (904) 280-0614 or visit www.ccpvb.org.</p> <p>Teen Holiday Party The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library, Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, is hosting a teen holiday party Friday, Dec. 18 from noon-3 p.m. All middle and high school students are invited to attend the party that will include pizza and sodas, video gaming, a White Elephant Exchange, board games, a screening of "Home Alone," and more. To participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift of \$5 or less. For more information, call (904) 827-6950.</p> <p>ZOOLights Thousands of LED lights will be on display at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens for ZOOLights, Dec. 11-13 and Dec.18-Jan. 2 (closed on Christmas Day). The zoo closes at 5 p.m. and reopens for ZOOLights 6-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday. The cost is \$10 for non-members; \$8 for members. Other activities such as warm weather "ice" skating, train rides, s'mores kits and the 4-D Theater ride featuring "The Polar Express," are offered for an additional fee. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.jacksonvillezoo.org.</p> <p>'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever' "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" will be performed on stage at the Limelight Theatre Dec. 11 through Jan. 3, 2016 with a special preview night Thursday, Dec. 10. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. There will be no performances Dec. 24-25. Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 825-1164 or visit www.limelight-theatre.org.</p>	<p>Katz 4 Keeps Adoptions/ Open House Katz 4 Keeps is having an adoption event/ open house on Saturday, Dec. 19 and Sunday, Dec. 20 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Katz 4 Keeps, 935B A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach (next to Sherwin Williams). For more information, call (904) 834-3223 or email katz4keeps.com.</p> <p>Nocatee Farmers Market This December the Nocatee Farmers Market will feature the Annual Christmas Festival! Get into the holiday spirit while enjoying great local shopping and live bluegrass music by Big Cypress. Little ones can enjoy getting up close and personal with their favorite animals at a petting zoo too! Santa Clause will also be visiting and taking photos for families with any last minute Christmas wishes. Along with this seasonal and festive theme, the market includes over 80 local vendors offering items such as organic produce, herbs, spices, delicious unique foods, crafts, jewelry and more! Free face painting by Chet's Creek Church will also be available for little ones, along with free crafts. The Nocatee Farmers Market takes place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Farmers Market Field, 100 Marketside Ave., Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>St. Augustine Ballet's 'The Nutcracker' The 7th annual Saint Augustine Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" is Dec. 19-20 at the Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine. Performances are at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$25-\$30. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (855) 222-2849 or visit www.saintaugustineballet.com.</p> <p>An Intimate Evening with Matisyahu Reggae and hip hop artist Matisyahu and his "Festival of Light" Tour will perform Saturday, Dec. 18 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. Tickets are \$49.50 for the first 10 rows; \$37.50 for all remaining rows. Doors open at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box office, as well as online at www.ticketmaster.com, at all Ticketmaster outlets or by phone at (800) 745-3000. For more information, visit www.pvconcerthall.com.</p>	<p>'Godspell' at Players by the Sea "Godspell" will be performed at Players by the Sea through Dec. 20. The theatre is located at 106 Sixth St. N., Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 249-0289 or visit www.playersbythesea.org.</p> <p>'Coney Island Christmas' ABET presents "Coney Island Christmas" Dec. 4 & 5, 11-13 and 18-20. Showtime is 8 p.m. for Friday and Saturday night performances; 2 p.m. for Sunday performances. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$10 for children. The theatre is located at 716 Ocean Blvd., Atlantic Beach. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 249-7177 or visit www.abettheatre.com.</p> <p>Collection Tour Join the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens us on Sundays for a guided tour of our permanent collection. The tour is free with the cost of admission. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p>Practice with Purpose at Big Fish Yoga Practice with Purpose is an all-level yoga class offered on Sundays from 4-5 p.m. at Big Fish Power Yoga. The fee for the class is a \$5 cash donation that goes to the charity that Big Fish Power Yoga has selected for the quarter. Big Fish Yoga has relocated to the South Beach Regional Shopping Center in Jacksonville Beach at 3852 South 3rd St. For more info. call (904) 372-0601.</p> <p>Travel Training Program The Council on Aging announces a Travel Training program designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. If you are curious about expanding your transportation options or you would like to increase your confidence as a bus rider, let one of our trained volunteers assist you in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. If you are interested, please contact the Mobility Manager at the Council on Aging, (904) 315-6505, or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p>

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Monday, Dec. 21	Tuesday, Dec. 22	Wednesday, Dec. 23	Thursday, Dec. 24
<p>Celtic Christmas On Monday, Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. The Beaches Museum and History Park presents Celtic Christmas as part of the museum's concert series. Admission is \$20 in advance; \$25 day of show. The museum is located at 381 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 241-5657 or visit www.beachmuseum.org.</p> <p>Winter Discovery Camp Winter Discovery Camps at the Museum of Science and history take place Dec. 21-23 and 28-30. The camp is for kindergartners through fifth-graders and are designed to entertain kids while parents finish holiday preparations. Camps take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$60 per day; extended care is available for an additional charge. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 396-MOSH or visit www.themosh.org.</p> <p>Caregiver Support Group The Players Caregiver Support Group meets every Monday 12:00-1:00 p.m. at The Players Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Kimberly Weir of Heartland Hospice facilitates a weekly discussion of current concerns and issues of caregivers. It is a great opportunity for caregivers to share resources and ideas. For more information, call (904) 280-3233.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group is a program designed for those with memory changes who like to stay active mentally, physically and socially while allowing caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. This program is offered weekdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Ashford Court, 1700 The Greens Way in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 568-8174, or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Christina Hope exhibition Artwork from Christina Hope is currently on display at the J. Johnson Gallery, 177 Fourth Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach. The exhibition will run through Jan. 21, 2016. For more information, call (904) 435-3200.</p>	<p>Sunset Rotary Club weekly meeting The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call Club President Ron Mott at (904) 460-7092 or email HOJRON@aol.com.</p> <p>Palm Valley Farmers Market The Palm Valley Farmers Market takes place every Tuesday from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>SPLASH at PVPC Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m. the Singles Ministry SPLASH (Single People Loving and Serving Him) gather at Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, 4510 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra: All single adults in the community welcome for fellowship, discussions on applying the Bible in our everyday lives along with a light dinner provided by KC's Kitchen. Mission and social opportunities as well. For more information, email julie@pvpc.com or call (904) 285-8225.</p> <p>Arbor Terrace Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group Day Program takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For more information, call (904) 497-4346 or visit www.at-pontevedra.com.</p> <p>'Christmas Carole' at The Alhambra Beginning Tuesday, Nov. 24, Bruce Allen Scudder's "Christmas Carole" will be performed at Alhambra Theatre & Dining. The play will be performed through Dec. 24. The theatre is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 641-1212 or visit www.alhambrajax.com.</p>	<p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets every Wednesday from noon-1 p.m. at Mulligans, 43 PGA Tour Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call Gloria at (904) 635-6103, visit www.pvpng.com, or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Toastmasters The Ponte Vedra Toastmasters Club offers opportunities for developing your leadership and communication skills. Join us on Wednesdays at The PLAYERS Community Center at 175 Landrum Lane. The meeting starts promptly at 7:30 a.m. and lasts one hour. Want to know more? Contact Lucy Reep at 904-607-3695 or contact-5199@toastmastersclubs.org</p> <p>For The Love of Driving Volunteer drivers are needed to assist seniors in achieving their mobility goals in St. Johns County. Transportation needs range from trips to the grocery store and classes to spousal hospital visits or social activities. If you are interested, please contact the Mobility Manager at the Council on Aging, 904-315-6505, or email Katie.Arnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Cookies & Carols The Anastasia Branch Library, 124 Seagrove Main St., St. Augustine Beach, is hosting a holiday event for kids. On Wednesday, Dec. 23 from 2:30-3:30 p.m., children can come into the library to meet the Elf on the Shelf, watch and sing along with a shadow puppet caroling show and decorate their own holiday cookie. For more information, call (904) 209-3730.</p> <p>Kids Holiday Crafts The Southeast Branch Library, 6670 US 1 South St. Augustine, is hosting a kids holiday craft party on Friday, Dec. 18 at 4 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (904) 827-6900.</p> <p>Live Music at Table 1 Table 1 at 330 A1A N will host the Latin All Stars live starting at 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Palms Presbyterian Services Palms Presbyterian Church, 3410 S. Third St., Jacksonville Beach, is holding several Christmas Eve Services. Services are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 p.m. - service for children & families • 7 p.m. & 9 p.m. - candlelight service with choir and JSO strings • 11 p.m. - a community candlelight services with harp and JSO strings <p>Nursery will be provided at the 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. services. For more information, call (904) 246-6427 or visit www.palmschurch.org.</p> <p>Christmas Eve Service An Inter-Demoninational Christmas Eve service with seasonal music and worship will take place Thursday, Dec. 24 from 5-6 p.m. at the Sawgrass Marriott. The service is presented by The Chapel at Sawgrass.</p> <p>Christ Church Christmas Eve Services Christ Church is holding several Christmas Eve services at their Ponte Vedra Beach location, San Pablo location, Serenata Beach Club and Vicar's Landing. The schedule is as follows: Christ Church at 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 p.m. - traditional service • 4 p.m. - contemporary service • 6 p.m. - children's service & pageant • 8 p.m. - traditional service • 10 p.m. - Festival Christmas Eve service <p>Christ Church San Pablo, 2002 San Pablo Road, Jacksonville:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 p.m. - Family Christmas Eve with pageant <p>Vicar's Landing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 p.m. - Vicar's Chapel <p>Serenata Beach Club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 p.m. - Christmas on the Deck <p>For more information, call (904) 285-6127 or visit www.christepiscopalchurch.org.</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 carrie@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form, or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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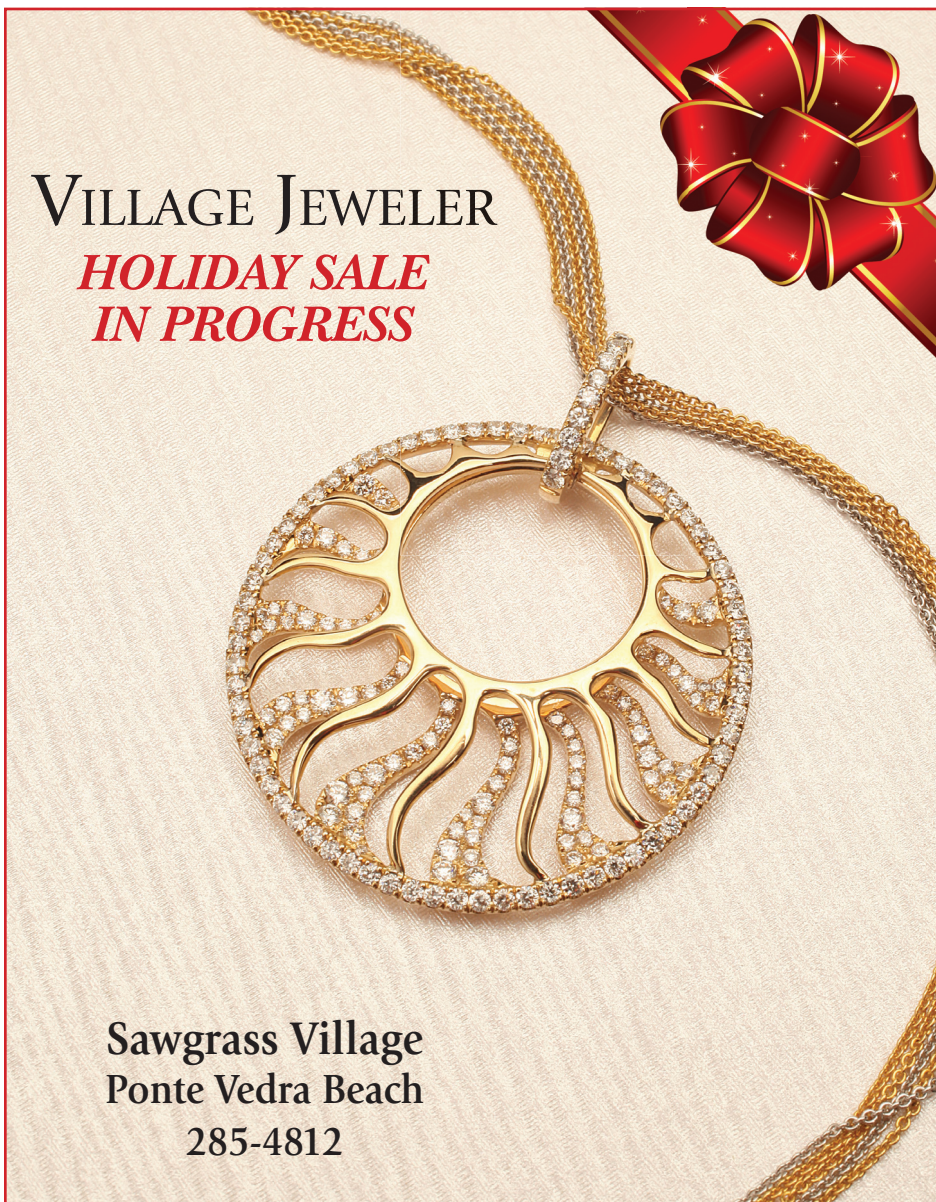
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SHORT TAKES

Jason Isbell to perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre

Award-winning Americana singer-songwriter Jason Isbell and special guests Shovels & Rope will perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on Saturday, March 5, 2016.

This concert date is Jason Isbell with Shovels & Rope's only Florida date. Tickets for Jason Isbell with special guests Shovels & Rope are on sale

now.

Tickets range in price from \$29.50-\$49.50. Doors open at 6 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box office, as well as online at www.ticketmaster.com, at all Ticketmaster outlets or by phone at (800) 745-3000. For more information, visit www.staugamphitheatre.com.

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Champions for Child Safety Pro Am raises more than \$150K

Community submission

World-renowned golf players and local teams recently came together to raise more than \$150,000 at the 18th Annual Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc. Pro Am Golf Tournament. This year's event, known as the MBF Champions for Child Safety Pro Am was held at The Palencia Club. The honorary chairs were Fred Funk, Jim Furyk and Mark McCumber.

"This signature event is very important to the Monique Burr Foundation and we are grateful for the overwhelming response and support," said Executive Director Lynn Layton. "Golfers, sponsors, participants and volunteers all came together to make this tournament a success.

Their dedication to promote MBF Child Safety Matters™, an educational program designed to prevent bullying and child abuse throughout Florida, is impactful to the safety of our children in Florida."

Since the Golf Tournament began, it has raised more than \$3.2 million for the Monique Burr Foundation for Children. This year's sponsors included: AT&T, Brumos Motor Cars and Mercedes-Benz of Orange Park, Club Car, The Vestcor Family Foundation, Callaway, GHG Insurance, Vulcan Materi-



World-renowned golfers and local teams recently came together to raise more than \$150,000 at the 18th Annual Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc.'s Champions for Child Safety Pro Am Golf Tournament. Pictured, l to r, are Lynn Layton, executive director, Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc.; Mark McCumber; Mary Katherine Fechtel, Miss Florida; Ed Burr, chairman and founder, Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc.; Fred Funk; Jim Furyk; and Ed Orender.

als Company, The Fiorentino Group, Glenn Layton Homes, RS&H, England-Thims & Miller, Hampton Golf, Green-

Pointe Holdings, LLC and Clockwork Marketing Services. To learn more about the foundation

and its mission, visit www.monique-burrfoundation.org or call (904) 642-0210.

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Author talks to service club about positive thinking

Brette Reiman
Community Submission

The Ponte Vedra High School Sharks and Minnows Service Club invited best-selling author and Ponte Vedra Beach resident, Jon Gordon, to speak to the children at the Rhoda Martin Af-

ter School Program this week. Gordon brought The Energy Bus For Kids and its message of positive thinking to the kids.

Gordon's principles have been put to the test by numerous NFL, NBA and college coaches and teams, Fortune 500 companies, school districts, hospitals and nonprofits.

The Ponte Vedra High Sharks and Minnows Club has 40 members who volunteer weekly at after-school programs at the Rhoda Martin Center and the Carver Community Center in Jacksonville Beach.

Pictured are Jon Gordon (center) with children who attend the after-school program, as well as teenage volunteers from the Ponte Vedra High School Sharks and Minnows Club.



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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, taken under NOAA research permit #15488.

First right whales of the season sighted

Despite the warmer temperatures, right whales have begun to appear in local calving grounds. This week, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission aerial survey team discovered two mother/calf pairs, one, Catalog #3317, close to shore in Ponte Vedra.

Right whale Catalog #3317 and her 2015 calf were sighted approximately 1.5 NM off Ponte Vedra Beach, FL on December 10, 2015. They are the first right whales seen off Florida this winter.

"Dust off those binoculars and get ready! The season is upon us and it's time to start looking seaward for those telltale signs," said Joy Hampp, program coordinator for the Marineland Right Whale Project, in an email this week. Hampp said the program expects to begin flying aerial surveys next week.

To report a sighting, call Hampp at (904) 669-8615 or call the right whale hotline at 1-888-979-4253 (1888-97-WHALE).

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Photo provided by Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

Cleaning up with the Rotary

Members of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach gathered on Sat., Dec. 12 to clean up a stretch of A1A. Cleaning up the road is a part of regular membership within the service organization.

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Nocatee Happenings: Spotlight on Del Webb Emergency Response Team

Volunteers save lives, lower response time

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

Despite planning and good health, it's a nightmare scenario that can unfold for anyone: a fall in your own kitchen. An accident while exercising outdoors. Chest pain on the way to your car. Whether it's a stroke, heart attack or major accident, health issues can strike anyone at any time—and minutes can mean heart damage, brain damage or even the difference between life and death.

One group of volunteers at the Del Webb Ponte Vedra community is working together to make safety a priority, and to respond to emergencies as soon as possible. The Del Webb Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a group of residents trained and certified in basic first aid, CPR and automated electronic defibrillator (AED) use.

"In an emergency, we want the first call to be to 911," said ERT president Susan Schjelderup. "The second call should be to us."

There are currently 68 members in the organization, with more waiting on training in order to join. Each member signs up to volunteer for at least one 24-hour period a month in teams of two. During their shift, the volunteers have supplies such as the club's AED as well as one of two cell phones. When a resident dials the ERT hotline, a volunteer is always there to answer.

The team's mission statement is "to train, equip and maintain a team of volunteers who can respond to medical and injury-related emergencies within the community of Del Webb Ponte Vedra after 911 has been called, or provide first aid if the ill or injured person declines 911 assistance."

Volunteers respond to any call for assistance within Del Webb borders, whether it's responding to an emergency in someone's home or an accident

on the community's pickleball courts.

"The Del Webb ERT provides a valuable service to their community," said St. Johns County Fire Chief Carl Shank. Shank and the county have supported the ERT's efforts through free training for volunteers. The support points to the fact that despite the community's proximity to the new Nocatee fire station, there is no guarantee that the staff will be available to respond immediately to calls from Del Webb.

"Emergencies don't happen one at a time," Shank said.

Volunteer Ned Billings explained that the team was founded about two years ago when one of the founders of the ERT had a heart attack while playing pickleball. He had to wait 35 minutes before 911 arrived, and another 25 minutes before he got to the hospital. Response times have improved with the new fire station — but there is never a total guarantee of safety.

"The Fire Station paramedics are highly professional and absolutely committed to getting to us as quickly as possible," said Schjelderup. "One of the challenges that we have is that people think that because we now have the fire station here, they assume that help will be there in under two or three minutes. But there are times when they are at the furthest end of the county or even perhaps in Duval County because they have reciprocal relationships."

That is when the ERT's role is most critical. Billings and Schjelderup said that other neighborhoods could benefit from a similar volunteer group.

"As far as we know, we are the only ones in Nocatee that have done this," Schjelderup said. To join the Del Webb ERT or for guidance on founding a response team in your own neighborhood, contact Susan Schjelderup at s.schjelderup@comcast.net



Photo by Kelly H. McDermott

Del Webb Emergency Response Team president Susan Schjelderup and volunteer Ned Billings show some of the equipment used by volunteers to help respond to medical emergencies.

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NEW SCHOOL ANNOUNCED FOR NOCATEE

According to an announcement from Nocatee this week, planning has begun for a new St. Johns County K-8 school in Nocatee. The announcement was made on Dec. 9 as St. Johns County School Board confirmed plans for three new schools in northern part of the county. The school site in Nocatee has not been finalized, but is expected to be identified early 2016 according to a release from Nocatee. The County's schedule of a Spring 2016 construction start date was also announced.

School zoning is reviewed every fall, before the school year begins, and many Nocatee students are expected to attend the new school. This school is the second K-8 school to join the community in recent years. Valley Ridge Academy opened its doors for the 2014-15 school year.

LAST MINUTE

Gift
Guide

A SPECIAL SECTION

Ponte Vedra 

Recorder

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader.

December 17, 2015





Photos by Carrie Resch

K9s For Warriors employees with Atlantic Coast High School students in front of their sponsored tree. The tree theme was inspired by Gus, K9s For Warriors founder Shari Duval's dog (pictured).

Christmas at Camp K9

Tree decorating event raises funds for K9s For Warriors

Carrie Resch
The Recorder

Smiling faces, hard-working elves and the Christmas spirit were all a part of the K9s For Warriors Christmas tree decorating party that took place Monday, Dec. 14 at the K9s For Warriors headquarters located in Ponte Vedra.

Over a dozen trees were sponsored by local organizations, businesses and even schools as a fundraiser to help support K9s For Warriors programs. K9s For Warriors is an organization that pairs rescue dogs with military men and women suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury or military sexual trauma to help veterans live healthy, independent lives.

This is the first Christmas that will be celebrated at the K9s For Warriors facility. The new 17,000 square foot facility, dubbed Camp K9, opened in May. Veterans in the program are housed in one of four individual homes designed to accommodate up to four soldiers each per three-week training session.

Tree sponsorships were \$5,000 per tree. Sponsors included Fletcher High School, Advanced Disposal, Lulu's



Tom and Cathy Kennedy and Dorthula Tillery decorate the Fidelity National Financial sponsored tree.

Restaurant, North Florida Sales, Prism Group, R&D Landscape, Fidelity National Financial, Black Knight Financial, Swisher and FIS Global, among others.

The winning tree will be chosen during the K9s For Warriors VIP Christmas party this weekend. The group who decorated the winning tree will win the rights to name one of the K9s For Warriors dogs.

For more information about K9s For Warriors, visit www.k9sforwarriors.org.



Jan Spoon, Gail Cooper and Alex Cooper decorate the Prism Financial Group sponsored tree. Cooper decorated the tree with small dog stuffed animals she found at thrift stores and rewrote the lyrics to the "12 Days of Christmas" to make the song dog-themed. The tree is also decorated with handmade ornaments carrying the names of rescue dogs that Cooper sold as a fundraiser, raising an additional \$650 for K9s For Warriors. "It was wonderful; I loved doing this," Cooper said.



PGA Tour employees decorate the Birdies for the Brave sponsored tree. Birdies for the Brave is a military outreach initiative supported by the PGA Tour. The program is a huge supporter of K9s For Warriors.

HOLIDAY ROUNDUP

Carrie Resch

The Recorder

The holidays are here and it's time to celebrate! There are still a ton of events going on to make this holiday season a memorable one.

If you're looking for last minute gift ideas, the Small Object Holiday Art Sale is still going on at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.

On select nights, the Seawalk Pavilion playground will be open from 2-8 p.m. featuring a seashell slide (weather permitting), a Craft Shoppe and concessions at the Seawalk Pavilion as part of Deck the Chairs.

And if you are feeling crafty, learn how to make homemade spa gifts or glass ornaments at one of the upcoming adult craft classes at the library.

In fact, there are several holiday-themed events taking place at the library.

If parents are looking for something to keep their kids or teens entertained during winter break, these events may be just the ticket!

Small Objects Holiday Art Sale

The annual Small Object Holiday Art Sale takes place from Dec. 4-28 at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, 50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach. Over 30 local artists will be displaying and selling their small hand-crafted art including handcrafted jewelry, glass work, paintings, pottery and more. All items are priced between \$25-\$350. For more information, call (904) 280-0614 or visit www.ccpvb.org.

Toy Drive for BEAM at Ponte Vedra Wellness

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center is having a toy drive for BEAM. Everyone is invited to drop by Ponte Vedra Wellness, 100 Corridor Road S., #220, Ponte Vedra Beach, Thursday, Dec. 17 from 4-6:30 p.m. Bring a new unwrapped toy and receive a thank you gift from Ponte Vedra Wellness. For more information, call (904) 273-2691.

ZOOLights

Thousands of LED lights will be on display at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens for ZOOLights, Dec. 11-13

and Dec. 18-Jan. 2 (closed on Christmas Day). The zoo closes at 5 p.m. and reopens for ZOOLights 6-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday. The cost is \$10 for non-members; \$8 for members. Other activities such as warm weather "ice" skating, train rides, s'mores kits and the 4-D Theater ride featuring "The Polar Express," are offered for an additional fee. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.jacksonville-zoo.org.

'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" will be performed on stage at the Limelight Theatre Dec. 11 through Jan. 3, 2016 with a special preview night Thursday, Dec. 10. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. There will be no performances Dec. 24-25. Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave., St.

Augustine. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 825-1164 or visit www.limelight-theatre.org.

Nocatee Farmers Market Christmas Festival

This December the Nocatee Farmers Market will feature the Annual Christmas Festival! Get into the holiday spirit while enjoying great local shopping and live bluegrass music by Big Cypress. Little ones can enjoy getting up close and personal with their favorite animals at a petting zoo too! Santa Clause will also be visiting and taking photos for families with any last minute Christmas wishes. Along with this seasonal and festive theme, the market includes over 80 local vendors offering items such as organic produce, herbs, spices, delicious unique foods, crafts, jewelry and more! Free face painting by Chet's Creek

HOLIDAY continues on Page 22

Shop Local on the First Coast

The First Coast has a dizzying array of local retailers who are lined up to make your holiday shopping easy. What's on your wish list this year?

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Jacksonville Zoo

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Jacksonvillezoo.com

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens sits at the mouth of the Trout River, occupies approximately 117 acres and has over 2,000 animals and 1,000 plants in its collection

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Shenyunperformingarts.org/jacksonville

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Pendant Savings Examples (Includes 14 karat rope chains)

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¼ carat*	\$ 450.00	\$ 382.50
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Accotink gives back with 'BYOB' food drive

Heather Jones
Community Submission
Accotink Academy by the Sea held their first "B.Y.O.B. Day" this year (bring your own bag full of food). Students and staff brought in more than 200 bags of food to support BEAM and The St. Francis House. In exchange for bringing in a bag

of food, students were able to leave their uniforms at home and wear anything they wanted to school. Students wore an array of outfits including their favorite costumes, jerseys, tutus, etc.
To learn more about Accotink, visit www.accotinkacademybts.com.




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Photos by Susan Griffin

From Left: Michelle Nemeth - FirstAtlantic Bank; Jasmine Hoye, Matthew Bennett, David Morgan - ADT Security Services; Donna Day - Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery; Kathleen Floryan - Ponte Vedra Club Realty; Christine Adams - Rogers Towers, P.A.; Janet Collins - Sawgrass Country Club; Brett Duncan - The UPS Store in Ponte Vedra

Merriment at annual Chamber Party

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted its Holiday Merriment Party this month at the TPC Clubhouse Champions Room. This premier networking event featured door prizes, hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Friends and spouses joined Chamber members at the event to celebrate the special meeting. St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Ambassadors also participated in the St.

Johns CARES Giving Tree initiative at the event. This benefits multiple charity organizations in St. Johns County, focusing specifically on seniors and medical.

The holiday sponsors for the event included Oceanside Cleaners, Rogers Towers, P.A., ADT Security Services, The UPS Store at Ponte Vedra, Ponte Vedra Club Realty - Kathleen Floryan, Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery, FirstAtlantic Bank and the Sawgrass Country Club.



Frances King, Alan Alday and April Hart



Isabelle Rodriguez, State Rep. Cyndi Stevenson and Michael Diaz



Brett and Liz Duncan, and Malcolm Anthony



Geri Price and Donna Day



Dr. Erika Hamer and Sam Ruiz



Michelle Nemeth, Margaret Babish and Tina Biron



BES students, parents donate, fill stockings

At Beaches Episcopal School this month, Ms. Hartman's "You Were Made to Make a Difference" students and many BES parents helped to fill stockings for the Salvation Army's Fill-a-Stocking Project on. "We thank all of

our families who gave items for this worthwhile cause over the past week," said Dallas Skornia, Director of Communications for BES. To learn more about Beaches Episcopal School, visit www.beacheseπισcopschool.org.



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Holiday

Continued from 17

Church will also be available for little ones, along with free crafts.

Hemming Park Winterfest & Food Truck Rally

Hemming Park decks the halls Saturday, Dec. 19 from noon-5 p.m. with food trucks, table vendors, kids activities and the arrival of Santa at 1:30 p.m. Hemming Park is located at 303 N. Laura St., Jacksonville.

Saint Augustine Ballet

presents 'The Nutcracker'

The 7th annual Saint Augustine Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" is Dec. 19-20 at the Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine. Performances are at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$25-\$30. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (855) 222-2849 or visit www.saintaugustineballet.com.

'Coney Island Christmas'

ABET presents "Coney Island Christmas" Dec. 4 & 5, 11-13 and 18-20. Showtime is 8 p.m. for Friday and Saturday night performances; 2 p.m. for Sunday performances. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$10 for children. The theatre

is located at 716 Ocean Blvd., Atlantic Beach. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 249-7177 or visit www.abetheatre.com.

'Christmas Carole'

Beginning Tuesday, Nov. 24, Bruce Allen Scudder's "Christmas Carole" will be performed at Alhambra Theatre & Dining. The play will be performed through Dec. 24. The theatre is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 641-1212 or visit www.alhambrajax.com.

Celtic Christmas

On Monday, Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. The Beaches Museum and History Park presents Celtic Christmas as part of the museum's concert series. Admission is \$20 in advance; \$25 day of show. The museum is located at 381 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 241-5657 or visit www.beachmuseum.org.

Deck the Chairs

Decorated iconic red American Red Cross Life Saving Corps. Lifeguard chairs will be on display at the Seawalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach throughout the month of December. The chairs will be lit every evening at dusk through Jan. 2. On select nights (Saturday, Dec. 19 and Sunday, Dec. 20

and Saturday, Dec. 26 and Sunday, Dec. 27) the Seawalk Pavilion playground will be open from 2-8 p.m. featuring a seashell slide (weather permitting), a Craft Shoppe and concessions. For more information, visit www.deckthechairs.org.

Winter Discovery Camp

Winter Discovery Camps at the Museum of Science and history take place Dec. 21-23 and 28-30. The camp is for kindergartners through fifth-graders and are designed to entertain kids while parents finish holiday preparations. Camps take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$60 per day; extended care is available for an additional charge. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 396-MOSH or visit www.themosh.org.

Ripley's Big Red Train & Winter Carnival

Hop aboard one of Ripley's Red Trains for a "lightseeing" tour of the St. Augustine Night of Lights displays around the city. Guests will receive a free pair of glasses to enhance their light-viewing experience. New this year; no-wait VIP tickets are available on Friday and Saturday nights that include a free carousel ride. VIP guests can reserve a time for the train

HOLIDAY continues on Page 24



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Photos provided by Pineapple Post

Prissy & Pop visit Pineapple Post

On Dec. 5, Ponte Vedra's own Prissy and Pop the pigs visited Pineapple Post in its new location.

"I never thought we'd host a pig event, let alone in our brand new store — but what a blast," said Pineapple Post owner Susan Hamilton. "The store was packed!"

Fans of Prissy and Pop drove all the way from Tallahassee just to meet them in person.

"And poor Santa across the street was all alone — But then even he couldn't resist coming to have his picture taken with these social media superstars," the Hamilton said.

To learn more about Priscilla and Poppleton mini-pigs, visit www.facebook.com/PriscillaTheMiniPig.



Holiday

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tour and skip the lines. Additionally, Night of Lights ticket holders can play a round of Prancer's Putt-Putt mini golf for a \$1 from Nov. 22-Jan. 5. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.ripleys.com/redtrains. Ripley's Winter Carnival will be open

Friday and Saturday nights from Nov. 27 through Dec. 19. The carnival features carousel rides, carnival games and free activities including family movies, visits with Santa, state shows, balloon art, popcorn and snow.

Nights of Lights

View St. Augustine's award-winning, stunning light display during the annual St. Augustine Night of Lights. The

historic city is decked out in thousands of white lights for your viewing pleasure now through Jan. 31.

Winterfest at Adventure Landing

The 5th annual WinterFEST takes place at the Jacksonville Beach Adventure Landing location on select nights and times now through Jan. 10. Enjoy outdoor ice skating, nightly snow falls, an alpine racer

ice slide, games, holiday treats and more. Call (904) 246-4386 or visit www.jaxwinterfest.com for the complete operating schedule and ticket prices. Adventure Landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach.

Teen Holiday Party

The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library, Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, is hosting a teen holiday party Friday, Dec. 18 from noon-3 p.m. All middle and high school students are invited to attend the party that will include pizza and sodas, video gaming, a White Elephant Exchange, board games, a screening of "Home Alone," and more. To participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift of \$5 or less. For more information, call (904) 827-6950.

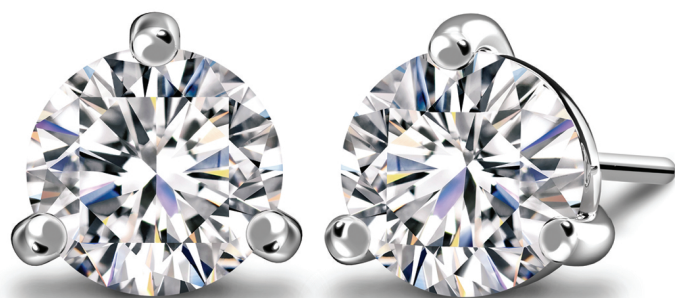
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Darlene from The Playesr Community Center with Rita Kornmeyer, Susan Knapp, and the Guild President Sharon Warner. Pictured in the middle are the quilts gathered for this year's donations.



Jillian Luciano, Angelina Buchanan and Kristi Kennedy from Community Hospice of Northeast Florida attended the event to receive the donation of quilts from the group.



Sherry Ayars, an avid quilter, hosts the group in her Plantation home each year.

Quilters make a difference all year round

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

The Ocean Wave Quilters Guild met this month for its annual Christmas luncheon. Each year since the group formed in 2003, the avid quilters of the group gather to present a special gift to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida.

The quilters create small quilts all year round to donate once a year. The quilts are then distributed to hospice patients locally, bringing a measure of personalized comfort and joy into a difficult situation.

“Before the donation of all these quilts this year, we have donated

over 1,200 quilts since the start of this guild,” said guild founder and Recorder columnist Bonnie Talley.

The guild also carries out a service project each February, joining with others in the community to create heart-shaped pillows for hospice patients at the annual Quilt Your Heart Out Day.



The Ocean Wave Quilters Guild.



Photos provided by the Ocean Wave Quilter's Guild
Lynn and Judy display a donated quilt.

Holiday

Continued from 24

Winter Wonderland Crafts for Kids

The Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Seagrove Main St., St. Augustine Beach, is hosting Winter Wonderland Crafts for Kids Friday, Dec. 18 from 2:30-4 p.m.

Kids can create holiday crafts and ornaments. The craft supplies are free courtesy of the Friends of the Anastasia Island Branch Library. For more information, call (904) 209-3730.

DIY Adult Craft Clinic: Glass Ornaments

Learn two different techniques for making glass ornaments to keep or give as gifts Saturday, Dec. 19 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 S., St. Augustine.

The class is free and supplies will be provided. Registration is required. To register, stop by the library or call (904) 827-6900. Participants are asked to bring a hairdryer and oven mitt.

Bingo for Books & Holiday Crafts

Kids and teens are invited to play Bingo for Books Saturday, Dec. 19 from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Hastings Branch Library, 6195 S. Main St., Hastings.

Crafting materials will also be available to make gifts, cards or holiday decorations. For more information, call (904) 827-6970.

Mark Alan Holiday Magic Show

Magician Mark Alan will perform magic show for all ages Saturday, Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. at the Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 S., St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 827-6900.

Cookies & Carols

The Anastasia Branch Library, 124 Seagrove Main St., St. Augustine Beach, is hosting a holiday event for kids.

On Wednesday, Dec. 23 from 2:30-3:30 p.m., children can come into the library to meet the Elf on the Shelf, watch and sing along with a shadow puppet caroling show and decorate their own holiday cookie. For more information, call (904) 209-3730.

Kids Holiday Crafts at the Southeast Branch Library

The Southeast Branch Library, 6670 US 1 South St. Augustine, is hosting a kids holiday craft party on Friday, Dec. 18 at 4 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (904) 827-6900.

Classic Holiday Film Series

The Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Seagrove Main St., St. Augustine Beach, will be showing classic holiday films from 10:15 a.m.-6 p.m. Refreshments, including hot chocolate and cookies, will be provided by the Friends of the Library. The movie schedule is as follows:

- “Christmas in Connecticut” at 10:15 a.m.
 - “The Shop Around the Corner” at noon
 - “Holiday” at 1:45 p.m.
 - “White Christmas” at 4 p.m.
- For more information, call (904) 209-3730.

Teen Frozen Wreath

On Monday, Dec. 21 from 3-4 p.m., teens can come to the Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond

Blvd., Fruit Cove, to make a wreath inspired by the movie “Frozen.” Space is limited; call (904) 827-6960 top register.

Holiday Movie Matinee: ‘White Christmas’

The Southeast Branch Library, 6670 US 1 South St. Augustine, will be screening the Christmas classic, “White Christmas,” Monday, Dec. 21 from 2-4 p.m. For more information, call (904) 827-6900.

Homemade Spa Gifts

Learn how to make homemade spa gifts such as sugar & salt scrubs, mini soaps and more, Saturday, Dec. 19 from 2-4 p.m. at the Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Seagrove Main St., St. Augustine Beach. For more information, call (904) 209-3730.

Holiday Craft at the Beaches Branch Library

All ages are welcome to come to the Beaches Branch Library Saturday, Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. to make a fun and easy holiday craft. The library is located at 600 Third St., Neptune Beach. For more information, call (904) 241-1141.



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Or make fighting hunger a part of your holiday giving. Give the gift of the best food and beverages from 50 of the area’s top restaurants at our biggest fundraiser event, 3Squares, at the Prime Osborn Grand Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Feb.25, 2016
 For more information and tickets, visit www.3squaresjax.com






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Jacksonville's finest to represent North Florida's restaurant, beverage community at 3Squares

Community Submission

Eddie Fink and his restaurant friends, who have been supporting the fight against hunger with an annual fundraising event in Jacksonville for more than 25 years, return to the Prime Osborn Convention Center Grand Lobby on Thursday, Feb. 25 with 3Squares – featuring more than 50 of the area's best chefs, restaurants, caterers and others in the local food and beverage industry.

Fink is proud to say that 100 percent of the proceeds from 3Squares go to Feeding Northeast Florida, a Feeding America partner agency in Jacksonville that provides food to more than 180 food pantries in 17 area counties.

"The response from the restaurant and beverage community has once again been fantastic," Fink said. "3Squares will showcase an incredible sampling of Jacksonville's finest, coming together to do a great thing for a great cause."

Feeding Northeast Florida President and CEO Bruce Ganger says tickets were put on sale in December to allow everyone to purchase them early as holiday gifts.

"If you're a foodie, or you know someone who is, it's really a great gift idea," Ganger said. "It's also a fun way to support the very serious fight against hunger in our community, where one-in-six people – 57 percent of them working families – struggle to put food on the table every day."



Fink is still finalizing the list of participants for the second-annual food and spirits gala, and expects most of last year's participants as well as new ones to be returning in 2016.

Some of the restaurants already committed for year two include: Aqua Grill, bb's, b the bakery, Biscottis, Bistro Aix, Black Sheep Restaurant, Campeche Bay, The Cake Shop of San Jose, Catering by Liz, Champion Brands, Checkers, China Mist Tea Co., Dos Gatos, The Fish Company, Foley Family Vineyards,

FSCJ Culinary School, GOS Fine Wine & Spirits, The Grotto, Gumbo Ya Ya's, Hawkers Asian Street Café, Intuition Ale Works, The Loop, M Shack, Mark's Downtown, Mai Qui Gourmet Catering, Matthew's, The Melting Pot, Mojo BBQ, Moxie, North Beach Bistro, Orsay, Ovinte, Peterbrooke Chocolatier, Pizza Palace, Ragtime, Restaurant Medure, River City Brewing Co., SAVOR/SMG Caterers, Sticky Fingers, Taco Lu, Taste Catering, Taverna, Tres Leches and Winn-Dixie/Bi-Lo Catering.

Local band The Firewater Tent Revival will return in 2016 to provide live entertainment.

Fink began supporting the local food bank in 1989, serving as a member of a local committee of chefs and restaurant owners who wanted to give back to the community. Fink is the committee chairman for 3Squares, Jacksonville Beach resident Bob Conrad handles graphic design, while Jim Mace, a member of the original committee in 1989, manages event operations and logistics. All have always donated their time and talents for this great cause.

"Tickets are always limited to prevent over-crowding and long lines, so guests are urged to get tickets early as we will not over-sell the event," Fink added. "The restaurants and other participants as well as the guests all appreciate this as it helps maintain the quality of the show."

All tickets include access to all participating restaurants and open bars throughout the venue.

VIP tickets are \$100 per person, and include a private food and wine tasting at 5:30 p.m., and general admission tickets are \$70 for 6 p.m. admission to the event. Tickets can be purchased at www.3squares.com, at www.Feeding-NEFL.org/events or by calling 904-201-4416.



Christ Church Nutcracker 2015

Christ Episcopal Church Nutcracker Ballet celebrates milestone 20-year performance

Carrie Resch

The Recorder

For 20 years, the toy soldiers have been marching, the mischievous mice have been menacing and the sugar plum fairies have fluttered in the sweet annual performance of the Christ Episcopal Church production of the Nutcracker Ballet.

The production, which over the years has continually entertained

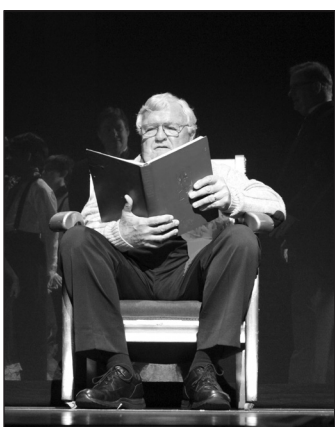
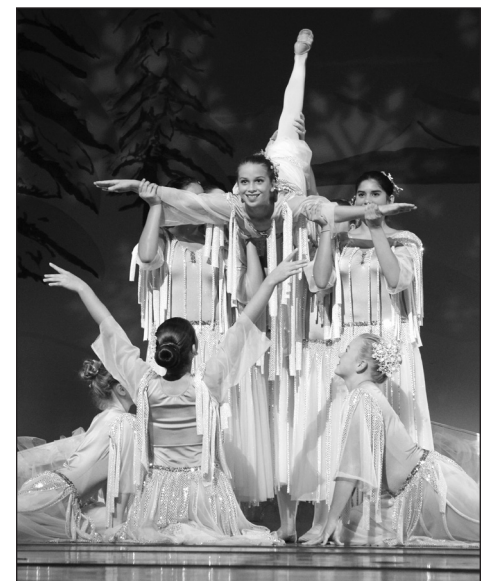
the community of all ages, also involves an all-ages cast, ranging in age from two and a half to 90-year-olds. This year's cast involved over 300 performers.

As part of the Christ Episcopal Church dance ministry, Felicia Rhoden, director of the Dance Ministry at Christ Episcopal, has fostered the congregation's penchant for dance and giving back.

Each year, the production,

which also includes fundraising events leading up to The Nutcracker performance, benefits children in need — some with life-threatening conditions. Beneficiaries include Dreams Come True, Community PedsCare and the Amistad Orphanage in Bolivia, among others.

To learn more about the annual performance, visit www.missfeliciasdance.com.





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Dock photos by **Peter Denoncourt**. Boat parade photos by **Wendy Patton**.



Tradition turns Intracoastal into parade of lights

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

Though the tradition continues come rain or shine, the Palm Valley Light and Boat Parade was graced with clear, mild weather for its 22nd year. This year's parade featured more than 20 decorated boats, all vying for the prize for best decorations — which will be announced Jan. 16, 2016. The parade runs each year starting from the Palm Valley Bridge, and many homeowners along the Intracoastal Waterway celebrate the tradition with brightly-decorated docks extending out to the water. This year, families and friends gathered on the shore to cheer on the boaters as they made their way north on the Intracoastal.

To learn more about the Ponte Vedra tradition, visit www.palmvalleylightparade.com.





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Palatka rally prevents Shark sweep

Jim Moyes

Special to the Recorder

With just one quarter of play left in last week's final contest, it appeared the Sharks were well on their way to a week's sweep and a perfect 3-0 record in district play.

However, the Palatka Panthers spoiled that idea by unleashing a furious fourth quarter rally against a Sharks team that ran out of gas in the game's final moments in downing the Sharks 62-55.

Ponte Vedra, in the opening moments of the fourth quarter, enjoyed a whopping 16 point lead, only to see the Panthers tally 31 fourth quarter points while holding the Sharks to but 10.

It was a disappointing ending to what had all the earmarks of a nice bounce back week after the Sharks pummeled Menendez last Tuesday in a district contest 73-43.

The convincing 30 point victory over Menendez helped atone somewhat for the Panther's upset victory over the Sharks in last season's opening playoff game that prevented the Sharks from advancing into the regionals.

The Shark busted out to a big 10 point lead at the end of the first stop and were never challenged by the Menendez team that was coming off a big win against arch rival St. Augustine.

Coach Bud Beech was able to substitute freely throughout the game and even his second five was able to outscore the Falcons in the second period to double the score over the visitors 32-16 at the halftime break.

The Sharks high scoring duo of Matt Johnson and JD Pirris then led PVHS to a convincing 26-11 edge in the third period by combining for 17 of the Sharks tallies.

Matt Johnson led all scorers with 20 points with his teammate Pirris close behind with 18 markers. Mike Nicandri was also in double figures for the winners by adding 10 points as ten Ponte Vedra cagers dented the scoring column.

The Friday night loss to the Panthers, in a game where the venue was changed from the high school to nearby St. Johns River College, the Sharks were doomed by poor free throw shooting and numerous turnovers.

After turning the ball over but seven times in Tuesday's win over Menendez, the Sharks tripled that figure with a whopping 21 giveaways to the relentless Panthers. Shooting a woeful 6 of 17 from the charity stripe also contributed to the Shark collapse.

Although he failed to score during the contest, the Sharks were also hurt

when their 6'7" sophomore shot blocking machine, Jack Johnson, had his minutes limited in the game when he got into early foul trouble. Johnson's 5th, and final foul, was converted into a Panther free throw with 2:49 left in regulation that gave the hosts their first lead of the game at 53-52.

The Sharks were held scoreless for the final four minutes of the final quarter, until they made a meaningless last second shot at the buzzer to make the final score 62-55.

JD Pirris led the Sharks in scoring with 14 points with Matt Johnson the other Shark in double figures with 10. Matt Johnson, although far off form from the field, did contribute eight assists and five steals in a losing cause while committing but 2 of the PVHS 21 turnovers.

The Sharks will have a full week's of practice this week before hosting Bartram Trail tomorrow night (Friday Dec. 18). Coach Beech is hoping that the Sharks can improve their shooting before they face the always tough Bartram Trail five. As a team the Sharks are shooting a poor 55% from the free throw line and an equally woeful 25% from behind the three-point arc, well below shooting percentages from the previous two seasons.

It should be duly noted that this is a squad dominated with underclassmen, with Matt Johnson the only senior in Beech's current eight-man rotation. Matt is averaging 16 points a game with a very efficient 63% on two point attempts.

In addition to the scoring of JD Pirris (17 ppg), Beech is confident that he will continue to see improvement from his sophomore center Jack Johnson, especially in the scoring department. Junior front court performer Eston Hensley has gone from a back-up performer on last year's junior varsity to a solid contributor to this year's varsity five with his rebounding and court presence, committing only four turnovers on the season.

Rounding out the Shark starting five, diminutive guard Mike Nicandri has given the Sharks some solid play after the first nine games of the season. Nicandri chipped in with eight points on 3 for 3 shooting from the field and committed but two turnovers against the tenacious Panther press

Following the Bartram Trail contest the Sharks will take part in the St. Augustine Christmas classic that will run from Monday Dec 21 through Wednesday Dec 23 at St. Augustine High School. Ponte Vedra begins their busy skein of tough contests when they tip it off Monday at 6:00 p.m. against John I. Leonard High School.



Elves Flight: Grace Jones, Shelia Hartman, Ana Leaird, Donna Fiedorowicz



Snowflakes Flight: Phyllis Mallard, Jan Sellers, Marta Smith, Suzanne Davis



Reindeer Flight: Gleith Mann, Cynthia Brink, Indu Sapra, Marge Monteith

SCC Christmas Classic results

Pamela Shelley

Assistant Golf Professional

Ninety-six ladies competed this year in the Sagrass Country Club Christmas Classic 2 BB Net Event on

the East West course on Tues. Dec. 8. In addition to the winning flights, Lonnie Smith and Terry Zebouni won the closest-to-the-hole on-course challenges.

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DEC. 19 FESTIVAL OF LIGHT: AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH MATISYAHU	JAN. 30 GAELIC STORM	FEB. 27 RICHARD MARX
DEC. 27 BUTCH TRUCKS & THE FREIGHT TRAIN BAND WITH BONNIE BLUE	JAN. 31 COLIN HAY WITH HEATHER MALONEY	MAR. 3 THE ZOMBIES FEAT. COLIN BLUNSTONE & ROD ARGENT
DEC. 30 DONNA THE BUFFALO	FEB. 2 MOON TAXI	MAR. 4 ROGER MCGUINN
JAN. 8 JOHN SEBASTIAN	FEB. 5&6 UNDER THE STREETLAMP	MAR. 6 FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS HAYDN & BRAHMS
JAN. 10 X102.9 PRESENTS SILVER SUN PICKUPS WITH THE DOG APOLLO	FEB. 9 YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND WITH TROUT STEAK REVIVAL	MAR. 18 THE JOHNNY CLEGG BAND
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JAN. 15 TROMBONE SHORTY & ORLEANS AVENUE WITH NEW BREED BRASS BAND	FEB. 12 MARTY STUART & THE FABULOUS SUPERLATIVES	MAR. 20 ALAN DOYLE
JAN. 21 THE COLLEEN & JOSH SHOW	FEB. 13 THE JAMES HUNTER SIX	APR. 10 FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS BEETHOVEN & MENDELSSOHN
JAN. 24 FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS DAVID BRUCE & MOZART	FEB. 14 DAVE MASON'S TRAFFIC JAM	APR. 12 AMY HELM
JAN. 27 GRAHAM NASH	FEB. 19 ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES	APR. 15 RITA WILSON
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Season honors for Penn State's Nassib keep coming

Senior defensive end will play in TaxSlayer Bowl Jan. 2

Mike Bonts

Special to the Recorder

Penn State defensive end Carl Nassib claimed another pair of All-America honors this week as he was named to the 2015 AutoNation Football Writers Association of America All-America first team and the ESPN.com All-America first team.

The selections are the sixth and seventh All-America honors for Nassib who will play in against Georgia in the TaxSlayer Bowl on Saturday, Jan. 2 at noon at Ever-Bank Field.

On Tuesday he continued to grow his list of All-America accolades with a berth on the Sporting News All-America first team.

He previously earned Walter Camp first team All-America, Associated Press first team All-America, SI.com first team All-America, CBS Sports first team All-America and USA Today second team All-America accolades.

Despite playing only four snaps in the last two games due to injury, Nassib leads FBS in sacks (15.5) and forced fumbles (6) and is second in FBS and first in the Big Ten in tackles for loss (19.5).

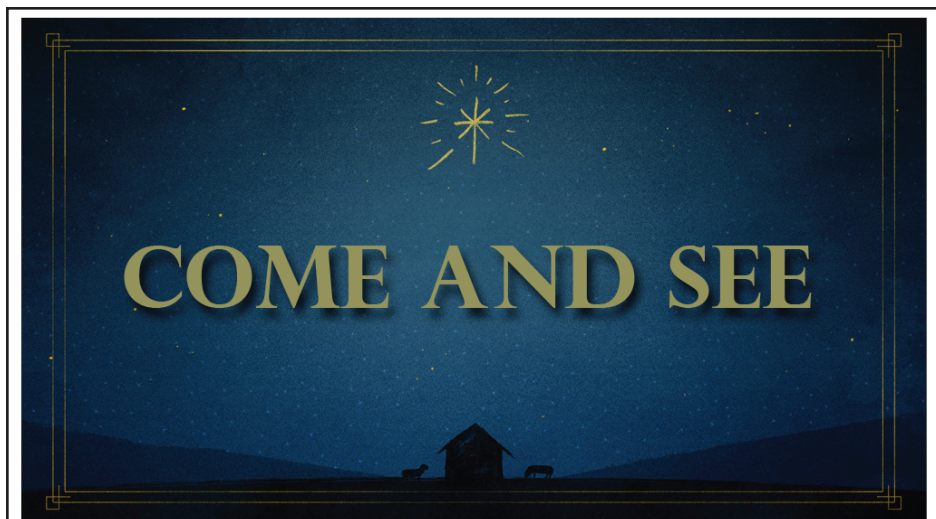
With one sack at Northwestern, Nassib broke the Nittany Lions' single-season sacks record by upping his total to 15.5. He surpassed the mark of 15 set by Larry Kubin in 1979 and Michael Haynes in 2002.

Nassib's six forced fumbles this season are the most by a Penn State player since Haynes had a school-record seven in the 2002. He is the first Penn State player to force two fumbles in two games in a season since Maurice Evans in 2007.

He was also finalist for the Burlsworth Trophy, the top player that started his career as a walk-on, and the Nagurski Trophy and Bednarik Award for the nation's top defensive player.

THEUS ONE OF GEORGIA TRIO HONORED - The Bulldogs had three players on the Associated Press All-Southeastern Conference Football Teams. Senior offensive tackle John Theus from Jacksonville was named to the First Team after also being included on the Coaches All-SEC First Team. Sophomore defensive back Dominick Sanders, who was on the Coaches Second Team, was also an AP First

HONORS continues on Page 40



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IN REMEMBRANCE



Joan Lee Roberts Brock

Joan Lee Roberts Brock, 78, and a long time resident of Ponte Vedra Beach, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 3rd surrounded by family, friends and loved ones. Joan was a beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. Her love of life and desire for fun was contagious and she brightened the lives of

those around her with her warm spirit and often-times her song.

Joan was born in Dearborn, Michigan on December 20, 1936 to Florie and Leroy Wilcoxon and was the older sister to Patty Wilcoxon Dillane and Carol Wilcoxon Ritea. She attended Southfield High School and Wayne State University, where she met the love of her life, Norman A. Roberts.

Norm and Joan wed in Dearborn in 1956 and subsequently had four children, Mark Roberts, Laura Roberts Goodijohn, Kathy Roberts Van Buskirk, and Matthew Roberts. Joan, along with her husband and kids, loved to travel, to read, to cook and entertain, to visit the beach, play tennis and golf

and enjoy time with family and friends. Due to Norm's busy career Joan became an expert at moving homes and settling her whole family comfortably in Michigan, Ohio, Texas, New Jersey, Florida, New York, and ultimately back to Florida again for retirement. Her humor and warm personality brought new friends in to her growing circle in each town she lived in.

After Norman passed in 1987, Joan was lucky enough to find another incredible love with Robert (Bob) Brock. Joan and Bob traveled the globe, shared a love of music and golf, and

spent many wonderful years getting to enjoy time with their kids, grandkids, and friends before Bob passed on in 2014.

Whether getting a chance to hold one of her young grandbabies, laughing at a funny movie with her kids, joining in song with friends, or beating her family with her mad scrabble skills, Joan truly lived life to the fullest. Her joy and spirit will be dearly missed by everyone.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the National Alzheimer's Association or to the Alzheimer's branch near you.



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Second half surge helps Jaguars throttle Colts 51-16

Club record set for points scored in regular season game



Most of the 62,372 fans at EverBank Field went home happy. It was the fourth home win of the season counting London and set a club regular season record for most points scored. The Jaguars' all-time scoring record is 62 points against Miami in a playoff game in 1999.

Mike Bonts

Special to the Recorder

Playing the Andrew Luck-less Colts, Jacksonville routed AFC South rival Indianapolis 51-16 at EverBank Field Sunday. The loss ended the Colts' 16-game winning streak in the division.

The fourth home win of the season set a club regular season record for most points scored as the offense, defense and special teams all got on the scoreboard. The Jaguars' all-time scoring record is 62 points against Miami in a playoff game in 1999.

Luck, the Colts starting QB, is out with abdominal injuries suffered in a win over Denver. That left it up to veteran backup Matt Hasselbeck who led the Colts to a 16-13 OT win over the Jaguars in October. The Jaguars kept their playoff hopes alive with Rashad Greene's 73-yard punt return that competed a 10-point swing and gave Jacksonville a lead they never relinquished.

Trailing 16-13 entering the second half, Jaguars' QB Blake Bortles threw an 80-yard TD pass to Allen Hurns. Hurns finished with three receptions for 105 yards.

Bortles had a record setting day with 250 yards in air and three TD passes including a four yard score to Allen Robinson and tight end Julius Thomas' fifth of the season. Bortles even scored on a one-yard run. Adam Vinatiera's 32-yard field goal was the most points the Colts could muster in the second half.

A close first half ended on two miscues.

The Colts' Robert Mathis recovered a bad snap in the Jaguars' end zone to give the visitors a 13-3 lead. But Andre Branch stripped Hasselbeck on the next possession and returned the ball 49 yards to cut the lead at the half. Branch was credited with four tackles and two sacks to go along with the fumble return.

Indianapolis (6-7) already led Jacksonville (5-

8) on Vinatiera's second field goal of the game, a 21-yarder with 13:47 to play in the second quarter.

Earlier the Colts tied the contest on a 25-yard Vinatieri kick with 7:47 to play in the opening quarter. Hasselbeck's 57-yard pass to T.Y. Hilton set up the score.

Hilton caught three passes for 112 yards in the first half and finished with one more catch and 132 yards. Hasselbeck was 18 of 35 for 252 yards with no touchdowns or interceptions.

Jacksonville jumped out to a 3-0 lead. Jason Myers' kicked a 46-yard field goal with 11:17 to play in the first quarter. T.J. Yeldon ran for 28 yards and Bortles completed a 17-yard pass to Clay Harbor for the longest gain of the drive.

YELDON AILING - Rookie T.J. Yeldon sprained his left knee Sunday. The former Alabama running back had 11 carries for 62 yards. He left the stadium on crutches. He is also dealing with a sprained right ankle and a groin injury. Yeldon's status will be updated after further tests. Denard Robinson would start if Yeldon can't play in Sunday's home finale. Robinson scored his first TD of the season on a one-yard run against the Colts and finished the game with 14 carries for 75 yards.

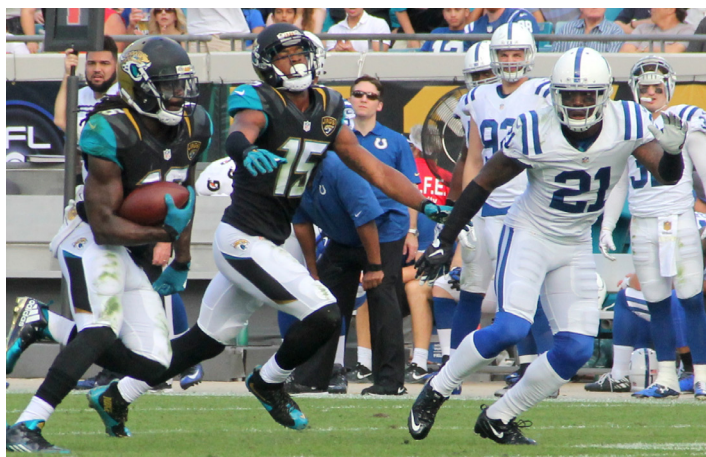
COLTS GAME NOTES: The Jaguars had lost six in a row in the series... Jaguars were 0-6 on third downs in the first half and finished 2 of 9... Blake Bortles had two fumbles in the first half... Jason Myers missed the extra point on Branch's TD, his seventh of the year and an NFL high...

UP NEXT: The Jaguars close out the home regular season against Atlanta Sunday at 1 p.m. The Falcons (6-7) were shutout by Carolina 38-0 in their last game. Jacksonville's final two games are on the road. If the New York Jacksonville at New Orleans on Dec. 27 has been moved from 1 p.m. ET to 4:05.



Photos by Nancy Beecher

Jacksonville QB Blake Bortles 80-yard TD pass to Allen Hurns was the longest play from scrimmage for the Jaguars this season and a career high for him and Hurns. Bortles has 10 touchdown passes in the last three games.



Jacksonville Running back Denard Robinson, No. 16, scored his first rushing TD of the season on a one-yard run in the 51-16 win against the Colts and finished the game with 14 carries for 75 yards.



Jaguars QB Blake Bortles had a record setting day in the 51-16 victory over Indy with 250 yards in air and three TD passes along with a rushing score.



The Jaguars kept their playoff hopes alive with the 51-16 win. The Jacksonville defense held the Colts to three field goals and Rashad Greene's 73-yard punt return competed a 10-point swing that gave the hosts a lead they never relinquished.

Life insurance can mean more than protection for loved ones

Most people who own life insurance don't think about it often. It's something they pay for under the assumption that the benefit will be received when they are no longer around. But when you own life insurance, you can go to sleep at night with the confidence that you're helping to protect the ones you love. And with certain forms of life insurance, you can also rest easy knowing that your policy is working for you in another way: growing your cash value.

Are you asking yourself how this is possible? It's simple. When researching life insurance options for you and your family, be sure to look at "participating" policies. These types of policies are designed to offer the potential to earn dividends for eligible participating policyowners. While not guaranteed, a policyowner's dividend typically reflects the portion that each specific policy has contributed to the surplus

of the issuing life insurance company.

Policyowner dividends can be received in a number of ways. Eligible participating policyowners may use dividends to purchase additional coverage, to help pay life insurance policy premiums, to repay policy loans and policy loan interest, or they can be paid in cash. With the option of using dividends to purchase additional paid-up life insurance coverage, the policy's total death benefit and cash value increases and the "paid-up addition" insurance is eligible to earn dividends in subsequent years.

A number of leading life insurance companies have strong track records of paying policyowners dividends, including Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual), a company that is run for the benefit of its members and eligible participating policyowners.

"The commitment we've made our policyowners is



brought to life through our annual dividend payout," said Roger Crandall, MassMutual Chairman, President and CEO. "Through nearly our entire history, our policyowners have received an annual

dividend regardless of what is happening in our world - whether it's through world wars, pandemics, market crashes, and most recently, a historically low interest rate environment where even

three-month Treasury bills are yielding zero percent."

If you want to learn more about life insurance options, please visit www.massmutual.com.

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PV soccer boys blank Matanzas

By Jerry Norton
The Recorder

Ponte Vedra and Matanzas, the district leaders, met for first place honors on Monday evening at the Pirates field and the Sharks (10-0) blanked the 7 and 0 Pirates 4-0. Goal scorers for the Sharks were Matt Fishman, Michael Bennett, Chris Howard

and Donovan Crowley.

Ponte Vedra took an early 2-0 lead on the goals by Fishmann and Bennett then Howard's header of a corner kick bumped the Sharks lead to 3-0 just before the first half ended.

Crowley's goal came off a penalty shot in a match that saw multiple yellow cards handed out.



Photos by Chris Norton

Honors

Continued from 24

Team selection. In addition, junior center/guard Brandon Kublanow was named to the AP Second Team. Kublanow started the first 10 games of the 2015 season at center before taking over as the starting right guard in the last two contests.

Georgia (9-3, 5-3 SEC) takes on Penn State (7-5, 4-4 Big Ten) in the TaxSlayer Bowl. ESPN will televise the matchup between the Bulldogs and Nittany.

ANTHONY TO BE BOWL HONOREE - Former Tampa Bay Buccaneer and Florida wide receiver Reidel Anthony will receive this year's Palm Beach County Football Legends Award for his contributions both on and off the football field. The award was begun in conjunction with the inaugural Marmot Boca Raton Bowl and first awarded to football coach Howard Schnellenberger. The 2015 Marmot Boca Raton Bowl between Toledo and Temple will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m., at FAU Stadium.

OUTBACK BOUND JONES GETS RAISE - Tennessee head coach Butch Jones was rewarded with a raise this week following the Vols' 8-4 regular-season and berth in Tampa's Outback Bowl on New Year's Day. Jones guided the Vols to back-to-back January bowl games for the first time since the 2006 and 2007 seasons while overseeing a pair of Top 5 recruiting classes. Jones is 20-17 in

three seasons with the Vols. Tennessee carries a five-game winning streak into the Outback Bowl against No. 12 Northwestern (10-2).

GAME'S SUDDEN IMPACT - According to the City of Jacksonville this year's Georgia-Florida game, hosted Oct. 31, generated an economic impact of \$35 million - a more than \$2 million increase from 2014. Nearly 140,000 tourists spent the weekend in Jacksonville hotels further enhancing city bed-tax revenue. There were 37,270 booked room nights and approximately \$3.6 million was generated in total room revenue, an increase of nearly \$200,000 from the previous year.

STATE BOWL SCHEDULE - Saturday, Dec. 19, AutoNation Cure Bowl (7 p.m. ET, CBS Sports Network): Georgia State vs. San Jose State; Monday, Dec. 21, Miami Beach Bowl (2:30 p.m. ET, ESPN): South Florida vs. Western Kentucky; Tuesday, Dec. 22, Marmot Boca Raton Bowl (7 p.m. ET, ESPN): Toledo vs. No. 24 Temple; Saturday, Dec. 26, St. Petersburg Bowl (11 a.m. ET, ESPN): Marshall vs. Connecticut; Tuesday, Dec. 29, Russell Athletic Bowl (5:30 p.m. ET, ESPN): No. 10 North Carolina vs. No. 17 Baylor; Thursday, Dec. 31, Capital One Orange Bowl (4 ET, ESPN): No. 4 Oklahoma vs. No. 1 Clemson; Friday, Jan. 1, Outback Bowl (noon ET, ABC): Tennessee vs. No. 13 Northwestern; Buffalo Wild Wings Citrus Bowl (1 p.m. ET, ESPN2): No. 19 Florida vs. No. 14 Michigan; Saturday, Jan. 2, TaxSlayer Bowl (noon ET, ESPN): Penn State vs. Georgia.



Photo Penn State Athletics

With one sack at Northwestern, Penn State senior defensive end Carl Nassib, (95), broke the Nittany Lions' single-season sacks record by upping his total to 15.5.



Georgia offensive tackle John Theus (71) from Jacksonville was named to the First Team after also being included on the Coaches All-SEC First Team.

Photo by Andy Harrison/UGA

Heart-healthy gifts for the holiday season

The holidays are almost here, which means you are likely deciding what kind of gifts to give your loved ones. If you have family members or friends who have been living with heart problems, the gift of health may be the best thing you can give them.

Fitness Equipment

Gadgets that track physical activity are great motivators for reaching heart-healthy fitness goals. A pedometer is an inexpensive stocking stuffer that tracks the number of steps a person takes in a day. A study from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that brisk walking is just as beneficial as running in reducing blood pressure and high cholesterol. A great goal in using the pedometer is to aim for 10,000 steps in a day (approximately five miles).

Another unique gift idea is a personalized yoga mat. According to the

American Heart Association, yoga can help reduce blood pressure, improve heart rate, boost circulation and build strength. If your loved one has already suffered from heart disease, yoga can help reduce the stress and negative emotions that can linger after recovery.

Supplements and Cookbooks

Another important way doctors recommend maintaining heart-health is through healthy eating and dietary supplements. Look for cookbooks that focus on recipes low in salt and fat and high in vitamins and fiber. To add a more homemade touch to the gift, create a personalized collection of handwritten heart-healthy recipe cards.

Stocking stuffers are meant to be small and quirky, so consider putting in a few dietary supplements like fish oil, vitamin D and fiber. Fish oil cuts down on bad fat in the blood and replaces it with omega-3 fatty acids that

are essential to heart health, especially for someone who already has heart issues. Vitamin D helps regulate blood pressure and sugar and can be used if someone doesn't already get the daily recommendation through food and sunlight. Fiber supplements lower bad cholesterol levels and help increase good cholesterol.

Travel and Fitness Packages

If you're looking for a gift for the traveler in your life, choose a trip package that incorporates moderate physical activity. A trip to a national park or resort with hiking and biking trails, a cruise with fitness classes or rock climbing are great options. For those who crave more relaxing vacations, a rejuvenating week at the beach is certainly beneficial – just make sure to incorporate yoga on the beach or daily walks.

A gym membership is also a great

gift to give a family member or friend, especially if he or she is having trouble incorporating exercise into the routine at home. Pick up two passes so you can motivate each other in making exercise part of your weekly routine. The American Heart Association recommends at least 30 minutes of moderate activity five days per week for adults, but working up to that goal slowly is recommended. Walking or running on a treadmill or elliptical can help lower cholesterol and blood pressure, while resistance and strength training help improve muscle mass.

Although heart issues are a serious matter, getting heart-healthy can be fun – especially when gifts are involved.

Dr. Anthony Magnano is a Ponte Vedra resident and cardiac electrophysiologist at St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside. For more information on Dr. Magnano and his specialty treating Atrial fibrillation, visit AfbJax.com.

Gathering, assessing during the holiday season

The holiday season is upon us and it is, for many, a time for families to get together and both celebrate the past year and plan for the coming one. In many instances, it is a time for children to assess their parents' health status, both physical and mental, especially if they live in a different community than their parents. That inevitably raises the question of Long Term Care and whether a need for care has developed.

These are difficult conversations for families. Naturally older adults treasure their independence and don't want to be restricted in their lifestyles. Yet, we all age and many – the statistics suggest 70% of those 80 and older – require some form of Long Term Care. The question is not whether care is needed but who will provide the care and how will the cost be covered.

The most common caregivers are family members – spouses, daughters or sisters are typically the ones who step in to carry the burden. While this is certainly a wonderful blessing to the one needing care, it often comes at a substantial cost to the caregiver. Loss of independence, physical and emotional stress and even job loss are common among caregivers. This can create real financial problems within the caregiver's family as well as the family of the person receiving the care. Also, if one's career is interrupted by caring for a family member, it is often very difficult to restart that career after the care recipient dies or requires institutional care.



Frederic Schilling
Columnist

While most people don't want their situation to ruin the lives of their loved ones, this often happens when financial resources are such that other options are not feasible.

That is why I have long been an advocate for owning some form of Long Term Care Insurance. Keep in mind, not all Long Term Care Insurance is treated equal. LTCI as it is known in the insurance world, provides reimbursement for long term care costs incurred in a variety of settings from the home to an actual nursing home and everything in between. There are even hybrids on the market that in the event that the LTCI is never used, will transfer into a tax free death benefit life insurance policy. LTCI provides peace of mind that, if or when the need arises, you can continue to be in control of your situation rather than having to impose on others, it helps in maintaining one's independence. People often complain about the cost of LTCI; I realize it is not inexpensive but neither are long term care services. For example, one year in a nursing home can cost \$100,000 or more. Also, if passing assets on to children and grandchildren is important to you, then consider owning LTCI as a means of protecting your assets for future generations.

Make sure that you are well educated on the various types of LTCI available in today's market.

So, as you gather with your family this holiday season, remember that the greatest gift you can give yourself and your family is independence throughout your lifetime without the necessity of changing others lives to care for you. You don't just buy LTCI for yourself – you buy it for your family.

Frederic "Ric" Schilling is a Florida native, born in Jacksonville, FL. Ric is President of Senior Guardians of America, a local North Florida firm specializing in tax reduction,

long term illness planning, asset protection, probate avoidance and life income planning. Ric is a National Speaker and Advocate on Senior Issues and has been featured by the Florida Times Union and WJXT, TV-4 in Jacksonville as an authority on Estate Planning and Retirement Issues. Senior Guardians has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and is a member in excellent standing with the National Ethics Association. Contact Frederic: 904-371-3302 or 888-891-3381 Please visit: www.seniorguardian.com

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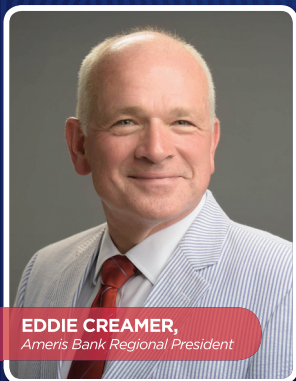
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Ghosts of Christmases Past

Bonnie Talley
Quiltlady

The mind is such a piece of 'miracle works.' How it stores memories can only be done by the ultimate Person greater than any of us here on earth. Yesterday I was having lunch with a friend. She ordered a 'ham sandwich, just meat and bread.' A clear vision of such a sandwich popped into my mind of years ago during WWII while aboard a Christmas train headed to Memphis, Tennessee with my parents to visit my oldest brother who was stationed there at a Navy base. I was not even school age, but can remember sitting crowded up between mom and dad so that we only used two seats because the train was loaded with Army men on what was called a 'troop train.' A man who worked for the railroad came through the train selling ham sandwiches for ten cents apiece for non-military

people, but free for the Army men. The sandwich was on white bread with a little spread of mayo and a thin slice of ham. We got small white paper cups for water at the drinking fountain at the end of the coach.

My having a father who worked for the railroad, we had 'passes' to anywhere we wished to go. This was great because my mom missed seeing my two Navy brothers so very much. One later served on a destroyer escort in the Atlantic after his Memphis training. My other brother was a gunner on a PBY in the Pacific. We rode the train to see him in Jacksonville before he 'shipped out.'

Riding trains was such a great way to travel. Sometimes mom and I would get a "berth" to sleep from West Texas to Dallas. If you've seen the movie, "Some Like it Hot" you know how the berths looked. We felt perfectly

safe once we were bedded down with only a curtain between us and the others above us or across from us. Wow, has the world changed that much? I loved going to the dining car where they had beautiful white damask cloths on the tables with sterling silver cream and sugars and salt and pepper shakers. I have found some of the old silver in antique stores with the railroad emblem engraved on them. Such treasures. The strange thing about this story is that both of my brothers returned home after the war and went to work for the same railroad where my father had worked. They became executives in the company before they retired.

The last train I rode on was called a 'local train' in Italy this past September that stopped at each village of Cinque Terre. A few years ago, I rode the train through the 'Chunnel' from

London to Paris. I kept my eyes closed the whole time since I am so claustrophobic. I didn't want to think about being under the English Channel! The super train in Japan that goes at lightning speed wasn't even fun because one cannot see very much at such a speed. We flew across the countryside. I could see Mount Fuji, however. I've ridden a train from Bergen, Norway to Oslo in the snow. That was awesome. Any tour that advertises a train ride, I am game for that.

I've made quite a collection of fabrics with railroad memorabilia. "Feature fabrics" are fun to collect. Golf fabrics, sailing fabrics, are great theme fabrics. Walking through a fabric store, I can spot one of those in a heartbeat. Making children's quilts with these fabrics are always a hit with them. You might want to start your own collection of theme fabrics for future use. Keep fab-



rics stored behind closed doors to keep the light from fading them. I have a friend in Texas who stores her fabrics in the trunk of her car so that her husband has no idea how much fabric she has; now, that is funny. I have to confess that I once stored fabrics in a bathtub for several months until a houseguest was coming and it had to be moved! Mercy! Confession is good for the soul.

Pictured is a beautiful hand embroidered apron featured in the Prato Textile Museum in Italy. If we start now, we might be able to do something like this for next Christmas. Just joking. This is a masterpiece, for sure.

Clearing the fog on life insurance cash value

Unlike term life insurance, which pays a death benefit if you die sometime within the policy's term, permanent life insurance, such as whole life insures you no matter when you die, as long as you make the necessary premiums payments. Permanent life insurance features a "cash account" that builds value. The cash value is nothing more than a feature of a permanent policy in which your premium covers your death benefit, but the excess amount builds up cash to potentially be used for some things, including paying your premiums. Keep in mind that your cash value will be minimal in the first few years as most of your money is eaten up after the company deducts expenses, commissions to the agent, etc.

Let's Assume that Lucy died, and she was the owner and insured of a \$500,000 life insurance policy that had a cash value of \$75,000. Lucy named Harry and Vickie as the beneficiaries of the policy. Do Harry and Vickie receive just the face amount of \$500,000 or do they receive the face amount plus the cash value (\$575,000)? Contrary to what many policy owners and beneficiaries understand, the cash value in any life insurance policy normally does not belong to the owner of the policy. Instead, it is an asset of the insurance company, which they use to pay the death claim. However, if Lucy's policy is cancelled, the cash value in the policy belongs to Lucy under the terms of the policy's "non-forfeiture" clause. Thus, in the above example, the beneficiaries forfeit the cash value and only receive the \$500,000 death benefit. If you buy a permanent life insurance policy, and your agent tells you that your benefi-



Harry Pappas
Columnist

ciaries receive both the death benefit and cash value, they had better inform you that you would pay an additional fee for this privilege. Said another way; there is no free lunch.

As you might suspect it is normally a complete waste of money to accumulate a lot of cash value, only to have it go to the life insurance company when you die. You are 100% correct, which leads me to this sarcastic comment that I explain to permanent policy holders; "If you let me know when you will die, I will design your cash value life insurance policy to have one dollar of cash value on the day you pass away, thus saving you potentially thousands of dollars." All kidding aside, dying with a large cash value is one of the biggest mistakes policy owners make, but nobody tells them any different. Of course, since nobody knows when one will die, it can be quite tricky to effectively manage the cash value. It is a bit of a balancing act.

If you are older, and you have a large amount of cash value that you probably will not touch, it could behoove you to consider using the cash value to purchase a paid-up policy with a higher death benefit. This way, you will provide your beneficiary with a larger death benefit, and your cash value will not go to waste. Other than not managing your cash value properly, there

are four additional ways to cause havoc with your life insurance policy:

Not telling your beneficiaries that you have a life insurance policy(s).

Not naming the appropriate beneficiaries.

Not asking for an annual inforce illustration (see below.)

Repeatedly withdrawing money from the cash value of your life insurance policy.

How healthy is your life insurance policy? Cancelled

A permanent life insurance policy should never be purchased and shoved into a filing cabinet never to be looked at again. Quite the contrary, your policy should be monitored and managed on a regular basis. I recommend that one review their cash value policies annually by taking advantage of a complimentary "inforce illustration", which is a snapshot of your insurance policy in its current position. Moreover, you will learn what you might expect in the future from your policy, both from a guaranteed and projected vantage point. Inforce illustrations are enormously essential tools for evaluating the performance of your policy over time.

Many policy owners are sitting on a ticking time bomb, and they do not know it. For various reasons, one's policy may not be performing as expected. The concern is not so much the creditworthiness of the insurance company, but rather the annual premiums may not be sufficient to maintain the policy given the current economic environment. There are plenty of unfortunate and very sad stories where longtime

policyholders receive an unexpected letter from their insurance company informing them that they must send in additional money to keep their policy in force. Regrettably, many of these unhappy policy owners have to cancel the policy (lose the death benefit) because they cannot afford the additional premium.

As you might expect, insurance companies defend themselves by saying that the terms of policy are "clearly" spelled out in the initial policy contract. In addition, they remind their policy owners that they mail a yearly statement that includes the premiums and the account value. According to results from many surveys policy owners do not read life insurance contracts. While it is certainly no justification or even a good excuse, policy owners buy life insurance, whether term or permanent, put it in a drawer and never hear from their agent again. It is paramount that you give your permanent life insurance policy (cash value) an annual check-up. The best way to accomplish this is with an in force illustration. Do not be afraid to call your agent and pepper them with questions. Moreover, do not quit until you are satisfied with the answers. You can always go directly to the service center of the insurance company. Bottom line; you must know the health of your life insurance policy.

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"Git along little doggie?" No. I must "Git along."

If I am enjoying a good book at 4:00 p.m., forget it. My furry wonderment will bounce up her doggie stairs to check me out. She'll plant her face an inch from mine, smile, wag her tail and march in place until I respond to her. "Git along little Mommy. Find your bookmark," Lily is saying. "It's time for my treat. Follow me into the kitchen." Today The Wright Brothers (David McCullough) will have to wait.

Most pets are super-aware of the passing of time. Laptop, my cat, will let me know it's time for her second meal of the day, but she's less proactive than Lily. She, too, needs attention at four, but I think she somehow bribes the dog to do the work of getting me moving. SHE can't be bothered and enjoys watching the dog make a fool of herself. But when I rise and go into the kitchen, the cat races through the



Mims Cushing
By the Way...

house and goes to her "FEED ME" spot, giving me a glassy stare then marching in place until I feed her.

I started giving Lily a treat when I began feeding Laptop her dinner at four p.m., and felt sorry

for the dog. Lily eats her main meal at noon, so years ago I began to give her a small goodie in the afternoon. It could be a few miniature healthy-baked cookies from a farmer's market, a "Greenie," or a doggie-style bacon strip. And sometimes, when it's been raining all day long and her boredom is palpable, I'll give her a special bully stick that lasts for days.

Are we slaves to our dogs? No kidding. Just walk into a pet store and check out the 100s, maybe 1,000s of items of clothing, pet toys and food. We must now review every dog item that goes into an animal's mouth. God forbid it should come from China. Wish I were as careful with what I eat.

If you are looking for a Christmas present for your pooch, here's something that might help. In a recent issue of The New York Times Sunday Magazine, in an article called "Take Two: A Dual Review of What's New," we learn we can buy a webcam object that owners of pets can use to remotely feed their pet: it's a Doggy Treat Cam Dispenser, much like a Pez machine. No, it's not on a timer. The owner simply presses a spot on the machine and a dog (or I guess a cat) treat releases itself onto the floor. What a gimmick! The dog's "master" can see the

animal on this machine, speak to it, take its picture, and send off a treat. Look it up on petzi.com.

In the same article, I learned of a furry abridgment of Pride and Prejudice. The main characters? Guinea pigs. It was called "Romance for Rodents." (\$13, bloomsbury.com) Salman Rushdie commented that this might be the definitive version of P & P. He suggested War and Peace might be similarly shortened, "as a service to mankind." Bear Grylls, the British survivalist and adventurer, commented that he's eaten many rodents over the years, adding, "I've just had a desert mouse that I stewed in urine." Too much information. On the other hand, he also said he prefers sleeping in a \$700 tent to sleeping on a rancid camel carcass. Maybe he doesn't mind if the camel carcass is not rancid.

THEME: WINTER FUN

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ACROSS

1. Appear like a chick
6. Unit of electrical resistance
9. "____ the word"
13. Convex molding
14. Honey maker
15. Japanese-American
16. Russian author of "Dead Souls"
17. "C'____ la vie!"
18. English county
19. *Students' winter delight?
21. *Apres-ski site
23. Goose egg
24. *Snow ____
25. Olden-day aerosol can propellant
28. Post WWII military alliance
30. Lorraine's neighbor
35. Word of mouth
37. Drug smuggler
39. "____ a high note"
40. Orange traffic controller
41. Parting words
43. Bookie's quote
44. Like draft beer
46. Apiece
47. 7 days
48. Made amends
50. Clarified butter
52. Like martini or humor
53. Justice's garb
55. A late time of life
57. *He stole

DOWN

1. The _____, Washington's offensive line, 1980s-90s
2. Shakespeare's hometown river
3. A meal order for takeout
4. Pierrot or Harlequin, e.g.
5. _____, as in breath
6. Be obedient
7. "For ____ a jolly..."
8. Subway in Paris
9. Japanese soup
10. Brezhnev's country
11. Track event
12. Half dozen
15. Get cozy
20. Remember this battle site!
22. Baseball stat
24. Autumn attraction
60. *Frosty, e.g.
64. ____ profundo
65. Tropical American cuckoo
67. Index and middle fingers extended
68. Furiously angry
69. Container for liquids
70. Island off Manhattan
71. "Lights out" signal
72. Weary traveler's destination
73. *Toboggans

SUDOKU

	1			8				6
			4			7		
		7						3
7								9
			6			1		
9			1			5		
3	8		5			4		
					3	2		
1		6		2	9			

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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.

25. *Popular hot winter beverage
26. Can be hot or cold, according to meteorologists
27. Ann Patchett's novel "Bel ____"
29. *Donut-shaped sled
31. *Chionophobia is fear or dislike of this
32. Supplemented
33. Computer programmer
34. Glorify
36. With little fat
38. Make a sketch
42. "Two and a Half Men" star
45. Popular anise-flavored liqueur
49. *He's busy during cold and flu season
51. Runs off
54. Indian vegetable fritter
56. Inhabit
57. Greek personification of Earth
58. Invitation request
59. a.k.a. The Islamic State
60. *Capricorn or Aquarius
61. Tom, not Tabby
62. Battery fluid
63. Famed loch
64. Club alternative
66. Mother Teresa, e.g.

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community church

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10:45 Second Service
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10:45 Second Service
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