

# Ponte Vedra Recorder



December 1, 2016  
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75 cents

*Not your average newspaper, not your average reader*

PonteVedraRecorder.com



## Senior Living Guide

Featuring special  
Holiday Showcase  
Page 15



## Sharks head to semi-finals

Page 40



## First Coast Register

INSIDE

# BRINGING HOME THE GOLD



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Olympic gold medalist and Ponte Vedra Beach native Ryan Murphy poses with students at his alma mater during a visit to The Bolles School last week. Read more on page 4.

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-Franklin D. Roosevelt



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# INSIDE

## Calendar

Pages 8-9

## Senior Living

Pages 15-34

## Business Weekly

Pages 35-39

## Sports

Pages 40-43

# Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. E-mail submissions to **pvrecorder@opcfla.com** or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



Visit our website at **www.pontevedrarecorder.com**

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

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

C	L	A	S	S	G	A	S	M	I	T	E	
R	E	C	T	I	A	W	N	L	I	T	H	E
A	V	E	R	T	T	E	A	I	D	L	E	R
M	I	R	A	C	L	E	F	A	M	I	L	E
W	O	E	G	U	L	P						
S	A	N	M	E	S	A	B	E	D	E	C	K
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N	O	O	K	H	E	L	I	X	S	H	I	V
T	U	N	I	C	S	A	F	E	S	O	L	I
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T	A	C	T	E	O	N						
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E	E	L	S	R	Y	E	W	E	N	D	S	

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

## WHAT'S THIS?



### Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to **jennifer@opcfla.com** by Monday at 5 p.m.

All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

Three readers correctly identified last week's photo as Rosie True. Winner of the random drawing was **Debra Braschel** – congratulations! You may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during regular business hours.



Don't forget — incorrect but entertaining guesses might also be rewarded with a trip to the zoo.

## ADOPT A PET

### CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi, my name is Lilly and I am a 14-week-old bundle of kitten love. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. I love to snuggle and play with my cat toys while people tell me how pretty and cute I look! So, come visit me here at the pet center today! #35484



### DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi there! I'm Spice, a 3-year-old male dog who is looking for a new 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. Spice is HW+ so the adoption fee is waived and the Friends of the Pet Center will sponsor up to \$250 toward the treatment of his heartworms! Come visit us today here at the pet center! #34096

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.

## St. Johns County Pet Center

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

# ZOOLIGHTS

## Let It Glow

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Dec 16-Jan 7**  
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# WATSON COLLECTION



**ST. AUGUSTINE SOUTH**

**\$220,000**

This delightful brick home has recently been renovated with all new interior. Open floor plan with cooktop island in kitchen, quartz counters and more. MLS 854473

**Kathleen Larriviere 904.728.7059**  
KLarriv@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



**MAGNOLIA WEST**

**\$266,900**

Nestled in beautiful Green Cove Springs, this spectacular home boasts an open floor plan and spacious rooms. MLS 855178

**Kenneth Connelly 904.412.3401**  
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**SWEETWATER BY DEL WEBB**

**\$285,000**

Enjoy the amenities in Del Webb's 55+ Community, beautiful fountain and lake view as well as updated neutral interior. MLS 852035

**Gwen Templeton 904.652.9003**  
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**PLAYERS CLUB**

**\$565,000**

Entertaining is a breeze in this gracious pool home with a large sun room and wet bar that opens to the covered patio. MLS 822332

**Rosemary Jones 904.280.2817**  
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**Ponte Vedra Office**  
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Photos courtesy of Katy Murphy

Ponte Vedra Beach native Ryan Murphy won gold medals in the 100-and 200-meter backstroke finals, in addition to the 400-meter medley relay, at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Three-time Olympic gold medalist and Ponte Vedra Beach native Ryan Murphy speaks to an auditorium of Bolles School students in his first return to the school since he graduated in 2013.

# Ponte Vedra Olympic gold medalist Ryan Murphy returns to Bolles, expresses gratitude

By Jon Blauvelt

Returning to the Bolles School for the first time since he graduated in 2013, Olympic gold medalist Ryan Murphy told an auditorium of students Nov. 22 that his Bolles experience helped him respond to an unexpected wake up-call the morning of his first ever-Olympic race.

The three-time Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer learned he had a random drug test just hours before his 100-meter backstroke final at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. He would have to wake up 45 minutes earlier than planned and rush down to the lobby of his dorm to meet a doping control officer. The methodical 21-year-old from Ponte Vedra Beach said he had organized that day's schedule into 15-minute intervals – including when he planned to stretch and nap – and this drug test was an unwelcome interruption.

“This was a very high stress day for me,” said Murphy, a senior at University of California (Cal)-Berkeley studying business administration. “I had been training for this day as long as I can remember, and this doping control guy is taking me all different directions. I swear I walked a mile before I got to this place.”

Yet in that moment, Murphy remembered this wasn't the first time he had been forced into an uncomfortable situation.

“Bolles put us in a lot of uncomfortable situations,” he said. “It's not an easy school: You're swamped, there's home-



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

After addressing the Bolles students, Murphy took photos and selfies with every student that approached him, including this class of fifth graders.

work all the time and stress is through the roof a lot of the time. That's no different than being in the Olympics.”

Murphy found solace in that experience and proceeded to win that day's race and the 200-meter backstroke final later in the week. He was also a member of the gold medal winning 400-meter medley relay team that included Michael Phelps, Nathan Adrian and Cody Miller – a race in which Murphy set the world record for the 100-meter backstroke.

Murphy spent the next 30 minutes

engaging with wide-eyed students, answering their questions and then posing for photos with every student who approached him.

“Can I just shake your hand?” asked a fifth grade boy to his new hero. “I'll never wash my hands again!”

For Murphy, it wasn't important for him to be that larger than life figure; it was important for him to give back to the people that have supported him along his journey.

“I don't want them to think of me as this big superstar,” he said. “I want them

to think of me as a nice guy they can talk to. I wanted to engage with them a little bit more than just having a free-formed speech. I think that's pretty consistent with the brand I'm trying to build.”

Murphy answered questions ranging from what it was like to swim with his idol Michael Phelps to his favorite pump-up music and whether he received any demerits at Bolles – just a few, he said with a laugh. He also spoke about the whirlwind that has been the past few months and his goals for improvement moving forward.

“There are definitely improvements for me to make,” he said. “That's kind of the addiction of swimming. You're striving for perfection in a sport where it's almost impossible to reach perfection.”

Both students and media members inquired about his future plans, to which Murphy jokingly replied that he has retired. All jokes aside, Murphy said he plans to continue swimming competitively after he graduates from college in December 2017.

He also reflected fondly on his favorite memories at Bolles – where he was the 2013 national high school swimmer of the year and a 15-time Florida High School Class 1A state champion – and credited the college prep school with propelling him to where he is today.

“Bolles has been incredible for me,” he said. “I don't think I would have been on this stage without Bolles. Being able to come back here and talk to some of the students, it was really special to me.”

# Ponte Vedra organization surprises special needs family with new van

By Jon Blauvelt

Suzanne Free lowered the wheelchair accessible ramp of her 1993 Ford Ecoline, using a stick to prod the safety lever into place so that she could push her 18-year-old son Anthony up the wobbly, rusty incline. As he neared the peak of the ramp, Suzanne helped her son duck his head beneath the top of the vehicle and secured him within his wheelchair a few feet behind her own seat.

After climbing behind the wheel, Suzanne turned the key of the van and heard a familiar clicking sound. The van's battery was dead, and not for the first time.

"It's been giving me some troubles lately," said a chuckling Suzanne, who lives with Anthony in Jacksonville. "Every day is a challenge. Every day is an adventure."

Anthony, who lives with cerebral palsy, sat in the back of the van in his wheelchair as the clicking sound continued and then watched his mom work to jump the vehicle. They would be late, again, for what they believed was a lunch date with Suzanne's physical therapist at

Aqua Grill in Ponte Vedra Beach.

These few minutes represented a vicious cycle for Suzanne. Anthony's safety was in jeopardy in this van, and she knew it. Little did she know, though, that this rather typical, frustrating day on Nov. 21 was about to transform itself into a rather exceptional one.

## A dream come true

Within an hour of jumping her aging van, Suzanne pulled into the Aqua Grill parking lot in Ponte Vedra Beach, expecting to see her physical therapist waiting for them.

Instead, to her shock and amazement, she saw a swarm of staff members from Board Meetings International (BMI), a Ponte Vedra Beach-based organization through which Anthony had participated in surfing days for disabled individuals. As she parked her van and got out, Suzanne was greeted by former Ms. Wheelchair America and BMI staff member Erika Bogan, who presented Suzanne with a shiny, new MV-1 van bedecked with a



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

**VAN** continues on **Page 10** Suzanne Free breaks the news to her son Anthony about their new MV-1 van.

# Episcopal School of Jacksonville Breaks Ground on new stadium

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville (ESJ) broke ground on a new 1,000 seat stadium Nov. 14. The new 8,000 square foot stadium will form the centerpiece of Episcopal's McCormick Sports Complex, which also includes Langford Track, Pajcic-Hunt Field and the Semmes Aquatic Center.

"Episcopal athletes are excited for this new, beautiful space, which will be reflective of the great student-athlete experience at ESJ," Episcopal Athletic Director Andy Kidd said. "The strength of our programs and growth of number of students participating in athletics will be reflected in the new design and facilities."

The new stadium will include offices, a concession stand and spirit store, meeting spaces, a new press box, a new weight room and boys and girls locker rooms and restrooms. In addition, the current swim facilities will be torn down and the swimming coaches' offices will move to the second floor of the stadium. There will also be a second-story, covered observation deck, where spectators can watch the swimming action at the Semmes Aquatic Center from a shaded, overhead vantage point.



Photo by Laura Evans

**Episcopal's athletes visit the existing stadium one last time before its demolition. The incoming 8,000 square foot stadium is the centerpiece of the school's "Lead the Way" campaign to build new, cutting-edge athletic facilities.**

Episcopal fields 66 teams supported by 150 coaches each year. In addition to student athletes, ESJ summer camps and the school's Amberjax swimming program

use the sports complex almost every day of the year.

Episcopal has raised \$14.4 million of the total \$18 million capital campaign,

which also includes a new 12-court USTA tennis facility, field house and lighted playing fields on the school's Knight campus.

*As a sales advisor and outreach coordinator for Camellia at Deerwood, Victoria Proctor helps families decide whether the Jacksonville senior living community is a good fit for their desired lifestyle. She lives in Ponte Vedra Beach with her three sons, one of whom attends college in Gainesville.*

## Victoria Proctor

By Jennifer Logue

### What is a typical day like for you at Camellia at Deerwood?

My schedule varies every day. I spend a good amount of time on the phone each day, talking to seniors and their adult children about the many features and benefits of our active senior community. I give tours of the community, which often include a delicious lunch in our bistro.

I am the outreach coordinator for Camellia at Deerwood, so I spend time each week visiting doctor's offices, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and senior centers to get the word out about the availability of our independent living, assisted living and memory care apartments. I am also the line dancing instructor at Camellia, so you may find me teaching a class or dancing at our weekly Happy Hour!

### How did you come to start working with seniors?

I am a real estate broker with a bachelor's degree in public relations and marketing. When I moved to Ponte Vedra in 2006, the real estate market was really slowing down. I was fortunate enough to land a job in the senior living industry and found my passion. Working with seniors and their families to find the perfect community and apartment for their retirement lifestyle is so fun and rewarding. The best part of my job is once the resident moves to Camellia at Deerwood, I get to see them every day!

### What sets Camellia apart from other senior communities?

Camellia at Deerwood's focus is "5-Star Fun" – every day is a new adventure! Many people say that Camellia feels like a cruise ship that never leaves the dock. It resembles a concierge hotel with the 88 Keys lounge, first class library and game room with billiards, the Grand Pavilion Dining Room overlooking the resort-style heated saltwater pool, Primefit Gym with full-time instructor, and Palm Spa.

It's really about the people: We have an awesome staff who are focused on providing great service to our residents. The four-story community consists of 189 apartments, including a variety of studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments with full kitchens. Centrally located off Baymeadows and I-295 East, Camellia at Deerwood is a rental community, so no large buy in is required.

### What are the benefits of living in a senior community like Camellia at Deerwood?

There are so many peripheral advantages like security, transportation, not having to cook and or mow the lawn. But I think the significant advantages are that residents have so many opportunities to remain engaged in life, relationships and new experiences.

Our residents are able to go to on a variety of fun excursions each week to places like the Jacksonville Symphony, St. Augustine or Amelia Island sightseeing tours, or the Jacksonville Zoo just to name a few. Getting out and about in one of our passenger buses or our Cadillac is a great advantage for those residents who are no longer driving or would rather not drive, even if it is just to a doctor appointment, the grocery store or the bank.



Photo by Jasmine Marshall

### What sort of questions should people ask when considering different senior living options?

It really depends on the reason for the move; I try to focus on the individual's need.

Talk to the staff and current residents: Are they happy and socializing with other residents?

Is the staff friendly and paying attention to your questions? Does the meal plan, transportation schedule and social activities meet your needs and desires? Is the community clean and well kept? What are the care levels that are available?

### What brought you to Ponte Vedra?

A job transfer brought my family to this part of the country. I am a true beach girl originally from Southern California. I've lived in several amazing places, includ-

ing Hermosa Beach, California; Maui, Hawaii; Scottsdale, Arizona; and Salt Lake City, Utah. I spent many years land locked and was ready to return to the coast, any coast. The opportunity to move to the Jacksonville area came up and I jumped at the chance to get back to the beach. I feel very blessed to have found this slice of paradise called Ponte Vedra Beach!

### How do you enjoy spending your free time?

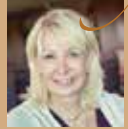
I love going to the beach and being near the water. I enjoy spending time with friends and family. One of the nice things about living here in Florida is the proximity to so many close, fun vacations spots, so I like to plan short getaways. I also love to cruise, and hopping on a cruise ship is so easy here. I plan to do a lot more of that in the future.

# A sample of our listings



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\$2,400,000

**9707 OAK HAMMOCK CT.**  
\$2,000,000 - 40 Acres in Deerwood

**MARINA SAN PABLO #901**  
\$1,997,000 - Penthouse

**25005 MARSH LANDING PKWY.**  
\$1,799,000

**Oceanfront**  
**349 1ST STREET, JAX BEACH**  
\$1,399,000

**117 TEAL PONTE LANE**  
\$1,100,000

**618 & 616 IBIS**  
\$1,100,000 & \$950,000 - Marsh Landing Lots

**132 CLEARLAKE DR.**  
\$999,500

**MARINA SAN PABLO #401**  
\$995,000

**109 LAMPLIGHTER ISLAND CT.**  
\$979,000

**101 ANTLER POINT CT.**  
\$949,000

**24412 HARBOUR VIEW DR.**  
\$949,000

**MARINA SAN PABLO #201**  
\$949,000

**New Listing**  
**7300 OAKMONT CT**  
\$839,000

**145 KINGFISHER DR.**  
\$699,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

**108 PALM FOREST PLACE**  
\$699,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

**Found Forest**  
**210 DEER COLONY LOT #4**  
\$695,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

**Closed**  
**4326 BLUE HERON DR.**  
\$599,000 - Sawgrass

**Closed**  
**153 INDIAN COVE LANE**  
\$593,500

**204 GREENCREST DR.**  
\$549,000

**5010 BENTGRASS CIRCLE**  
\$549,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

**450 ROYAL TERN RD S LOT #24**  
\$478,500 - Marsh Landing Lot

**Under Contract**  
**144 SEASIDE CIRCLE**  
\$389,000 - Seaside at Ponte Vedra

**Pending**  
**MARINA SAN PABLO #304**  
For Rent - \$3,300

**Wishing you all a safe and joyous holiday!**

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\$1,625,000

**New Listing**  
**225 ISLE WAY LANE**  
\$995,000

**REDUCED**  
**2921 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.**  
\$995,000

**REDUCED**  
**3115 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.**  
\$995,000

**2963 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.**  
\$945,000 - Fully Furnished

**REDUCED**  
**2503 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.**  
\$799,000

**New Listing**  
**2649 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.**  
\$699,000

**Pending**  
**325 S. OCEAN GRANDE #102**  
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**Pending**  
**13846 ATLANTIC BLVD. # 810**  
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All properties listed are in Ponte Vedra unless otherwise noted

**New Listing**  
**5238 COMMISSIONERS DR.**  
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**New Listing**  
**212 HIDDEN DUNE COURT**  
\$199,000

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Thursday, Dec. 1	Friday, Dec. 2	Saturday, Dec. 3	Sunday, Dec. 4
<p><b>River House Christmas Extravaganza</b> This festive holiday shopping experience will take place at River House, 179 Marine Street on Thursday, Dec. 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It features a selection of Christmas decorations, art, jewelry, books, purses and more. Guests can enjoy Christmas shopping at River House and as well as a visit to the River House Café.</p> <p><b>Holiday Artisan Faire</b> The Holiday Artisan Faire is set to take place from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Atlantic Beach's Adele Grage Center. The indoor/outdoor event will feature more than 20 artists of visual art, mixed media and jewelry; live entertainment with strolling violinist Beverly Chapman and free food and beverages. Among the featured artists are Bill and Jon Slade, Susan Carr, Kimberly Young and more. Beachside Buggies will be available nearby to transport visitors to and from the event. For more information, visit the event page at <a href="http://www.coab.us/index.aspx?nid=483">www.coab.us/index.aspx?nid=483</a>.</p> <p><b>Life Enrichment Day Retreat</b> Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra hosts a Life Enrichment Day Retreat every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 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) 834-7578 and ask for Ilene Thrasher or visit <a href="http://www.at-pontevedra.com">www.at-pontevedra.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Friend of the Arts</b> Become a "Friend." The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach recently reestablished a volunteer organization dedicated to supporting the arts. Get involved in the arts by joining a team of fellow art supporters in Ponte Vedra Beach. Help develop and support fundraising projects and help initiate special projects to benefit and promote The Cultural Center and the arts in our community. Over 50 volunteer art supporters have already joined. Make a difference in our community. For more information visit <a href="http://www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-the-arts">www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-the-arts</a>.</p>	<p><b>'A Campfire Story: A King is Coming!'</b> An original Advent Musical by Rachel Kamps-Huffman will be presented at Christ Episcopal Church Parish Center. This campfire tale lets audiences listen in on a well-known story from the angels' point of view. Listen to the angels sing when they know – lo and behold – a king is coming! "A Campfire Story: A King is Coming!" will be presented Friday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. in the second floor performance area at the parish center, located at 400 San Juan Drive in Ponte Vedra. Admission is free; the church will be collecting toiletries and diapers for friends at St. Mary's Mission and Young Life.</p> <p><b>Deck The Chairs</b> Deck The Chairs returns to Jacksonville Beach's Seawalk Pavilion for its third year in support of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps of Jacksonville Beach. This holiday celebration features lifeguard chairs aglow with Christmas lights in addition to the festivities, music and food trucks. This year's Shine Hope &amp; Peace Light &amp; Music Spectacular premieres Dec. 2 and will feature programmed music, animated lights and projections across the pavilion stage every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. No show will be featured on Christmas Day.</p> <p><b>Christmas Nativity Display</b> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will present an interfaith event celebrating the birth and life of Christ this weekend. The public is invited to attend this free celebration. To be held at the church from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 and 1 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, the event will feature an outdoor live nativity display beginning at 6:30 p.m. each evening. The church is located at 5490 CR 210 West in St. Johns.</p> <p><b>Coastal Wine Market Wine Tasting</b> Coastal Wine Market will host a Friday wine tasting Dec. 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p>	<p><b>Enchanted Christmas Village</b> The Keeler Property will be alight with Christmas through Dec. 31 with the opening of the Enchanted Christmas Village. Featuring more than one million Christmas Lights, the village brings together an immersive holiday experience for First Coast families. Guests can visit several attractions on the property, including a nativity scene, Santa's vacation home, ice sculptures, Santa's workshop and more. To learn more and to purchase day passes or event tickets, visit <a href="http://www.jacksonvillechristmas.com">www.jacksonvillechristmas.com</a>. The Keeler Property is located at 17255 Normandy Blvd in Jacksonville, Fla.</p> <p><b>St. Augustine Winter Spectacular</b> Experience the magic and excitement of the newest holiday production in the nation's oldest city at "St. Augustine Winter Spectacular!" This original production features different scenes that comprise a family-friendly, entertaining storyline following a child's journey during the holidays. Scenes will feature new and familiar characters in a variety of genres including ballet, tap, jazz, modern, acrobatics, kick line and musical theatre numbers. This event will be performed at the Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College on 14 Granada St. in St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 471-4946 or visit <a href="http://www.staugustinewinterspectacular.com">www.staugustinewinterspectacular.com</a>.</p> <p><b>'A Christmas Carol'</b> The Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre (ABET) will present "A Christmas Carol," a whimsical play within a play that presents Charles Dickens' classic story through the imaginative endeavors of its troupe. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 18 when accompanied by an adult. This presentation will run every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and every Sunday at 2 p.m. through Dec. 18. For reservations, visit <a href="http://www.abettheatre.com">www.abettheatre.com</a> or call (904) 249-7177. ABET is located at 716 Ocean Blvd. in Atlantic Beach.</p>	<p><b>Downtown Dazzle</b> The Jacksonville Children's Chorus (JCC) will present its second annual downtown holiday celebration by illuminating the outside of its downtown office, located at 225 East Duval St., with festive lights synchronized to recorded songs of the season performed by JCC. Holiday, Christmas and Hanukkah songs will be broadcast on 94.5 FM radio for onlookers to enjoy. Downtown Dazzle continues through New Year's Eve. Each night, 12-minute presentations will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude at 9:30 p.m. The synchronized lights are designed by Darren Hufty, who, along with Miller Electric, will bring the building and the downtown block to life. For more information, contact Carolyn Audije at <a href="mailto:carolyn@jaxchildrenschorus.org">carolyn@jaxchildrenschorus.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Florida Forever!</b> The St. Augustine Art Association presents Florida Forever! This juried exhibit features Florida's flora and fauna, history and happenings and people and places from past and present. To run through Dec. 31, this exhibit can be seen at the St. Augustine Art Association located at 22 Marine St. in St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 824-2310 or visit <a href="http://www.staa.org">www.staa.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Practice with Purpose at Big Fish Yoga</b> Practice with Purpose is an all-level yoga class offered on Sundays from 4 to 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 is located in the South Beach Regional Shopping Center in Jacksonville Beach at 3852 South Third St. For more information, call (904) 372-0601.</p> <p><b>Collection Tour</b> Join the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens on Sundays for a guided tour of its permanent collection. The tour is free with the cost of admission. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p>

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**Sunday, December 4th | 5:00 - 9:00**  
\$25.00++ Adults | \$6.25++ Kids 6-12

*Wine Class & Tasting*  
Celebrate the holidays with a Champagne Tasting  
**Tuesday, December 6th | 6:00 - 7:30 PM**  
\$20.00++

*Brunch With Santa*  
Enjoy brunch with Santa Claus as he visits us all the way from the North Pole!  
Advance reservations required  
**Sunday, December 11th | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
\$52.00++ Adults | \$20.00++ Kids 6-12

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Monday, Dec. 5	Tuesday, Dec. 6	Wednesday, Dec. 7	Thursday, Dec. 8
<p><b>WinterFEST at Adventure Landing</b> Jacksonville's annual WinterFEST celebration returns to Adventure Landing for its sixth year with a collection of holiday activities for the entire family. The theme park has transformed its Shipwreck Island Water Park and wave pool into a winter wonderland. Featuring attractions such as Blizzard Bluff Village, Crystal Creek Lodge, Santa's Workshop and Hologram Lights, WinterFEST runs through Jan. 8. For ticket pricing and operating schedule, visit <a href="http://www.jaxwinterfest.com">www.jaxwinterfest.com</a>. Adventure landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd.</p> <p><b>Ponte Vedra Woman's Club Luncheon</b> Join the ladies of the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club Dec. 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a luncheon performance by a musical group from The Florida School for the Deaf and Blind and an informative presentation by Tonya Rhodes. This event will take place at The Lodge &amp; Club located at 607 Ponte Vedra Blvd. in Ponte Vedra. Tickets are \$27 online at <a href="http://www.PonteVedra-WomansClub.com">www.PonteVedra-WomansClub.com</a>.</p> <p><b>PV Democratic Club Pizza Social</b> The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will host a pizza social Monday, Dec. 5 at Brucci's Pizza, located at 880 A1A in Ponte Vedra Beach. This event will take place at 6:30 p.m. The club welcomes all to socialize with local Democrats. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.facebook.com/pontevedrademocrats">www.facebook.com/pontevedrademocrats</a>.</p> <p><b>Travel Training Program</b> The Council on Aging's Travel Training program is designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. Residents interested in expanding their transportation options or who would like to increase their confidence as a bus rider can receive assistance from trained volunteers in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging at (904) 315-6505 or email Katie Arnold at <a href="mailto:karnold@stjohnscoa.com">karnold@stjohnscoa.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>Civil War Discussion Group</b> The monthly meeting of the "Understanding The Civil War" Discussion Group will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the Anastasia Island Branch Public Library located in the Seagrove Subdivision on RT A1A South. The topic will be "The Betrayal of Reconstruction." This meeting is open to the public. For more information, email Charlie Smith at <a href="mailto:smithc32@bellsouth.net">smithc32@bellsouth.net</a></p> <p><b>Tapas Tuesday</b> The Cummer Museum of Art &amp; Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday sponsored by VyStar Credit Union at the Cummer Café. Every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on the Cummer Café patio, take in the sunset while listening to local musicians with beer, wine, or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the café. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.cummermuseum.org">www.cummermuseum.org</a>. The Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Sunset Rotary Club Meeting</b> The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call club President Janeene Hart at (904) 412-5409 or email <a href="mailto:jwhart1208@gmail.com">jwhart1208@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Life Enrichment Day Retreat</b> Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra hosts a Life Enrichment Day Retreat every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 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) 834-7578 and ask for Ilene Thrasher or visit <a href="http://www.at-pontevedra.com">www.at-pontevedra.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>Nease High School Chorus Concert</b> The 85-member Nease High School Chorus will perform a complimentary program of holiday music at River House, located at 179 Marine St., on Dec. 7. Beginning at 10:30 a.m., this award-winning chorus program is open to the public.</p> <p><b>Project Atrium: Nicola López</b> MOCA Jacksonville presents the latest in its ongoing Project Atrium series with artist Nicola López's "A Gentle Defiance of Gravity and Form." The New York-based artist focuses on the reconfiguration of contemporary, urban landscapes. In this piece, López crafts a site-specific work of galvanized steel studs. "A Gentle Defiance of Gravity and Form" will be on display through Feb. 26. For more information about Project Atrium, visit <a href="http://www.mocajacksonville.unf.edu">www.mocajacksonville.unf.edu</a>.</p> <p><b>Life Enrichment Group</b> The Life Enrichment Group is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. This program is offered daily, serving Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call: 904-417-7354 or email <a href="mailto:life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com">life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Well-being Wednesday</b> During and after the Mid-Week Market in Bull Park, free well-being classes will be held at the Adele Grage Cultural Center. This event now features free Vinyasa Yoga by Kristen Huth. In addition to her Sunday classes at the Adele Grage Center, Huth teaches the community classes for yoga lovers of all levels. Instructors and speakers are encouraged to contact the department of recreation and special events at (904) 247-5828 for more details about providing the community with Well Being information/classes.</p>	<p><b>Yoga for Survivors at the Y</b> Share a restorative experience as an experienced yoga instructor certified by the Christina Phipps Foundation guides cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, and others with range of motion and pain limitations through a gentle and safe yoga practice. This free event is open to the community. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit <a href="http://www.baptistjax.com/ymca">www.baptistjax.com/ymca</a> to reserve a spot. This event will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center in the Ponte Vedra YMCA at 170 Landrum Lane. Classes run Dec. 8, 15 and 22 at 11:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Save Guana Now Meeting</b> Save Guana Now will host a meeting Dec. 8 to discuss fundraising events, strategize and share ideas concerning proposed development at the Outpost's 99 acres of conservation land. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at the Palm Valley Community Center located at 148 Canal Blvd. This event is free to join at <a href="http://SaveGuanaNow.org/contact-donate">SaveGuanaNow.org/contact-donate</a>.</p> <p><b>Nights of Lights</b> The historic city of St. Augustine comes to life yet again with its famed Nights of Lights celebration. More than 3 million lights will illuminate the city through Jan. 31, alongside holiday music and the lighting of the city's Christmas tree. For information about shuttles and parking, visit <a href="http://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/nights-lights">www.floridashistoriccoast.com/nights-lights</a>.</p> <p><b>Life Enrichment Day Retreat</b> Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra hosts a Life Enrichment Day Retreat every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For information, call (904) 834-7578 and ask for Ilene Thrasher or visit <a href="http://www.at-pontevedra.com">www.at-pontevedra.com</a>.</p> <p><b>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 <a href="mailto:jasmine@opcfcla.com">jasmine@opcfcla.com</a>, post online at <a href="http://www.pontevedrerecorder.com">www.pontevedrerecorder.com</a> using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</b></p>



**DECEMBER ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS**

To learn more about enjoying these wonderful events and membership in the Club, please call the membership office at (904) 273-7716 or visit [www.pvicmember.com](http://www.pvicmember.com)

<p><b>Sunday Brunch Buffet</b> Every Sunday</p> <p><b>Bridge</b> Monday's at 12:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Lobster Night</b> Every Wednesday</p> <p><b>Prime Rib Buffet</b> Every Friday</p> <p><b>Junior Golf Clinics</b> Every Tuesday at 4 p.m.</p> <p><b>Golf Pro Shop 12 Days of Christmas Sale</b> December 1-12</p> <p><b>Create, Decorate, &amp; Celebrate the Holidays</b> Saturday, December 3</p> <p><b>Book Club Meeting</b> Wednesday, December 7</p> <p><b>Member Appreciation Weekend Sale at PVIC Shops</b> December 9 - 11</p> <p><b>Holiday Hayrides &amp; Breakfast with Santa</b> Saturday, December 10</p>	<p><b>Gingerbread House Decorating</b> Sunday, December 11</p> <p><b>12 Days of Christmas Extravaganza at the Spa</b> December 12-24</p> <p><b>Italian Night</b> Tuesday, December 12</p> <p><b>Obagi Spa Event</b> Friday, December 16</p> <p><b>Holiday Sip &amp; Shop</b> Friday, December 16</p> <p><b>Elf on the Shelf Party for Kids</b> Saturday, December 17</p> <p><b>Holiday Movie Night</b> Friday, December 24</p> <p><b>Christmas Dining</b> December 24 &amp; 25</p> <p><b>Kids Tennis Holiday Camp</b> December 26-31</p> <p><b>Noon Year's Eve Party for Kids</b> Saturday, December 31</p> <p><b>New Year's Eve Dining</b> Saturday, December 31</p>
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**December Activities for Members**

Call 273-9500 for more information

<p><b>2-4-1 Mondays at The Sea View Grille</b> Every Monday Evening</p> <p><b>Wing Wednesday</b> Every Wednesday Evening</p> <p><b>Party Bridge</b> Every Thursday Noon</p> <p><b>Thirsty Thursday</b> Every Thursday Evening</p> <p><b>Ugly Sweater Happy Hour</b> Every Tuesday</p> <p><b>Low Country Boil</b> Every Friday Evening</p> <p><b>King Estate &amp; NxNW Wine Dinner</b> Friday, December 2</p> <p><b>Breakfast with Santa</b> Saturday, December 3</p>	<p><b>Gingerbread House Decorating</b> Saturday, December 10</p> <p><b>Kids Movie Night</b> Friday, December 16</p> <p><b>Hayrides with Santa</b> Saturday, December 17</p> <p><b>Christmas Eve Buffet</b> Saturday, December 24</p> <p><b>Christmas Day Brunch &amp; Prix Fixe</b> Sunday, December 25</p> <p><b>Noon Year's Eve for Kids</b> Saturday, December 31</p> <p><b>New Year's Eve Prix Fixe</b> Saturday, December 31</p>
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**The Frees in their new van**  
 Photo by Jon Blauvelt

## Van

Continued from 5

giant red bow and colored balloons.

“Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!” Bogan said.

In an instant, tears streamed down Suzanne’s face as she came face-to-face with the van.

“This is too much,” she whimpered. “You’re kidding me?”

For the last time, Suzanne opened the back door of her 1993 Ford Ecoline, lowered the ramp, used her stick to prod the safety lever and helped her son duck his head as he wheeled toward their new sense of safety and freedom.

“It’s a dream come true,” said Suzanne. “I never would expect this from anybody, let alone my friends because we all have our own lives. This is above and beyond what I could ever expect. It’s truly amazing that people care this much. God is great.”

### Anthony strong

For nearly five years, the Frees have been involved with Board Meetings International, which organizes family surfing retreats focused on experiential learning to bridge the gap between busy entrepreneur parents and their kids. Founded by two surfers, the organization typically holds a service surf session on the last day of

the retreat for their local paraplegic and quadriplegic friends. After surfing – and sometimes learning to surf – throughout the retreat, participants work with Board Meetings International staff members to help the disabled surfers. Anthony never misses a chance to get in the water.

“Board Meetings International is truly an awesome company,” said Suzanne. “Anthony is able to surf, and he truly loves going there. He can just be a typical kid for a day.”

At the organization’s most recent retreat, co-founder Jim Sheils said they learned that the Frees’ van was in rough shape. After discussion among the staff and retreat clients, Sheils said one of the clients suggested they work together to surprise the Frees with a new and safe wheelchair-accessible van. They were all in. Because Anthony flexed his muscles and said “Anthony strong” throughout that particular retreat, the Board Meetings team called the initiative the “Anthony Strong Project.”

Led by Sheils and his business partner Brian Scrone, the grassroots effort raised \$35,000 through social media and word of mouth in less than four months. Funds raised covered the cost of the vehicle along with related transport costs and tax-related fees.

“It was overwhelming to see everyone (come) together to make this happen, and witness the generosity from our clients, friends and family,” said Sheils. “No one deserves this more than Suzanne and Anthony.”

Scrone echoed Sheils’ sentiments and said their team was honored and humbled to help the Frees.

“We have been blessed to see Anthony grow over the last few years from a young boy into a beautiful man, and his mother is an unsung hero,” he said. “The amount of care and unconditional love Suzanne gives Anthony, and always with a smile on her face, is awe inspiring for any parent.”

As Suzanne pushed Anthony up the ramp of the new van and secured him inside, she looked to her right and found comfort that her son was seated right next to her instead of a few feet behind.

“We might be able to get to appointments on time now,” said a laughing Suzanne. “This is the best Thanksgiving. Grateful...if I had to pick one word, that would be the word. It’s an amazing Christmas present. It’s truly a blessing. I’m at a loss for words. I just can’t stop thinking ‘really?’”

Anthony reacted with a simple question. “Are we going surfing?” he asked.

Suzanne smiled and turned the key. The van started without hesitation.

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PV3-LV33135

# Beaches Museum and History Park dedicates Oesterreicher-McCormick cabin

## Doors to historic cabin open after four-year campaign, restoration project

By Jasmine Marshall

After a four-year long series of struggles and triumph, the Beaches Museum and History Park opened the doors to the Oesterreicher-McCormick cabin Nov. 19 with a dedication ceremony, live music and a morning of reminiscing.

The cabin was dedicated to Victory and Mary LeNoble as a gift from their son and major museum benefactor, Thomas LeNoble, who made the lead gift contribution for the Oesterreicher-McCormick Homestead in honor of his parents in February.

The dedication day saw a reunion of sorts among the Oesterreicher and McCormick families as a crowd formed before the restored cabin. Christened with lemonade and tea served in mason jars and live music by Old Time Music Jam, the dedication also brought the area's history full circle; Jean Haden McCormick founded the Beaches Area Historical Society that helped establish the museum, making the park the perfect resting place for the homestead.

Unassuming in appearance, the cabin itself is one of several restored attractions on display in the History Park. First built in 1873 by Thomas Oesterreicher in what is now known as Palm Valley, the cabin is the oldest surviving home of its kind in the area. With its acquisition, Jack Schmidt, president of Beaches Museum and History Park and co-chairman of the Save the Cabin campaign, hopes the last standing Florida cracker homestead will fill the area's void of pioneer history.

"A lot of people think that Florida has never even had pioneer history," Schmidt said. "Having the Oesterreicher-McCormick Florida Cracker Homestead adds an additional dimension to the history of the park. It was really a labor of love and it sort of completes the history of the area."

According to Schmidt and volunteer Richard Keene, the cabin was moved to the mu-



Photo by Jasmine Marshall

**Michel Oesterreicher, granddaughter of builder Thomas Oesterreicher and author of "Pioneer Family"**

seum from Palm Valley just last year before undergoing a major restoration project. It first arrived in 2015 with remnants of its 1950s tin roof, one that has since been replaced with cypress wood. Modern insulation and an open ceiling exposing wood beams were among other additions made to restore the cabin to its former appearance.

Keene said at one point 12 people occupied the two-room home before the McCormick family repurposed the building into a hunting and weekend lodge. The family also owned a lot of property in the area, and the McCormicks' own contributions to the Beaches history made much of the museum's operations possible.

"It was a perfect fit to bring the cabin here to the park," he said.

### Sentimental value

For its importance to the area, the preservation of the cabin was also of importance to the families for which it is named. Michel Oesterreicher – author of "Pioneer Family" and granddaughter of cabin architect Thomas Oesterreicher – joined Suzanne McCormick



**Jack Schmidt, president of Beaches Museum and History Park and co-chairman of the Save the Cabin campaign, gives opening remarks.**

Taylor, great-granddaughter of Thomas and co-chair of the Save the Cabin Campaign, during the cabin's opening. Oesterreicher reminisced on her days growing up in the cabin, and extended her appreciation to all who made the preservation and restoration possible.

"I'm just thankful that the cabin is important to the area at all," she said. "This family has been a huge part of the area for 150 years and many of its descendants still live right here at the beach."

Taylor agreed, citing her own memories of her upbringing during the tribute.

"My great-grandfather built this house," she said. "It's bittersweet because I grew up here. Some of my first memories were in this house, Thanksgivings and weekends were

spent here. And it's special because it's a place that's always been shared. I bet half the people here have spent some time at the farm of this house. In a way, it's like giving it up ... but sharing it and preserving it at the same time."

But the prevailing sentiment was one of gratitude as a battle hard fought came to an end. The homestead now sits among the 1903 Pablo Beach Post Office, the Beaches Museum chapel and other historic buildings in the park.

"I just worried so much that this cabin would be mowed right over when the area was being developed," said Oesterreicher. "So I just can't say how grateful I am for its preservation. I'm just so thankful to everyone for fulfilling a blessing and a dream for us."

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PV3-LV3177

## Bolles Lower School food drive collects 10,000 cans for MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation

Students on the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach campus recently collected more than 10,000 cans and nonperishable items for the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation.

A large covered U-Haul truck parked in front of the school Nov. 18 was filled to the rim with food, a visual reminder of the hard work students applied toward the charitable undertaking.

The 2016 drive was one of the largest in school history. Students were eager to support the initiative, which challenged them to solicit food donations from friends and family and also included a fitness participation component.

Coach Melissa Stone directed the fitness portion of the food collection, which required participating students to earn the amount of food they could donate through a running and physical activity challenge. During early November physical education classes, students in all grades ran laps for their can donations.

“Students really look forward to this event each year,” said Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus Head Peggy Campbell-Rush. “Not only are students challenged physically, but they are also learning fundamental lessons in philanthropy and thinking about meeting the needs of others before their own.”



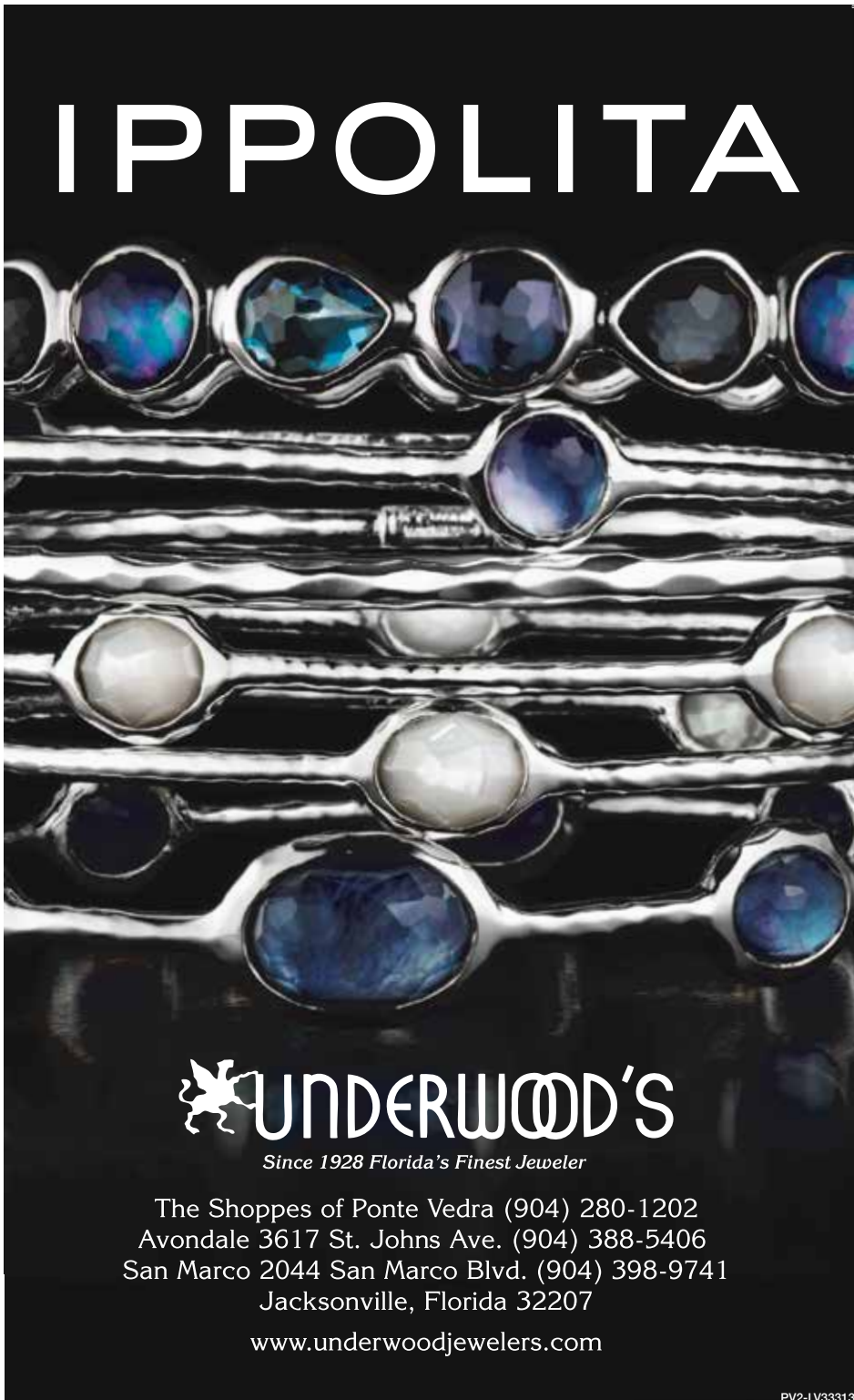
Photo courtesy of Bolles School

**Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra students collected 10,000 canned food items for the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation.**

More than half of the food collected came from ConAgra Foods, which offered to match students’ collection thanks to the direction of Bolles PVB parent and ConAgra sales manager Chris Barksdale.

The food drive challenge was led by Bolles parent Stacy Philip, who along with parent volunteers delivered the food Nov. 18 to the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation office.

Foundation staff expressed their appreciation to Bolles students, noting that 268 families have asked for assistance this year.



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**OBITUARIES**

**Brigadier General Henry C. Newcomer**

Brigadier General Henry C. Newcomer, 100, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Nov. 20, 2016. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

**Hunter R. Howick**

Hunter R. Howick, 16, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Nov. 24, 2016. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com



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# SJC Schools Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner to become president of Flagler College

By Jennifer Logue

St. Johns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner will become the next president of Flagler College, it was announced yesterday.

Joyner's appointment was confirmed by the Flagler College Board of Trustees Nov. 29. He will succeed Dr. William T. Abare Jr., who is retiring at the conclusion of the current academic year in June 2017 after serving 15 years as president of the private, 2,500-student college in St. Augustine.

"It has been my honor to serve the college for the past 45 years," Abare said. "I know it will be in great hands



JOYNER

with Joe Joyner taking the helm. I will do everything possible to make sure the transition is smooth and that the future continues to be bright for Flagler College under the new leadership."

As superintendent of the top-rated public school system in the state of Florida, Joyner oversees a school district with nearly 35,000 students and a budget of \$633 million. He will officially conclude his 14-year tenure as superintendent in early January 2017, when former Deputy Superintendent for

Operations Tim Forson succeeds him.

"It is an honor to be asked to serve as president of Flagler College," Joyner said. "I will do my utmost to build on the great legacy of excellence that the two former presidents built with so much commitment and determination."

According to the Flagler College Board of Trustees, Joyner was selected for the president's position following a national search that began in April 2016, when Abare announced his plans to retire.

After reviewing more than 170 applications and interviewing nine candidates for the position, the college's presidential search committee narrowed

the list to two finalists in November.

Board of Trustees Chairman Frank Upchurch said Joyner was the committee's top choice among an impressive field of candidates.

"We think Dr. Joyner is the best choice to lead the college into a new era," Upchurch said. "He will be a worthy successor to Dr. William T. Abare, Jr. and Dr. William L. Proctor. He shares their commitment to the college's core values of teaching, learning, student success and civility. Under Dr. Joyner's leadership, I have every confidence that the college will continue the pursuit of excellence of his two esteemed predecessors."

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## Nease Navy JROTC dominates at Mandarin Drill Meet



Photo courtesy of Nease NJROTC

Nease NJROTC's drill team marches on to the drill deck to compete in Personnel Inspection at the Mandarin Drill Meet in Nov. 19. Nease won Personnel Inspection and took home the overall meet championship.

## Team qualifies for Florida-Georgia Championships

Nease Navy JROTC's varsity drill team dominated in Personnel Inspection, Academics, Athletics and Drill to take home the championship at the Mandarin High School NJROTC sanctioned drill meet Nov. 19, beating out 11 other NJROTC units from Northern Florida and Georgia.

With the victory, Nease NJROTC has secured its slot in the Area 12 Drill Championships to be held in Douglas, Georgia on March 4, 2017, when they will defend their title as two-time defending Area-12 Drill Champions.

In addition to claiming the overall trophy, Nease picked up first place trophies for Personnel Inspection, Academics, Overall Athletics, Overall Drill, Armed Basic Drill, Armed Exhibition Drill, Unarmed Basic Drill, Push Ups, and Sit Ups. The team also placed second in the 8 x 220 Relay and Un-

armed Exhibition Drill.

"There's no better feeling than being called up to receive a first place trophy in front of your fellow competitors," said Cadet Scott Cummings, a member of the Academics, Armed Basic and Armed Exhibition Drill teams. "We've worked hard, but we have a long way to go if we hope to win the area championship."

Nease has now won the Mandarin Sanctioned Drill Meet four consecutive years.

"We put a lot of pressure on ourselves to perform at the highest level," said Cadet Battalion Commander Ryan Berry. "Our goal is to compete for a national title this year."

Other top schools in the competition were South Effingham High School, which took second place; Terry Parker High School (third place); Lassiter High School (fourth place); and Coffee County High School (fifth place).

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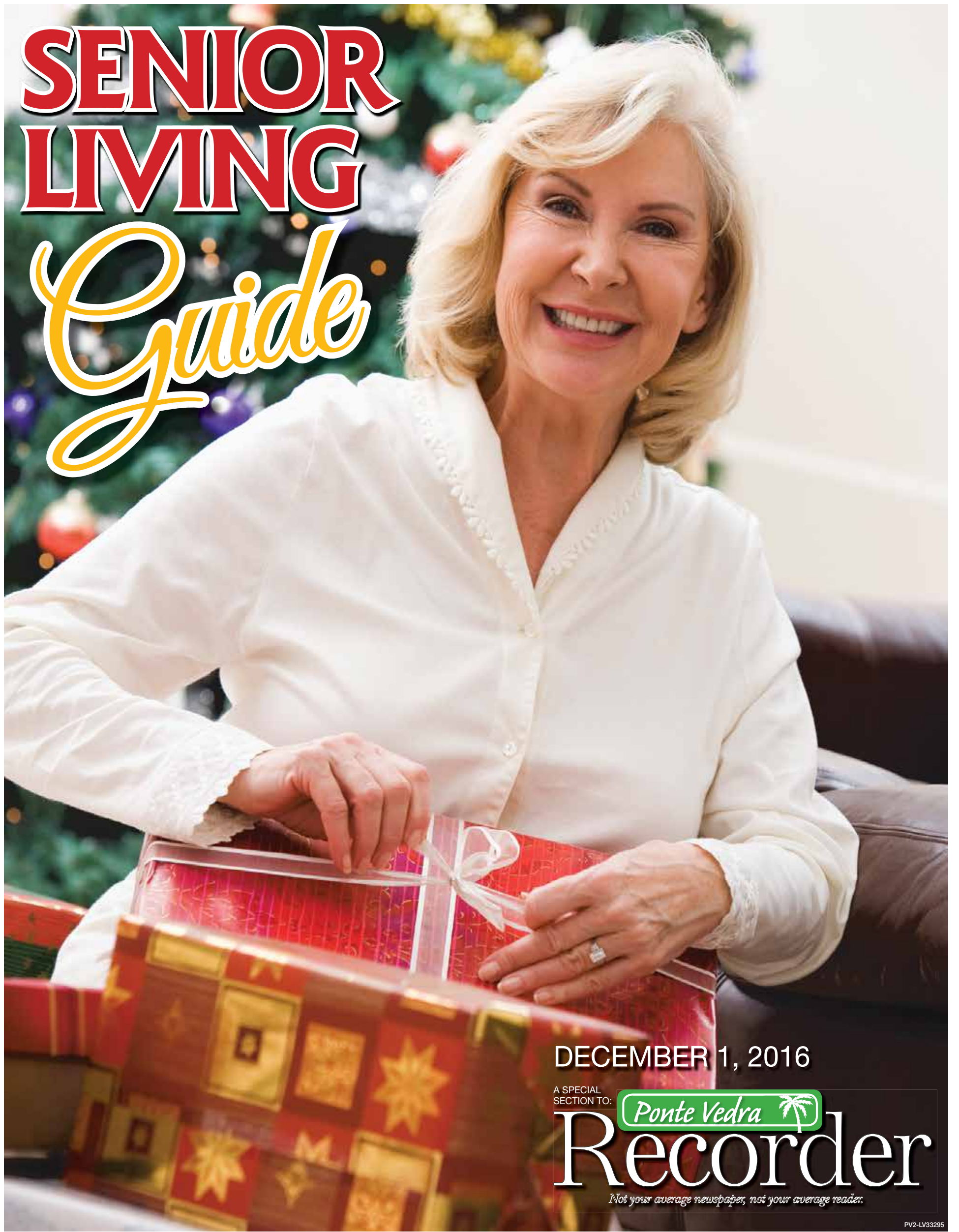
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# SENIOR LIVING *Guide*



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# Recorder

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# Pups at The Palms

## The Palms of Ponte Vedra adopts pet therapy



Latte, a 9-year-old Chihuahua-Dachshund mix, is a registered Alliance Therapy Dog. She and owner Michele Leahy make visits to The Palms' memory care unit every Tuesday.

Photos by Jasmine Marshall

By Jasmine Marshall

The Palms of Ponte Vedra's memory care unit was alight with smiles Nov. 22 as Latte padded gently into the commons room. The light brown "chi-weenie" sat patiently before the unit's residents, a heart-shaped therapy dog tag dangling from her collar and tail wagging beneath her polka-dot tutu.

Owner Michele Leahy beckoned her closer, inviting the 9-year-old dog to crawl lightly into the laps of the residents she's been visiting as part of The Palm's pet therapy program since January.

"The residents love having her around," Leahy said. "You can just see the ways that having her around just brightens their mood, instantly."

There's credence to her observation. The Palms has adopted a measure that several care facilities have taken in recent years with the advent of pet therapy, a form of therapy used on everyone from retired Navy men and women to hospital patients, elders and exam-ridden college students. Even facilities such as Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and St. Au-

gustine's Haven Hospice have undertaken their own pet therapy programs in the spirit of promoting positivity, healing and wellness.

Memory Care Assistant Activity Director Janice Reaves said that pet therapy is statistically proven to reduce stress and anxiety levels, and that having furry friends around encourages residents to vocalize their thoughts and discuss happenings in their own lives.

"There's so many ways that I can see that having therapy dogs here has helped the residents," Reaves said. "It encourages the residents' vocabulary because they love to speak to her and talk about their visits with her and she has a very calming presence."

Reaves also said that Latte plays a big role in aiding the residents' memory retention, as many of them owned dogs in the past but don't ordinarily see them anymore.

"Through these visits, the residents are able to remember their own memories with their dogs," she said. "And they're a reminder to them that animals can and have brought them love and happiness in

the past."

Latte is one of more than 100 pet therapy dogs registered by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) in North Florida. The 15-pound St. Johns County Pet Center rescue is a "lap dog," which makes her the ideal size for cuddling with the residents who eagerly await her Tuesday visits. She is also one of four dogs that makes frequent visits to The Palms; another, named Stella, comes on Thursdays, and two others, a long-haired dachshund and a blonde lab named Louey and Chloey, visit as part of The Palms' Paws for Friendship partnership.

Leahy said that she found Latte's visits to be most effective in memory care, a sentiment that resonated with Reaves, who has been working with memory care residents since February.

"The residents in memory care don't get to go out as much as other residents do," Reaves noted. "So for them ... it's meaningful to have someone visit them even on rainy days. They have a visit from Latte to look forward to and she brings them joy and warmth."



Resident Margaret Griffel



Resident Lorie Dalton



Resident Jim Phelan



Resident Richard Muller



Photo provided by Janice Reaves

Stella visits The Palms with her owner Ellen Simons on Thursdays.



Photo provided by Janice Reaves

Latte on election day





Photos courtesy of Alzheimer's Association

Local families reaffirmed the commitment to finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease by participating in the Nov. 19 Jacksonville fundraising walk.

## Jacksonville Alzheimer's Walk raises money, awareness for families battling nation's sixth leading cause of death

More than 2,000 walkers reaffirmed their commitment to finding a cure for Alzheimer's Disease Nov. 19, when the Alzheimer's Association hosted its annual fundraising walk in Jacksonville.

One of 600 walks nationwide, the Jacksonville event raised more than \$233,000 that will not only provide free support services in the local community, but also fund the research needed to find a cure.

"Some of the most promising science may come from our own back yard," said Michelle Branham, vice president of communications for the Jacksonville Alzheimer's Association chapter. "Mayo and other top research facilities in Florida are dedicated to tackling this disease from all angles, including preventions, treatments and one day, a cure. We know the quickest way to the cure is through research."

Currently, more than 5.3 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease; 520,000 of those residents live in Florida, with more than 31,000 people located in Northeast Florida. That makes Alzheimer's not just the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, but also a major Sunshine State health crisis, Branham said.

"These numbers sound staggering — they are staggering," she said. "Part of the overwhelming feeling about a disease like Alzheimer's is that we haven't been able to completely claim it yet. We aren't getting early diagnoses from our doctors; we aren't paying attention to warning signs;

we aren't listening to the growing number of alarming facts. We are still dismissing Alzheimer's as memory loss or regular aging."

Dr. Rosemary Laird, a geriatrician and the executive medical director of the Florida Hospital Senior Program, specializes in Alzheimer's and related dementias. She said that contrary to popular opinion, people aren't supposed to change all that much as we age.

"We will of course, slow down physically and cognitively," Laird said. "For some, these age-related changes won't be a big problem. For others, a disease like Alzheimer's strikes a blow to a person's entire being. We aren't supposed to forget our children and loved ones. We aren't supposed to lose who we are, yet this terrible disease takes all that away."

Former First Lady Nancy Reagan called Alzheimer's "the long, long goodbye" because her family battled the disease with President Reagan for so many years. Another First Lady, Rosalynn Carter, put the impact of long, fatal illnesses to our families into an even more sobering perspective.

"There are only four kinds of people in this world," Carter said, "those who have been caregivers, those who currently are caregivers, those who will be caregivers and those who need caregivers."

Because of its extended course, experts say, Alzheimer's is one of the most expen-

sive disease our country has ever faced. And because of the heavy toll it takes on family members and caregivers, support services are even more important.

"There are 15 Alzheimer's Support Groups in the Jacksonville Area," Alzheimer's Associate Director of Programs Cari Eyre said. "We have support groups, educational programs like Caregiver College and a 24/7 Helpline (1-800-272-3900) manned by dementia specialists."

The holidays can be a particularly stressful time for those caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's, she added.

"Our Helpline calls double and triple from Thanksgiving through the New Year,"

she said.

To provide additional help, the Central and North Florida Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association has created a holiday-themed video series with tips and information available on alz.org/cnfl.

Alzheimer's Association experts urge families to take advantage of the free support throughout the holidays, and whenever need arises.

"We may not have the scientific answers today," Alzheimer's Association Chapter CEO Kay Redington said, "so until the time we realize preventions, treatment and a cure, we will be supporting the families that need us now more than ever."



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# Dr. Charles Greene named 'Health Care Hero'

Dr. Charles Greene, president of Jacksonville ENT Surgery, has been named a 2016 Health Care Hero by the Jacksonville Business

Journal. Dr. Greene and his fellow Health Care Hero Award winners were honored at the 13th

Annual Healthcare Heroes Awards breakfast held Thursday, Nov. 17. Each year, the Journal honors medical professionals in Northeast

Florida who have improved health care and saved lives. Greene, a board-certified otolaryngology head and neck surgeon, was chosen in the surgery category.



GREENE

"I am grateful to be considered a Health Care Hero and honored to be included alongside some of the area's health leaders," he said. "I strive to provide my patients the very best care and continually look for new and more efficient ways to treat my patients and cut down on their recovery time."

Greene is credited with bringing balloon sinuplasty technology to North Florida and with being the first to transition the procedure into the doctor's office. He founded Jacksonville ENT Surgery in May 2002, building the practice into the largest private ENT practice in North Florida with six providers, five offices, three hearing and balance centers and 40 employees.

Active in the community, Greene serves on the board of directors for the Northeast Florida Medical Society and the Northeast Florida Research Institute. He is the former director of health policy studies at the Florida Center for Public Policy and Leadership at the University of North Florida. He is also currently on the board of directors for We Care Jacksonville.

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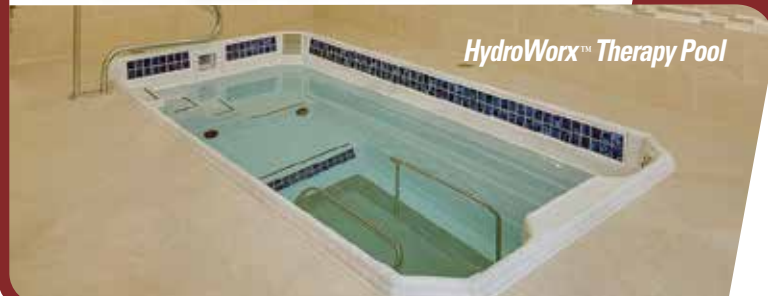
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# Riverwood Women's Club visits Florida School for the Deaf and Blind

Members of the Riverwood Women's Club, located in the Del Webb community of Nocatee, visited St. Augustine Nov. 15 for a tour of the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind.

A public school for eligible deaf/hard of hearing and low vision students, FSDB is the largest school of its type in the United States. The visit was arranged through Amy Moring, director of development, who welcomed the group and talked about the school's founding in 1885, its subsequent history, programs and student population.

The members of the women's club then toured parts of the nearly 80-acre campus, which includes student dormitories and separate schools for blind and deaf students from preschool through grade 12. Some were able to visit classrooms and learned how the school's highly-trained teachers succeed in helping their students utilize their many resources and up-to-date technology. For example, in the 4th grade classroom of the blind department, teacher Alex Ritter demonstrated how the computers and other visual aids are adapted to meet the varying needs of her low-vision students. In the science classroom, the visitors were able to hear firsthand an enthusiastic explanation from 7th grade student Malcomb on how he conducted his science experiment under the direction of his teacher, Dr. Kathleen Foley.

Another highlight was a visit to the Deaf and Blind Designs classroom, where students design products including t-shirts, coffee mugs, stuffed animals and

other items to sell, with profits going back to the program. Students can gain college credit for their designs, with the possibility of obtaining paid work opportunities outside of class. Club members also learned how students navigate the classrooms and hallways, and how they are encouraged to use their abilities to achieve as much independence as possible, both in and out of the classrooms.

Box lunches prepared by the students were enjoyed after the tours. Over lunch, the ladies enjoyed short films produced through the Eyes Alive program, where

students act out stories using sign language that is then captioned for the audience. Guests were treated to viewings of Aesop's fable, The Lion and the Mouse, and The Honest Woodcutter. Student actors Elsie and Luis explained through signing how much they've enjoyed and benefited from this program under the direction of their teacher, Jessica Stultz.

Members of the Riverwood Women's Club expressed how much they enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the programs offered by the school.



Photos submitted by Pat Krause

Members of Del Webb's Riverwood Women's Club recently toured St. Augustine's Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, where they had an opportunity to meet with students and teachers and learn how the school prepares its students to live independently.

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# Holidays a time to assess seniors' well-being

By Jennifer Logue

With the holiday season upon us, families spread far and wide are gathering together to enjoy long-held holiday traditions, share old memories and create new ones.

Adult children returning home for the holidays, however, may be startled to see a noticeable decline in the condition of their aging parents or other older loved ones. From a change in their physical condition to a change in their physical surroundings, these changes could be signs that aging family members may need some in-home assistance in order to stay independent and remain in their home. Here are a few tell-tale signs:

• **Excessive clutter** – Has the condition of the home declined? Is there spoiled food in the kitchen or refrigerator, stacks of unopened mail on the table or piles of unwashed laundry laying about?

• **Unexplained bruises** – These may be a sign that a senior has taken one or more falls.

• **Significant weight loss** – Seniors may no longer be able to prepare nutritious meals; also, if one spouse is caring for the other, the caregiving spouse may be neglecting his or her own health.

• **Forgetfulness** – While some forgetfulness is normal, forgetting the names



of close family members or an ongoing general state of confusion may be cause for medical evaluation. Forgetting to take medications may also cause serious health problems.

• **Decline in personal appearance/hygiene** – Do clothes have stains or missing buttons? Has a parent stopped bathing/shaving regularly?

• **Personality changes** – Is Mom or Dad having mood swings, or do they seem less interested in once-loved hobbies and

activities?

• **Damage to the car** – Are there new scratches and dents that weren't there the last time you visited? Or did they suddenly buy a new car?

## Help at home

Fortunately, adult children who don't live near their parents can call on in-home care companies to ensure that Mom and Dad remain safe at home. Services provided include:

- Meal preparation
- Housekeeping
- Laundry
- Transportation to doctor's appointments
- Errands (grocery shopping, etc.)
- Medication reminders
- Bathing assistance
- Dressing assistance
- Mobility
- Continence/toileting assistance
- Feeding
- Oral care, and more

For adult children living across town or across the country, in-home caregivers can serve as the family's "eyes and ears," ensuring that Mom and Dad are living in a safe environment.

Some companies even make it easy for children to monitor their parents' care. Some home care companies, for example, provide each client with a secure online portal where family members can log in 24/7 using their smart phones, tablets or computers to monitor their loved ones' care and read daily updates from the caregiver.

The holidays are a joyful time. As you celebrate with family and friends, take a moment to look around and see if your aging loved ones have everything they need to stay safe and comfortable at home.

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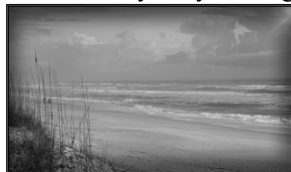
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**HOLIDAY SHOWCASE**

# Council on Aging raises \$19,000 for Care Connection Program at Christmas on the River

**By Jon Blauvelt**

The St. Johns County Council on Aging raised more than \$19,000 at its sixth annual Christmas on the River fundraiser.

Held at the River House in St. Augustine Nov. 20, the event benefited the organization's Care Connection program, a volunteer-based initiative designed to help independent elders meet and manage the challenges of everyday life.

The program's services range from assistance with financial planning and

home repairs to help with yard and lawn maintenance and installation of assistive safety devices.

"We're trying to keep people in their homes," said COA Executive Director Becky Yanni. "It's dear to my heart because it's such a community effort."

Christmas on the River featured an array of wreaths from the Camellia Garden Club, a wine tasting with Vino Del Grotto and an auction of various items from local businesses that benefited the Council on Aging.



Barbara Cone, Shirley Keyser and Anne Wolfe from the Camellia Garden Club admire the silent auction items at Christmas on the River Nov. 20.

Photos by Jon Blauvelt



Dana Hoffmann, Madison De Ritis, Megan Blake, Mary Marten, Rachel Faircloguh and Wallace Megginson from the Flagler College cheerleading team enjoy the warmth of the fire behind them.



Jim Summers, Dick Schwarz, Steve Powers, Michael Ann Powers and Carl Deus at Christmas on the River Nov. 20

Nellie Daniels, Cathy Rabino and Michael Large at Christmas on the River Nov. 20



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**HOLIDAY SHOWCASE**



**Evan Gould as Scrooge**

Photo by Caryl Butterley

**ABET presents 'A Christmas Carol'**

The Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre (ABET) will present "A Christmas Carol," a whimsical play within a play that presents Charles Dickens' classic story through the imaginative endeavors of its troupe. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 18 when accompanied by an adult.

This adaptation by Doris Baizley and director Samuel Fisher begins Dec. 2 and runs every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and every Sunday at 2 p.m. through Dec. 18. For reservations, visit [www.abettheatre.com](http://www.abettheatre.com) or call (904) 249-7177. ABET is located at 716 Ocean Blvd. in Atlantic Beach.



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**HOLIDAY SHOWCASE**



Photos courtesy of Ponte Vedra Library

**Cathy Snyder of the Sisterhood gives a step-by-step demonstration of flower arranging Downton-style.**



**Marilyn Smith of the Sisterhood shares how Downton Abbey inspired the floral arrangements.**

# Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants presents 'Christmas at Downton'

“Christmas at Downton” was the theme of the “Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants” presentation held recently at the Ponte Vedra Branch Public Library.

More than 70 guests traveled from as far away as Ocala to hear the presentation on floral arrangements reminiscent of those seen in the popular PBS series “Downton Abbey.” After viewing a brief clip from the series depicting a floral arrange-

ment dispute between Lady Cora and her mother-in-law, guests listened to music from the series and discussed floral arrangements. More than 20 floral and food arrangements made by the Sisterhood were also raffled off, as guests discussed the “Downton Abbey” fashion exhibition slated to visit St. Augustine’s Lightner Museum in 2017.

“Everyone had a splendid time at this program, which embraced the

love of ‘Downton Abbey’ as much as the love of flowers and food in arrangements,” Assistant Branch Manager Anne Crawford said.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants is comprised of Marilyn Smith and Cathy Snyder from the Las Adelfas Circle of the Garden Club of St. Augustine. The duo has been invited to present a special flower arranging program in July 2017 as part of the Lightner Museum’s Downton exhibit.



**Lucky raffle winners pose with the Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants.**

## Coping with holiday stress after a disaster

The holiday season can be a stressful time. For individuals – and especially seniors – looking to rebuild in the wake of disasters such as Hurricane Matthew, the holidays may be especially difficult.

Taking care of yourself and staying in touch with your family and friends during the holidays is an important part of maintaining your physical and mental health as you continue to recover from the Florida hurricanes.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) notes that signs of disaster-related stress may include:

- Feeling sad during a holiday season when you are seeking a new home or dealing with memories of a lost loved one
- Feeling lonely, especially when holiday activities are reminders of happier times with those who will be missing from this year’s festivities
- Feeling physically and mentally drained
- Having difficulty making decisions or concentrating on tasks at hand

• Experiencing changes in appetite or sleep patterns

• Increasing alcohol or substance abuse

Establishing a comfortable routine can take time. To reduce post-disaster holiday stress, FEMA recommends:

- Ensure that you have a safe place to stay
- Maintain a balanced diet and drink plenty of water (too much holiday “cheer” can increase your stress)
- Get adequate sleep and rest
- Stay positive: remind yourself of how you have dealt successfully with difficulties in the past
- Take each day one day at a time
- Live in the present without burdening yourself with the things that you need to do in a week or a month
- Additional ways to ease stress include:
  - Talk with someone about your feelings of anger, sorrow or other emotions, even though it may be difficult
  - Seek help from professional counsel-

ors who deal with post-disaster stress

- Don’t hold yourself responsible for the disastrous event
- Use existing support groups of family, friends and religious institutions
- Honor your holiday traditions, but be

flexible and prepare for new activities.

For additional help and support, contact the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Disaster Distress Helpline at (800) 985-5990 or visit [www.samhsa.gov/findhelp](http://www.samhsa.gov/findhelp).

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Photos courtesy of Volunteers in Medicine

**2017 Women with Heart Honorees Tracy Williams, Helen Morse, Paula Liang, Rev. Kate Moorehead, Nicole Thomas, and Lisa Weatherby. Not pictured: Aimee Boggs, Dr. Annie Egan, Representative Mia Jones, Kathryn Pearson Peyton and Susan Towler.**

# Women with heart:

Beard's Jewelry creates special necklace for nonprofit's 'Women with Heart' honorees

Jacksonville's Volunteers in Medicine has joined forces with Beard's Jewelry to create an innovative way of honoring the nonprofit's 2017 "Women with Heart" honorees.

Beard's Jewelry has created a diamond heart necklace – dubbed "The Heart of Jacksonville" – that will be worn each month during the year by a different Women with Heart honoree as they serve as ambassadors for the organization that provides free medical services to Greater Jacksonville's low-income working poor. The 2017 "Women with Heart" honorees include Lisa Weatherby, Reverend Kate Moorehead, Aimee Boggs, Paula Liang, Helen Morse, Susan Towler, Nicole Thomas, Tracy Williams, Representative Mia Jones, Dr. Annie Egan



**The Heart of Jacksonville necklace crafted by Beard's Jewelry**

and Kathryn Pearson Peyton. "We were thrilled when we learned of Beard's Jewelry's generous contribution and commitment to "Women with Heart" and our organization," Volunteers in Medicine CEO Mary Pat Corrigan said. "This tremendous partnership allows us to honor our amazing honorees in style. The necklace is positively breathtaking and we are thrilled with the level of support for our organization from (Beard's Jewelry owner) John Lupu and the family of Beard's Jewelry."

Made of 14 karat white gold, the Heart of Jacksonville necklace has a heart-shaped pendant that contains 20 brilliant-cut diamonds with a total weight of 2 carats. It is appraised at \$7,000.

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## HOLIDAY SHOWCASE



Photos by Jennifer Logue

The Beaches holiday season got off to a festive start Nov. 27, when the Light the Beach celebration kicked off the 4th annual Deck the Chairs display in Jacksonville Beach.

# Light the Beach kicks off Deck the Chairs

**By Jennifer Logue**

The Beaches holiday season got off to a festive start Sunday, as the “Light the Beach” celebration officially kicked off the 4th annual Deck the Chairs display in Jacksonville Beach.

Local residents gravitated to the Seawalk Pavilion and Latham Plaza to see the more than 40 iconic lifeguard chairs decorated with lights and other festive holiday displays. Visitors strolled amid the lighted displays, enjoying Christmas carols, a musical program and food trucks. In addition to traditional Christmas-themed displays, the colorful displays included a gingerbread house, a dragon and

a Harry Potter/Hogwarts-themed display by the Jacksonville Public Library.

“I can’t tell you how thrilled I am to see everyone here,” said Kurtis Loftus, the founder and executive director of the nonprofit that organizes the annual Deck the Chairs celebration. “We are blessed to live in a wonderful city like Jacksonville Beach and this is a celebration we can all be proud of.”

Organized as a community fundraiser, Deck the Chairs invites local businesses and organizations to sponsor a lifeguard chair, which they then decorate with lights and holiday displays. For the

first time this year, the celebration was extended beyond the central Latham Plaza location to include lightweight replica chairs placed throughout the Beaches communities.

Loftus thanked the Deck the Chairs board members, who work with community sponsors throughout the year to organize the event. “It doesn’t happen overnight,” he said. “We start in February and work all year to get to this day.”

Proceeds from Deck the Chairs, Loftus noted, benefit the trained Volunteer Lifesaving Corps, which staffs the lifeguard chairs at the beach on Sundays and holidays.

“This is the only volunteer life-

saving corps in the United States,” Loftus said, “and we get to call them our own.”

The Deck the Chairs display will be illuminated each night through Jan. 1 beginning at 6 p.m. In addition, this year’s display will feature the “Shine Hope and Peace Music and Light Spectacular,” a 10-minute light show that will be presented on the hour from 6 to 9 p.m. weekends in December with the exception of Christmas Day. Weekends will also feature special holiday entertainment, food trucks and the Dec. 11 presentation of awards for the best decorated chairs in a number of categories.





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Tammy McGuire, Jacob McGuire and Rylee McGuire

Photos by Kristin Flanagan

## Jacksonville Muscular Dystrophy Association Chapter Raises \$320,000 at Toast to Life Gala

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) chapter in Jacksonville raised more than \$320,000 for MDA research and service initiatives at its Toast to Life Gala Nov. 19.

Held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, the gala specifically benefited local families in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia fighting muscular dystrophy. Funds from the event will help send local children to a week-long MDA summer camp at Camp Suwannee in Dowling Park, Florida, as well as provide children with medical equipment and repairs, and support group sessions and diagnostic examinations.

Community members at the gala participated in live and silent auctions, in addition to a mission drive that raised money specifically for the MDA summer camp.



Toast to Life event co-chairs Randall Whitfield and Elaine Ashourian

Karl and Lisa Johnston with Pablo and Lisa Pella



Photos by Kristin Flanagan

Gary McCalla, Melanie Jensen and Jim Cox at the 7th annual Red, White & Blues event.

## North Florida School of Special Education hosts Red, White & Blues

The North Florida School of Special Education (NFSSE) held its 7th annual Red, White & Blues fundraising event Nov. 18, raising more than \$32,000 to date.

Hosted by philanthropist Gary McCalla at his riverfront home in Jacksonville, the event featured food, wine and spirits from local favorites The Bearded Pig, Trincherro Family Estates, Republic National Distributing

and more, as well as live music and a chance drawing of student artwork.

NFSSE's mission is to improve the lives of students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities. Founded in 1992, the school has an enrollment of 160 children and young adults with disabilities that include Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, fetal alcohol syndrome and traumatic brain injury.



Jamie Onorato, Cierra Penson and Roberta Cooley at the 7th annual Red, White & Blues event



Tate Loftis, Ciaran Santiago and Collin Hazlie

**HOLIDAY SHOWCASE**



Photos courtesy of The Alhambra Theatre & Dining

**I triple dog dare ya!: The Alhambra Theatre & Dining's presentation of "A Christmas Story" brings many of the popular film's most memorable scenes to life.**

# Alhambra brings beloved 'A Christmas Story' to life

**By Jennifer Logue**

Few Christmas movies receive more airtime than "A Christmas Story."

The 1983 film about 9-year-old Ralphie Parker's quest for a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas has become a much-beloved holiday tradition, with some TV channels airing around-the-clock marathon viewings on Christmas Eve. So popular, in fact, is "A Christmas Story" that to mention the film's name is likely to prompt recitations of its catch phrase: "You'll shoot your eye out!"

This holiday season, the Alhambra Theatre & Dining puts its own spin on "A Christmas Story" with a stage adaptation that brings to life all of the film's most memorable scenes while adding new depth and perspective on the characters themselves. In the Alhambra's production, which at press time had sold out for the remainder of its holiday run, the film's unseen narrator – Ralphie as an adult – becomes an actual character on stage, who not only narrates the action but also at times interacts with his family members and younger self. While most of the play's action occurs in the Parker Family kitchen, some key scenes – including the famous visit to Santa in the department store – are recreated more precisely than one would think possible within the confines of a stage setting. The theatrical production also does a particularly fine job of presenting Ralphie's childlike reveries, which were such a central part of the film's charm.

As Adult Ralph, actor Ethan Paulini adopts a more humorous, relatable persona than the film's over-the-top, dramatic narration provided by author Jean Shepherd, upon whose book the film was based.

Young Ralphie, meanwhile, is portrayed by Oliver Carson. A 4th grade student at Palmer Catholic Academy, Carson presents a more innocent Ralphie than the film's more cynical child obsessively focused on getting what he wants for

Christmas. He is ably supported by a cast of young local actors, including Landrum Middle School student Johnny Warren as Flick, Vincent Scaramuzzi as Schwartz, Harrison Davey as little brother Randy and Kaden Quiles as the notorious yellow-eyed Scut Farkus. The stage version also expands the role of classmate Esther Jane (Sophia Feagins), creating a pint-sized romantic interest for Ralphie.

Jazmin Gorsline and Robert Herrle manage to put their own personal stamp

on the roles of Ralphie's parents while still remaining true to the story the audience knows and loves. As Ralphie's mother, Gorsline is more of an equal match for her husband, while Herrle's "Old Man" is a more approachable father figure than the original's feared curmudgeon.

By the time Ralphie and Randy unwrap their Christmas presents, audience members will feel like they've spent an enjoyable evening sharing memories with old friends over a cup of warm cocoa.

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**HOLIDAY SHOWCASE**

## Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens to host 'Champagne & Shopping'

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens invites guests to enjoy its annual Champagne & Shopping event from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 8 and 9 at the Cummer Shop. Guests will receive complimentary champagne and appetizers while shopping special artisan merchandise on display just for this two-day event. Admission is free and guests will receive a 20 percent discount on their entire purchase, in addition to regular member discounts.

This year, the Cummer Shop will host brands such as Beer Cap Trap, Dana Giardina Designs, Italianissimo, Louis Sherry Chocolates, Stewart/Stand Stainless Steel Wallet, Swara Jewelry, Wee Gallery, Wendy Stevens: hand-fabricated metal handbags and Wild Hare Designs.

For more information, please visit [www.cummermuseum.org](http://www.cummermuseum.org) or call the Cummer Shop at (904) 899-6035.

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HOLIDAY SHOWCASE

# Santa's mailbox accepting letters at Sawgrass Village

## Letters mailed to Saint Nick by Dec. 16 to receive responses

First Coast boys and girls seeking to send their Christmas wishes to Santa Claus may mail their letters at Santa's Mailbox located near Nona Blue in Sawgrass Village.

Letters mailed at the box by Dec. 16 will receive a response from Santa thanks to a special arrangement the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce made with the North Pole.

"We want to make sure all the kids here in sunny Florida can get their messages to the North Pole on time, so we arranged for this special mailbox," said Lin Jones, director of the chamber's Ponte Vedra Beach Division. "We're especially excited that kids will receive a response to their letters, so don't delay, kids! Get working on those Christmas lists and mail them at Santa's mailbox today!"

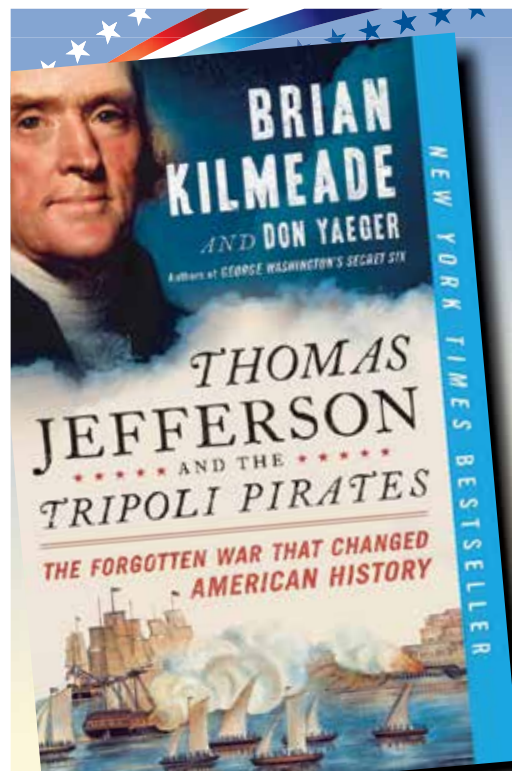


## 'Tis the season for the Recorder's Holiday Decorating Contest

Do you look forward to decking the halls and stringing up lights each year? If so, send a photo of your outside holiday display to the Ponte Vedra Recorder's Holiday Decorating Contest!

White lights or colored? Reindeer or snowmen? Wreaths or garlands? We want to see your festive spirit and share it in print and online at [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com). The most festive display as judged by our editorial staff will receive a family four-pack of tickets to the Jacksonville Zoo's popular ZooLights holiday extravaganza.

Simply email a photo of your outdoor holiday display to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com) by 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12. The winner will be announced in the Dec. 15 issue of the Recorder.



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Author of

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**HOLIDAY SHOWCASE**



Dancers Katie Dykstra, Hallie Murta, Daniela Hoffman, Mary Moshos and Kendall Hamby

Photos by Jennifer Logue



Nutcracker Prince Peter Guarno joins Marissa Jacobs, Matthew Gasperich-Morris and Lauren Trummel

# Nutcracker Tea offers preview of Dec. 10 ballet

By Jennifer Logue

Children bedecked in their holiday finery had an opportunity to receive a sneak preview of the 21st annual Christ Church Nutcracker Ballet Nov. 20, when the popular annual Nutcracker Tea was held at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club.

The inn was decorated like a winter wonderland as children and their families enjoyed sweets and refreshments and colorfully clad dancers mingled with attendees before performing a preview of the ballet that has become a holiday tradition.

The Christ Church Dance Ministry is directed by Felicia Rhoden.

Tickets are still available for the Nutcracker ballet, which will be performed Saturday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. at the University of North Florida's Lazzara Theater.

Proceeds from the ballet will benefit a number of charities, including Community PedsCare, Dreams Come True and the Amistad Orphanage in Bolivia.

Tickets are \$22 and may be purchased online at [www.missfeliciasdance.com](http://www.missfeliciasdance.com).



Photo courtesy of Claire Duffy

Nutcracker Prince Peter Guarno joins Claire Duffy, Phoebe, Savannah and dance instructor Felicia Rhoden at the Nutcracker Tea. Proceeds from the tea and ballet will benefit Phoebe and Savannah as well as other charities the benefit children.



Becky Lewis, Chloe Lewis and Jennifer Keller



Lynn Duncan and Bria, Anya and Shannon Ragatz



**HOLIDAY SHOWCASE**



Cierra McLendon and Jade Crothers worked as Santa's helpers, assisting children in writing letters for troops and to St. Nick himself.



Visitor Amanda Lundy with her son, Ridge

# Enchanted Christmas Village opens doors for its first year

By Jasmine Marshall

The Keeler Property kicked off the holiday season with its inaugural Enchanted Christmas Village celebration Nov. 25, welcoming First Coast residents to its lakefront barn for an evening alight with food, live entertainment, holiday-themed attractions and more than one million Christmas lights.

The family-oriented experience featured an igloo chalet, a carousel, a Christmas craft marketplace and several Santa-stops in addition to hourly presentations of "Candela: The Evolution of Light" on the 30-foot village Christmas tree. Visitors were also encouraged to pen letters to Santa and servicemen and women.

Rounding out the activities were face painting, hayrides, a mini-petting zoo and a gingerbread house village where children decorated homes of their own.

For many guests, the village was a journey through time to a world of simple holiday traditions.

"The one thing I remember most vividly growing up is ... going around with my parents and just looking at Christmas decorations at night," said visitor Alison Garrett. "And coming here really brought me back. The lights are just completely dazzling and it feels almost magical looking at them, so I really want to make a new tradition of being here."

The Enchanted Christmas Village is open Tuesday through Friday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The village will operate through Dec. 31 and will be closed Christmas Day. For tickets, attraction prices and hours, visit [www.jacksonvillechristmas.com](http://www.jacksonvillechristmas.com). The Enchanted Christmas Village is located on The Keeler Property at 17255 Normandy Blvd. in Jacksonville.



A singing reindeer serenades guests on the property's covered bridge.



## A Beautiful Life at Any Age

**Baptist's AgeWell Center helps seniors live more independent and productive lives**

When Rose started coming to AgeWell, she had several concerns about her health. Fatigue, memory and an unsteady gait were just a few.

She was relieved to learn she could get help for all these issues at the Baptist AgeWell Center for Senior Health, where adults 65 and older can get outpatient primary care and more.

"Everything is in one place and the staff is good about talking to each other about all of my needs. My care is very well coordinated," she said.

AgeWell has two geriatricians, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, a clinical pharmacist, a nutritionist, nurse practitioners, social workers and care coordinators.

The Baptist AgeWell Center is a unique doctor's office with a team of professionals who can help older adults:

- Manage medications
- Cope with declining memory
- Manage emotional issues and depression
- Improve mobility and strength
- Building independent living skills
- Improve nutrition

The team also includes nurses, medical assistants and eldercare advocates. Physical, occupational and speech therapists are part of the AgeWell team.

Because Rose had limited mobility and a fear of falling, an AgeWell physical therapist worked with her on balance training and ways to improve her strength and posture. Rose's mobility has improved along with her endurance.

Occupational therapy helped Rose strengthen her hands so she could return to cooking and sewing—two things she loves to do.

Rose also had cognitive therapy to address her memory concerns. Part of her therapy was to write short stories, a task she enjoyed so much she continues writing and keeps all of her stories to pass along to younger relatives.

"I am very blessed and I feel better than I have in a long time," Rose said.

To make an appointment, call **904.202.4AGE (4243)**.



**AgeWell  
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# Business Weekly

PAGE 35

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

## Everyone is selling something



**Harry Pappas**  
Columnist

I suggest that most successful people, in any field, are the best sales people. If you are in business and are naïve enough or perhaps too overconfident to think that you do not need to become better at sales and marketing, I respectfully suggest that you are mistaken.

Regrettably, far too many people think of “selling” as a slick used-car salesperson who hustles people into buying something they do not want, or the pushy, fast-talking peddler who closes folks without them knowing what happened, or that aggressive telemarketer who calls us during dinner to sell Japanese steak knives.

We need to get over the perception that there is a conflict between professionalism and sales or marketing.

In other words, selling does not have to be about trickery or dishonest behavior. I submit that we be mindful of the words of authors Bob Burg and John David Mann in their brilliant book “Go-Givers Sell More” – “Selling is giving; giving your time, attention, counsel, education, empathy, and value. In fact, the word ‘sell’ comes from the Old English word ‘sellan,’ which means – you guessed it – to give.”

Sales and marketing should have nothing to do with shenanigans, but everything to do with the value and genuine concern that we have for our customers or



Photos by Susan Griffin

Representatives from Baptist Medical Center Beaches and Mayo Clinic-Jacksonville accept a check representing the proceeds from the Pink Ribbon Golf Classic during the John Hardy Trunk Show at Underwood’s Jewelers. From left: Clayton Bromberg, Jarret Dreicer, Susie Buckley, Christy Bromberg, Dr. Sarah McLaughlin, John Rutkowski and Sarah Smith.

## Underwood’s Jewelers Hosts John Hardy Trunk Show to benefit Pink Ribbon Classic

Underwood’s Jewelers held a John Hardy trunk show Nov. 17 with 10 percent of the event’s proceeds benefiting the Pink Ribbon Golf Classic.

In addition to the trunk show, the event featured a cocktail party and check presentation of \$200,000 from the Pink

Ribbon Golf Classic and its sponsors to Baptist Medical Center Beaches and Mayo Clinic Jacksonville.

A volunteer, nonprofit event, the Pink Ribbon Golf Classic raises funds for local breast cancer research and related services at Baptist Medical Center Beaches and

Mayo Clinic-Jacksonville. This year, the organization is supporting Dr. Sarah McLaughlin’s lymphedema research at the Mayo Clinic and helping Baptist Medical Center Beaches purchase new, state-of-the-art equipment that provides three-dimensional imaging technology.



**By Michael Hannon**  
Special to the Recorder

The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors recorded 16 residential sales in Ponte Vedra (32081) and Ponte Vedra Beach (32082) for the week of Nov. 18-25, 2016.

### RECENT SALES

#### Single Family Homes – 32081

\$362,871	542 Cobbler Trail	2B/2B
\$385,000	48 Cape Hatteras Dr	5B/2B/1HB
\$385,614	223 Coconut Palm Pkwy	6B/4B
\$406,754	490 Cobbler Trail	3B/2B/1HB
\$407,500	357 Woodhurst Dr	2B/2B
\$468,000	117 Magnolia Beach Trail	4B/3B
\$477,650	320 Valley Grove Dr	4B/3B/1HB
\$480,000	525 Southern Oak Dr	5B/4B/1HB

#### Condominiums – 32082

\$127,500	2011 Sea Hawk Cir	2B/2B
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#### Single Family Homes - 32082

\$250,000	161 Cay West Way	3B2B/1HB
\$360,000	693 Sand Isles Cir	3B/2B/1HB
\$399,000	113 Bouganvilla Dr	4B/2B/1HB
\$440,000	305 Ebb Tide Ct	3B/2B/1HB
\$575,000	4326 Blue Heron Dr	3B/2B/1HB
\$614,977	8 Sandpiper Cv	3B/3B/1HB
\$3,145,000	1091 Ponte Vedra Blvd	4B/4B/1HB

MLS reported +/- 20 sold real estate transactions this week. The list above illustrates representative sampling of reported sold transactions. Property information is not guaranteed. © 2016 MLS and FBS

**Have real estate questions? Email them to have your question answered in a future column. Submit questions to mh@michael2020.com.**

**MOVERS & SHAKERS**



**TONUZI**

**Tonuzi joins Rogers Towers**

**Matthew M. Tonuzi** has joined the Ponte Vedra office of Rogers Towers, P.A. Tonuzi will work in the Construction Litigation department.

Prior to joining Rogers Towers, Tonuzi worked at law firms in both Miami and Clearwater. His experience includes a range of specialties, including

construction litigation, condominium law, planning and zoning, and first-party insurance claims.

Tonuzi earned a Juris Doctor from Western Michigan University, Cooley School of Law, Real Property Development and Finance, with honors, from the University of Miami. He earned a B.S. in both Criminology and Political Science from Florida State University.

**AFP honors David and Linda Stein at National Philanthropy Day luncheon**

The Association of Fundraising Professionals' (AFP) Florida First Coast

Chapter honored **David and Linda Stein** for their support of numerous local organizations at the 30th Anniversary National Philanthropy Day luncheon held Nov. 18 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville.

The Steins were recognized for their contributions to the United Way, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Jacksonville Humane Society and other organizations.

Linda Stein has served as honorary co-chair of the United Way's Women in Local Leadership as well as a member of the Success by 6 Council. In 2006, the couple helped develop the

Stein Fellowship for young professionals, donating \$1 million to support the United Way's efforts to keep students on track to graduation. The Stein Fellowship is now a premier multigenerational mentoring program that pairs fellows with mentors, who cultivate leadership skills in the next generation of Northeast Florida leaders.

More than 650 people attended the luncheon, which also honored Florida Blue, the Arlington Rotary Club, Robert T. Shircliff and others for their philanthropic activities.

**MOVERS & SHAKERS** continues on **Page 37**

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PV2-LV33250

**MOVERS & SHAKERS**

Continued from 36



COBB

**Cobb elected chair of Construction Industry Licensing Board**

Jacksonville attorney and Jimerson & Cobb shareholder **Christopher Cobb** has been elected chairman of Florida's Construction Industry Licensing Board (CILB).

Appointed to the CILB in 2012 by Gov. Rick Scott, Cobb will lead the organization beginning in 2017.

"I am incredibly honored to be selected for this position," said Cobb, who served this year as vice chair of the CILB. "As a Florida native, I consider it a blessing to be able to apply my education, skills and experience towards serving the people of this great state."

The CILB is the division of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation that oversees the licensing and regulation of the construction industry.

The board's responsibilities include considering applications for licensure, reviewing disciplinary cases and conducting informal hearings relating to both.

Cobb is board certified in construction law by the Florida Bar and has an extensive background in that practice area.

He has litigated a variety of large construction lien, defects and business disputes, and has been named to the Florida Super Lawyers list in construction law for the last eight consecutive years.

He has also received an AV Preeminent® rating from Martindale-Hubbell, signifying that his peers rank him at the highest level of professional skill and ethical standards.

A St. Augustine resident, Cobb is a graduate of Florida Coastal School of Law and the University of North Florida.

**PPR Talent Management donates \$66,000 to local charities**

PPR Talent Management donated more than \$66,000 and 1,700 hours to more than 60 local charities in 2016, marking the company's highest year of giving in its 20-year history.

More than 90 percent of the Jacksonville Beach firm's employees participated in its charitable giving and volunteer activities this year, which included donating food to the Feeding Northeast Florida food drive and participating in Hurricane Matthew clean-up efforts.

A highlight of the firm's charitable giving this year included funding the Dr. Ruth Stiehl Scholarship for University of North Florida nursing students by creating a \$25,000 trust in the name of PPR's vice president of clinical quality.

Other organizations benefiting from PPR's donations include Wolfson Children's Hospital, Operation New Uniform, Mission House, the Jaguars Foundation, Daniel Memorial and more. PPR also continued its commitment to the company's charitable mainstays such as Bike MS: PGA Tour Cycle to the Shore, the Jacksonville Humane Society's Mutt March and the Boselli Foundation's The Cut event.

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# Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset inducts three new members

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset inducted three new members at its Nov. 15 meeting held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Club President Janeene Hart welcomed new members Janet Hartley, Angus Stephens and Ponte Vedra Recorder Publisher Susan Griffin to the club, which is one of Ponte Vedra's two Rotary clubs. Both Hartley and Stephens had previously belonged to Rotary clubs in other communities, Hart noted, with both having served as president of their respective clubs.

Guest speaker at the club's meeting was Ponte Vedra Recorder Managing Editor Jennifer Logue, who discussed ways in which members of the community can work with the media to share their news. Logue is a member of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach.

With more than 1.2 million members in 30,000 clubs around the world, Rotary Club is one of the world's largest humanitarian organizations. Rotary clubs around the world contribute to their local communities while also joining together to address global crises. In particular, the Rotary Club has been instrumental in battling polio around the world: Since Rotary first began vaccinating children against the disease in 1979, Rotary clubs have vaccinated 2.5 billion children in 122 countries, eliminating 99.9 percent of the cases of polio in the world. In 2017, as Rotary celebrates the centennial of the Rotary Foundation, the world is on the cusp of eradicating the disease altogether, with reported cases of polio decreasing from 350,000 in 1988 to just 32 cases reported to date in 2016.



Photo by Jennifer Logue

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset President Janeene Hart; new members Susan Griffin, Janet Hartley and Angus Stephens; and Rotarian Carol Maurer.



Photos by Jennifer Logue

Anouk Wagner, Al Hammack, Billy Wagner and Club President Michael Bruce



Sam and Leah Hall

## Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach holds annual barbecue

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach recently held its annual "Pharr's Follies" barbecue for club members.

More than 60 Rotarians attended the gathering held at the Neptune Beach home of club member Connie Green. Named in

honor of the club's Past President, George Pharr, the annual fall gathering has become a Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary tradition.

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. at Marsh Landing Country Club.



Ed Zwick, Joni Zwick, Rebecca Bruce and Vickie Cavey

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 PV2-LV33323

# Betty Griffin Center receives \$100,000 from Women's Giving Alliance

The Betty Griffin Center has received a \$100,000 grant from the Women's Giving Alliance (WGA) to assist in funding its new Hope and Recovery program, which addresses the gaps in service delivery for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse who also have substance abuse issues.

Executive Director Joyce Mahr said the nonprofit will partner with Stewart Marchman Act Behavioral Healthcare to deliver safety, support and hope to survivors in their path to recovery and violence-free living.

"Since addiction is an issue that affects about 75 percent of the survivors we serve, the grant will allow us to engage a therapist and an advocate to work directly with these survivors to overcome their dependency on drugs and alcohol," said Mahr, whose organization shelters 250 to 350 victims of domestic and sexual abuse annually. "We're grateful for the support of the

Women's Giving Alliance to help us fund this program, which allows us to continue applying a holistic approach in helping the people who come to us for assistance."

WGA is a Jacksonville-based foundation that funds, educates and advocates for women and girls to strengthen families and communities. Since 2002,

the organization has awarded more than \$4.9 million to more than 30 nonprofit organizations.

In accepting the WGA grant, the Betty Griffin Center has established a goal that 80 percent of all self-referring survivors will complete a survivor-focused safety plan. This plan will meet their unique safety needs as it relates

to domestic and/or sexual abuse and substance abuse and will include an after-care plan that meets their individual recovery needs.

"This grant will give staff the capability to further empower survivors of domestic and sexual abuse so they can more quickly resume a life free of addiction and abuse," said Mahr.

## Pappas

Continued from 35

prospects.

For this reason, alone, I am such a stout advocate that every high school and college student should be required to take courses in communications and salesmanship, as the primary lessons that we are taught in school are not the things that carry us through life.

Moreover, I have often wondered why schools do not expose teenagers and college-bound students to self-help books regarding sales and marketing.

Nevertheless, smart selling is about help, not hype.

Allow me to leave you with this final thought: Selfish intentions are the problem, not the act of selling. The simplest way to selling success is to be honest, keep promises, be loyal and have integrity. 'Nuff said. Cheers!

**Harry Pappas Jr., CFP®, Managing Director-Investments, Certified Estate and Trust Specialist™, Certified Divorce Financial Analyst®, Pappas Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, 818 A1A N, Ste. 200, Ponte Vedra, Florida 32082, 904-273-7955, harry.pappas@wellsfargoadvisors.com.**

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# Sharks win, advance to state Final Four



Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton  
Nick Tronti hands the ball off to Hal Swan.

By Jerry Norton

Prior to the start of this season, Ponte Vedra Sharks Coach Matt Toblin cautiously suggested his team had a chance to be special. Twelve games and 12 wins later, Toblin is being proven right. The Sharks are two games from the district 5A state championship after bouncing the talent-laden Raiders of Rickards High in Tallahassee from the regional finals with a 30-21 victory at the Shark Tank last Friday night.

In most respects, the game played out the way most pundits predicted – a high-scoring game closely contested by two very talented teams. The visitors could boast a bevy of Division IA commits on their roster including quarterback DJ Phillips, WR Marcus Riley and defensive back Tavyn Jackson. The Sharks were not without a talented roster of their own, with the likes of Nick Tronti, Marshall Few, Hal Swan, JD Pirris, Jake Maguire and Andrew O'Dare.

The usual intangible questions were, "Which team would play up to its potential and/or which team would make the fewest mistakes?" The answers to these intangibles became crystal clear as the game progressed

and the final score was posted. The Sharks proved to be at their best when facing adversity on either side of the ball – they made the big plays when it mattered. They stayed disciplined and never lost their cool. The same could not be said for the Raiders.

Rickards took the early lead on a 69-yard pass from Phillips to Riley. The Sharks answered with a Tronti keeper for 18 yards but their PAT was blocked. The Raiders scored again at the end of the first quarter – a 13-yard pass from Phillips to Riley.

The Sharks then drove 65 yards on their ensuing possession with the longest play of the drive a 22-yard completion from Tronti to Maguire. Howard's point after was good and the Sharks trailed 14-13.

After Rickards was forced to punt, Tronti engineered an 80-yard scoring drive to put Ponte Vedra up 20-14. Key plays included a 20-yard run by Swan, a 25-yard completion to Maguire, a 15-yard completion to Few and a 15-yard strike to Pirris in the end zone.

With a first and goal from the Ponte Vedra eight-yard line, the Raiders threatened to take the lead, but a huge defensive play by the Sharks' John Santillo ended that threat.

Santillo made a jarring tackle that separated the Raider ball carrier from the football. The fumble rolled out of the end zone giving the Sharks the football on their own 20.

Rickards roared back with a minute left in the half to take a 21-20 lead. Again it was a Phillips to Riley pass, this one covering 35 yards.

As the first half wound down, the Raiders committed two critical defensive holding penalties on Shark receivers to give Ponte Vedra a first down in Rickard territory. Tronti found Maguire open for 30 yards but this time the Sharks were flagged for holding. With time running out in the half and the Sharks facing a fourth and 20 at mid-field, Tronti hit Few on an up and out pattern that was good for 32 yards and a first down at the visitors' 18. From there, Howard booted a 35-yard field goal and Ponte Vedra went to the locker room up 23-21.

The second half was nothing like the first, with just a single touchdown and it belonged to Ponte Vedra. But despite the dearth of points, excitement reached a peak. Time and again, Ponte Vedra's defense

SHARKS continues on Page 43

## THEME: YEAR IN REVIEW

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
	19				20			21	22				
			23				24						
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37		38		39				
40				41			42		43				
44				45		46				47			
48					49		50			51		52	
				53		54			55		56		
	57	58	59					60				61	62
63						64	65			66			67
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

## ACROSS

- Minimal in magnitude
- Club alternative
- Angelina to Maddox
- Cattiness
- "\_\_\_ the land of the free ..."
- Permissible
- 1/100 of a rial
- Oahu greeting gift
- Foolish
- \*"Harry Potter and the \_\_\_ Child"
- \*UK's 2016 withdrawal vote
- Christian minister, abbr.
- Long, long time
- Scottish cap
- Sushi selection
- African tree
- Faubourg Saint-Honoré and Rivoli, e.g.
- Brown seaweed
- Latin American plain
- Sky bear
- Don't go out for dinner
- \*This Barrymore got divorced in 2016
- New Zealander
- Ring-around-the-rosy flower
- Prima donna's numbers
- George Town state, Malaysia
- Mary's follower
- Born, in society pages
- Fix a horse
- \*Ezekiel Elliott became one in 2016
- Popular flowering shrub
- \*Cubs, e.g.
- \*Ciara, on her special day
- Wade opponent
- Eagerness, pl.
- Comic book expression for fear
- Soccer mom's ride
- Icy hut
- Enthusiasm
- Product of creativity
- Cut one's leg off, e.g.

## DOWN

- Aldous Huxley's drug of choice
- "The Iliad," e.g.
- Hokkaido language
- One Beatle
- Less verbose
- "The \_\_\_ and the Beautiful"
- \*Harper \_\_\_, 1926-2016
- \*A \_\_\_ Called Quest issued comeback album
- Seductive one
- Berry high in antioxidants
- Crème de menthe flavor
- Absorbed, as a loss
- Relating to spleen
- What some smells do to memories
- \*Kardashian brother who became a dad
- In total
- \*Election winner
- Sign of a saint, pl.
- Subatomic particle
- \*Like 2016
- One of auto pioneers
- Sacha Cohen's middle name
- Anoint
- \*"Major Tom" singer, 1947-2016
- Mystery writer, \_\_\_ Paretsky
- Site of Leaning Tower
- Naiad or maenad
- English in Spain
- "Fancy that!"
- \*Olympic host
- Caterpillar precursor
- Opposite end of alpha
- Seed coat
- \*Mosquito-borne threat
- Yemeni port
- Rapper and actor, 50 \_\_\_
- Rodeo Drive tree
- \_\_\_ gin
- Ciao in the U.S.
- Argo propeller
- Rolled grass

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**BILLS 28, JAGUARS 21**



Photos by Rick Wilson/Jacksonville Jaguars

**Above:** Jaguars defensive end Yannick Ngakoue recorded his sixth sack against the Bills, the most among NFL rookies and one shy of the team's rookie record set by Tony Brackens in 1996.

**Left:** Jacksonville QB Blake Bortles connected with Marqise Lee for a 20-yard touchdown that put the Jaguars ahead of Buffalo 14-13 early in the third quarter.

# McCoy's two TDs spark Buffalo past Jacksonville

**By Mike Bonts**

LeSean McCoy rushed for 103 yards and two touchdowns and the Bills overcame three second-half deficits to defeat the Jacksonville Jaguars 28-21 on Sunday at New Era Field.

The Jaguars (2-9) have lost six straight. "Our guys played their tails off," Jaguars Coach Gus Bradley said. "It went back and forth, but they made more plays than we did, especially at the end of the game."

Bortles completed 13 of 26 passes for 126 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions. He also ran for 81 yards on eight carries.

"I think we've had a little bit of Murphy's Law," Bortles said. "If it can go wrong, it will go wrong and at the most inopportune time."

Jacksonville's Chris Ivory rushed for 44 yards and a touchdown in the first quarter before leaving the game with a hamstring injury.

The Jaguars scored a touchdown on their opening drive for the first time in 25 games and went up by a touchdown on Ivory's 2-yard scamper. Denard Robinson rushed for 39 yards and T.J. Yeldon had 17.

The Jaguars ran for a total of 183 yards; Jacksonville finished with 301 total yards.

The Bills finished with 304 total yards. The Jaguars held a lead in the game for over 20 minutes, longer than any time this season.

"Each week, we'll be in it, but we just haven't found ways to close out games," Jaguars wide receiver Allen Hurns said. "It's frustrating for us because we invest so much and keep coming up short."

Hurns caught a short pass from Bortles and ran for a 12-yard score to give the Jaguars a 21-20 edge on the first play of the second half. Hurns injured his hamstring on the play and did not return.

Bortles also threw a 20-yard TD pass to connected with Marqise Lee that put

the Jaguars ahead 14-13 early in the third quarter.

The Bills (6-5) now own a winning record after 11 games for just the fourth time in 17 seasons. Buffalo remains one game behind the Miami and Kansas City for an AFC wild card spot.

"As far as the playoff picture, we knew every game matters for us and we have to take it one game at a time," said QB Tyrod Taylor, who was 12 of 18 passing for 166 yards and a touchdown and ran for 38 yards and another score.

McCoy's 75-yard touchdown on the

**JAGUARS** continues on Page 42

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## Jaguars

Continued from 41

first play of the second half gave Buffalo a 13-6 lead.

The run was the longest of McCoy's career and exceeded the Bills' yardage total of 50 in the first half.

The Jaguars return to EverBank Field Sunday for the first of two consecutive home games. Kickoff against the Denver Broncos is 1 p.m.

**Game notes:** Yannick Ngakoue registered his sixth sack of the season. He is

one away from the Jaguars' rookie sacks record of seven set by Tony Brackens in 1996.... Sen'Derrick Marks started at defensive tackle alongside Malik Jackson... Safety Johnathan Cyprien's first-quarter sack was the second of his career... Buffalo kicker Dan Carpenter missed the extra point and the Jaguars went into halftime with a 7-6 lead. ... Rashad Greene Sr. (Achilles) and Peyton Thompson (ankle) were injured in the first half and did not return... the Jaguars were also without Abry Jones (ankle). ...linebacker Myles Jack shared his first career sack with Tyson Alualu, Jackson had two sacks.

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# Sharks

Continued from 40

rose to the occasion. The Phillips to Riley connection – so devastating in the first 24 minutes – fizzled as a result of a tenacious defense and a breakdown in discipline on Rickards' part.

The lone touchdown of the half came on the Sharks' first possession. After Tronti found his team with a third and 14 following a holding penalty, he hit Magure for 15 yards

and a first down in Raider territory. Now it was time for the Raiders to lose their cool. Successive personal foul penalties moved the Sharks to the visitors' five and Tronti ran untouched for the score and a 30-21 lead.

Ponte Vedra's questionable on-sides kickoff wasn't successful and Rickards took over at mid-field. Seven plays later, they faced a fourth and four at the Shark 10. A big hit by O'Dare ended the drive and gave the Sharks the ball at their own eight.

Here the Shark offense may have been at its best. Tronti handed the ball off to Swan

five times and the diminutive running back picked up 68 yards. In the process, the Sharks burned more than five minutes off the clock.

Ponte Vedra wound up with a fourth and two at the Rickard 12. At this point, coach Toblin called for a fake field goal. Few, the holder, took the snap and tried to pass the ball to his kicker but Rickards' pressure spoiled the play, leaving the Sharks with a 30-21 lead and seven minutes left in the game.

The Raiders moved quickly up field and

appeared to have taken the lead but holding penalty nullified the touchdown. Still the visitors had a first down at the Shark 25.

They moved to another first down at the Shark 10, but three plays failed to produce a touchdown. With a fourth down from the Shark six, Carson Richter buried the Raider ball carrier four yards short of the goal line. Ponte Vedra took over with three minutes left, needing a first down to ice the game.

The Sharks travel over the river to face Clay in the state semi-final on Friday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

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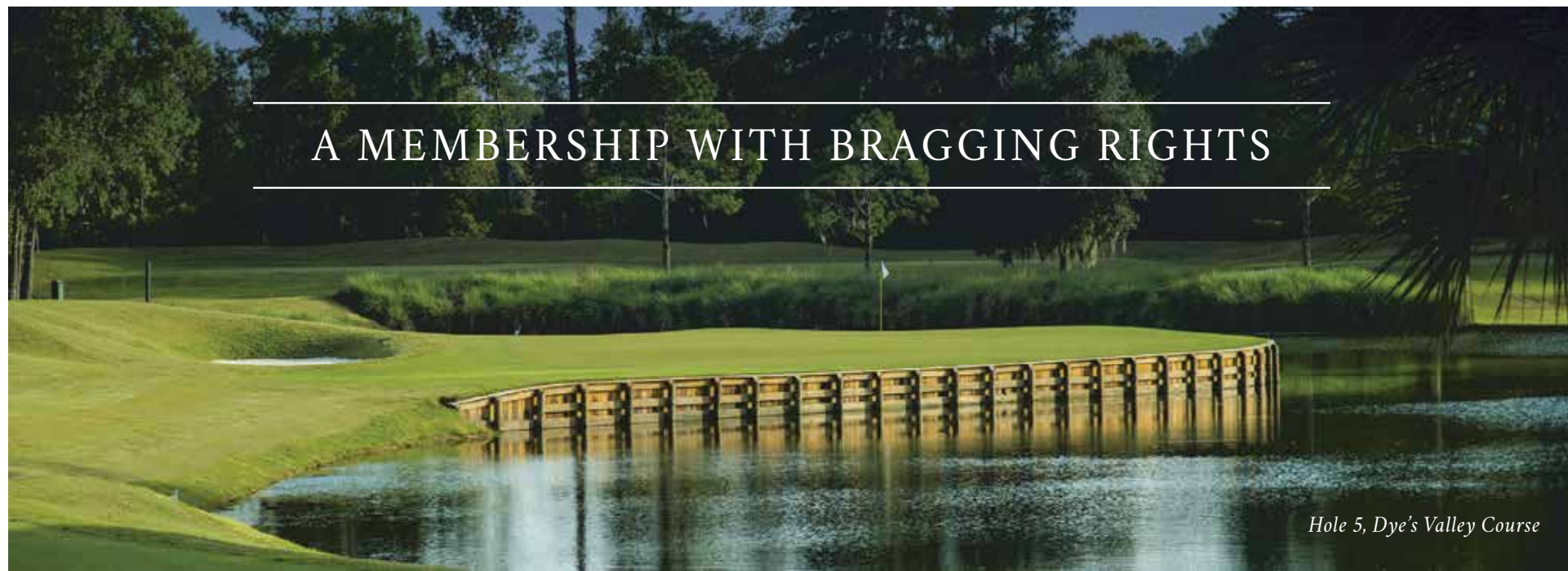
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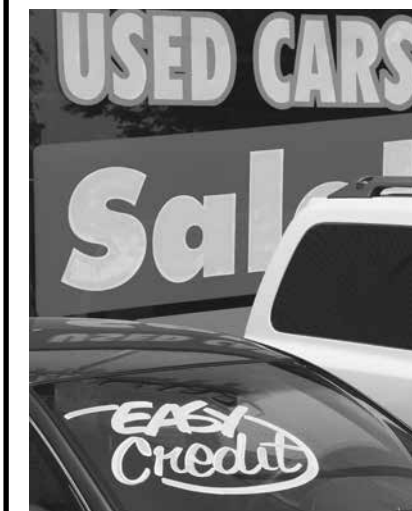
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## PVB Division Holiday Merriment Party


Date/Time: Wednesday, December 7 / 5:30- 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Cutter & Cutter Fine Gallery

**Info:** St. Johns County's premier networking event will feature great door prizes, hors d'oeuvres, drinks and live music by Ryan Crary. Bring your spouse or friend and come celebrate with us this special evening of enjoyment & holiday merriment at the Cutter & Cutter Fine Art Gallery, located in Sawgrass Village.


**Cost:** \$35 member (\$40 @the door, \$40 non-member)- includes hors d' oeuvres and two drink tickets. For ticket information, call (904) 285-2004 or visit [www.sjcchamber.com](http://www.sjcchamber.com)



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