

Ponte Vedra Recorder

Ponte Vedra 

December 8, 2016
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PonteVedraRecorder.com



Santa Paws

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Sharks head to state championship finals

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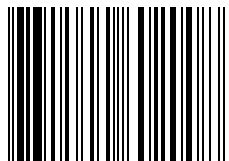


Photo courtesy of Nocatee

Nocatee to add new amenities

The PARC Group plans to build a new, four-story water spray park and an activity field twice the size of Nocatee Town Center Field, the largest addition of amenities to the community since it was founded a decade ago. Read more on page 5.

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Send us your news

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



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

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.

Six readers correctly identified last week's photo as Harmonious Monks. Winner of the random drawing was **Daniel Burstein** – congratulations, Daniel! 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, there! My name is Snickers the cat and I am a 2-year-old female torti tabby who is looking for a new home! I was brought to the pet center as a stray. I'm super friendly and snuggly and I love to give kisses and rub all



over you! As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit us today here at the pet center! #35182



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi, there! My name is Bongo and I am a 4-year-old male lab mix who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray because I was wandering around all alone with nobody to care for me. I love to snuggle and play outside and nothing makes my tail wag faster than when

we get to go on a walk! As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit us today here at the pet center! #35522

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.**



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County installs flashing signal at Palm Valley Bridge following death of Nease High School student in July

By Jon Blauvelt

St. Johns County officials say the fatal traffic death of a Nease High School student at the foot of the Palm Valley Bridge in July influenced the county's decision to install Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFBs) at that crosswalk recently.

"We want to make sure our roads are safe for motorists, pedestrians or anybody that uses them," Public Works Director Neal Shinkre said. "We didn't think what was there was bad, but because of the fatality and the outcry, we looked at it more."

On July 6, Christian Meier, 17, was riding his bike eastward on the sidewalk along Palm Valley Road when he was hit and killed by a car as he tried to cross the road near the foot of the bridge.

Prior to the accident and the installation of the flashing signals, there was an existing midblock crosswalk that Shinkre said met traffic standards. Yet after the accident occurred, he said the county addressed public demands and assigned its traffic

engineers to conduct a study of this section of Palm Valley road, specifically concerning the number of pedestrians that walk the sidewalks in the area and the grade of the hill descending from the bridge.

Between the engineers' findings, the accident and the public outcry that followed, Shinkre said it was a necessary and logical decision to implement the RRFBs.

Now, when pedestrians cross the street, they can push a button to activate the flashing signals on the signs, which are supposed to continue flashing for as long as it takes for them to cross the street. In theory, the signals should then alert any oncoming motorists to stop and yield for the pedestrians.

Master Sgt. Dylan Bryan, a spokesman from Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), said any additional authorized warning devices can be beneficial.

"These would hopefully reduce the amount of crashes and/or hazardous drivers in our area by grasping the attention of roadway users," said Bryan.



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

When pedestrians now cross the street at the foot of the Palm Valley Bridge, they can alert motorists by pressing a button that activates flashing signals on the crosswalk signs.

Feedback from the community, Shinkre said, has been positive so far.

"I think feedback has been great," said Shrinke. "I think the community ap-

preciates that we reviewed the situation and looked for opportunities to upgrade. When a pedestrian is walking there, it (the RRFBs) will make them feel safe."

Annual beach passes for St. Johns County on sale

Annual passes to drive vehicles on St. Johns County's beaches are now on sale at all office locations of St. Johns County Tax Collector.

Passes are required to drive on the beaches during the 2017 season, March 1 through Sept. 30. St. Johns County residents can purchase passes at the preseason rate of \$30. Non-residents can purchase passes for \$40. Passes for disabled persons, regardless of residency, are available for \$20. There is no fee for 100 percent disabled military veterans.

Customers will be asked to provide proof of residency and disability status to receive the passes at the specified rates.

All fees increase by \$10 March 2, at which time passes will no longer be available for purchase at the Tax Collector's office.

For questions regarding the beach passes, contact the St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Department at (904) 209-0333. For more information about the St. Johns County Tax Collector's office locations and hours of operation, visit www.sjctax.us or call (904) 209-2250.



St. Johns County Public Library system launches 'Food for Fines' program

The St. Johns County Public Library system has once again launched its "Food for Fines" program to benefit a local food pantry.

This program allows patrons to lower or eliminate library fines while providing assistance to the Health and Human Services Food Pantry. The program, which continues through Dec. 19, enables patrons to remove \$1 worth of fines for every item of non-perishable food donated.

Overdue fines, charges for damaged items, debt collection fees and inter-library loan fees may be removed through this program. Fees for lost items, printing, faxes, computer guest passes and other similar service fees are not eligible. For a complete list, visit www.sjcpls.org.

Due to the impact of Hurricane Matthew, residents and rescued animals need more assistance than usual. Food donations may be dropped off at any St. Johns County Library branch or with a Bookmobile.

Last year, St. Johns County residents provided more than 18,000 non-perishable items through the Food for Fines program. All food collected will remain in St. Johns County. For more information, call (904) 827-6925.

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Nocatee to build new water spray park, expanded activity field

4-story spray playground to highlight additional amenities

By Jennifer Logue

A new four-story water “spray playground” and an expanded activity field twice the size of Nocatee Town Center field will be the newest amenities added to Nocatee, The PARC Group has announced.

In what the developers say is the largest addition of new amenities since the master-planned community was founded a decade ago, The PARC Group unveiled plans for the new offerings, the first of which – an expanded activity field to be located behind the Nocatee Swim Club – is expected to be completed in Summer 2017.

The new Spray Park has an anticipated completion date of Summer 2018.

“This is all part of our ongoing commitment to continually raise the bar for fun and lifestyle here at Nocatee,” said PARC Group President and CEO Rick Ray in a video announcing the new amenities.



PARC Group President and CEO Rick Ray

Nocatee Spray Park

Building on the popularity of its signature Splash Water Park – which features a resort-style lagoon pool, lazy river, a water slide tower and a 330-foot zipline – The PARC Group has developed plans to build the Nocatee Spray Park. To be located

between the Nocatee Swim Club and the Nocatee Community Park, the four-story “water playground” will enable guests to be sprayed with water while sliding, climbing and playing. The new park will also feature a deck, food court and bar. Construction is scheduled to begin in Summer 2017.

Activities Field

The new activity field, officials said, will provide expanded parking and twice as much space as Town Center Field for community events and activities, including the popular monthly Nocatee Farmers Market and drive-in movie nights. A band stage, meanwhile, will accommodate concerts and special events such as the annual Roscolusa songwriters’ festival.

“Events and activities are a major part of the Nocatee lifestyle,” Ray said. “By expanding this area and adding the band stage and parking, we’re ensuring our residents have the perfect spot to host even bigger and better events and activities for years to come.”

The announcement of the new amenities follows the continued growth of Nocatee, which for the past several years has ranked as the third fastest-growing master-planned community in the nation. In November, Nocatee surpassed 5,000 homes, with nearly 1,000 of those homes sold during 2016.

And Nocatee’s amenities, PARC Group officials said, are key to that growth.

“Nocatee is more than homes, neighborhoods and shopping centers – it’s the lifestyle we enjoy,” Ray said. “That lifestyle is centered around the parks, trails, swimming amenities and community events. And that lifestyle is about to get even better.”

Local Girl Scouts bring feast to families

Girl Scout Troop 843 of Landrum Middle School found a way to give back to the community in pursuit of a cadette badge recently by providing meals and

Publix gift cards to 10 local families.

The girls first coached themselves on “comparison shopping” and studied weekly ads, prices per ounce and brands

to find a budget-friendly store. They then made lists of non-perishable items for families to enjoy for a Thanksgiving feast, and used a portion of their cookie sales

money for the groceries.

The girls hand-delivered the bags of food Nov. 21 to the families at the Homeless Coalition of St. Augustine.



Photos provided by Girl Scout Troop 843

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Worley Faver has deep roots in the Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley community: His ancestors have lived in the area for more than a century. Yet it is a deep connection to the peoples and traditions of the American Southwest that inform and inspire his work as an artist. His handmade pottery is exhibited in numerous galleries, and is featured in the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach's current exhibition. Titled "Visions: Ancient & Modern," the exhibition continues through January 5, 2017.

Worley Faver

By Jennifer Logue

How long have you lived in Palm Valley?

My maternal grandfather, Will DeGrove, arrived in Diego (Palm Valley) in 1896 and built a large house, which still stands today. I grew up in what became known as "The Big House."

How did you become interested in pottery as an art form?

During a trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1989, I became aware of Pueblo pottery. I visited the pueblo of famed potter Maria Martinez. This visit began my journey with "The Clay," which has lasted now for almost 30 years.

Where do you get your inspiration for your pieces?

The design of my work is derived from meditation and dreams.

Describe the process for creating a typical piece.

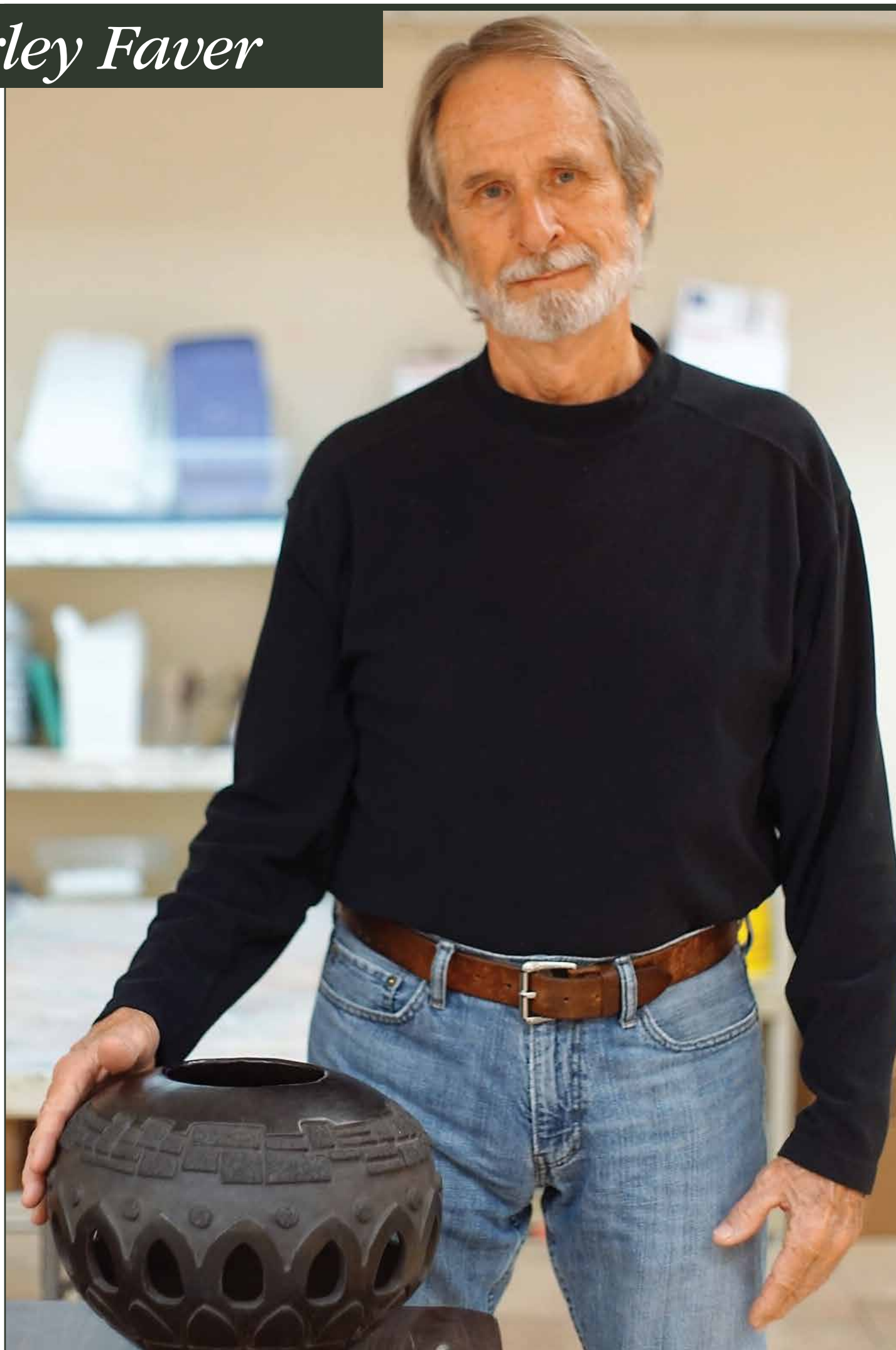
After the general design and dimensions of the piece are determined, I visualize the form, texture and finish of the piece. Once these details are set, then it takes up to four weeks to create a large piece. The work then dries for at least three weeks and is then fired. Firing determines the color of the work. Black pieces are cooled to 900 degrees in the kiln and then submerged in saw dust. I never use glazes: All shiny portions of the pieces are burnished with a smooth stone, just as was done by the Pueblos. All of my hand tools used in construction could be fabricated in the woods. I only use earthenware clay dug from a pit in Georgia.

Where do you exhibit your works?

My work is exhibited at Cutter and Cutter Fine Art located at 25 King St., St. Augustine and also in Sawgrass Village. My work is also in private collections throughout North America and Canada.

How do you enjoy spending your free time?

We have three children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren, so family time is one of our greatest joys. My wife Dena and I also love spending time with family in Hope-town, Abacos, Bahamas.



Ponte Vedra YMCA holds 10th annual Turkey Trot to benefit Safety Around Water program



Photos courtesy of Ponte Vedra YMCA
Amanda and Lucas Relihan speed toward the 1K finish line at the Ponte Vedra YMCA's 10th annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning.




Addison Killian gets a little help from her mom, Brandy, during the 1K race at the YMCA's annual Turkey Trot.

More than 600 people participated in the Ponte Vedra YMCA's 10th annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning.

The race included two fun runs for kids, a 1K, 3K and a timed 5K, which started at the Mickler's Landing parking lot and stretched along South Ponte Vedra Boule-

vard.

All proceeds from the race benefited the YMCA's Safety Around Water program, which teaches parents about the importance of water safety skills and provides youth with access to water safety lessons. The event has raised approximately \$10,000 to date.



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THE PLAYERS Championship treats local kids to an afternoon at Topgolf

Tournament's volunteer leaders present \$10,000 donation to Boselli Foundation

By Jon Blauvelt

Children who participate in the Boselli Foundation's after school programs enjoyed dinner, golf lessons and a visit from a PGA Tour player last week, as THE PLAYERS Championship leadership team treated the group to a fun-filled afternoon at Jacksonville's new Topgolf facility.

PGA Tour player Tim Wilkinson joined with the tournament's volunteer leadership and former chairmen – known as the Red Coats – for the event, which also provided each of the children with a gift card to help them with their holiday shopping.

"Today was about introducing these kids to golf and showing them how much fun it can be," said 2016 tournament chairman Michele McManamon. "I hope they enjoyed themselves as much as we did."

THE PLAYERS also surprised the Boselli Foundation with a \$10,000 check. The donation and overall charity event concludes the organization's Giving Back Month, which included six other "Red Coat Rideouts" to local charities to present donations generated by the tournament.

"This is the best part of being involved on the leadership team and as a volunteer," McManamon said. "There are no words to describe how cool it is to be able to give back a check every week to a different charity that gives so much to the community."

Wilkinson, who has lived in Jacksonville for nine years and is originally from New Zealand, was happy to be part of the event.

"I try to do as many charitable things as I can, especially during the off season," he said. "It's important to give back to the

community."

Throughout the event, the middle school-aged kids received pointers from Wilkinson and the Red Coats – high-fiving them after driving balls down the range – and enjoyed the ambience of the Topgolf facility, which opened in late October.

"I want to live here!" exclaimed one of the girls. "This place is like 500 stories."

Brian English, the 2017 tournament chairman, said events like this one make the team's years of volunteering so meaningful.

"To see all these smiling faces, it's great," English said. "It's really impactful for these kids to come to such a state-of-the-art, fun place that they may not ever get to come and see on their own. They'll remember this for a long time."

The money generated by THE PLAYERS each year benefits more than 300 northeast Florida charities such as the Boselli Foundation. Established in 2007 by former Jacksonville Jaguars player Tony Boselli and his wife Angi, the Boselli Foundation is a faith-based, non-profit organization working to help children living in at-risk neighborhoods on the north side of Jacksonville. Its Youth Life Learning Centers (YLLC) focus on providing a comprehensive after-school learning environment to children with limited financial resources.

Jen Vihrachoff, executive director of the Boselli Foundation, said the Topgolf event provided the kids with a unique experience.

"From their reactions and the comments they've made, they're really excited and grateful to be here," she said. "THE PLAYERS allows us to make an impact in the lives of a lot of kids in Jacksonville



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Emmanuel Pollock, a member of the Boselli Foundation after school program, receives a pointer from Red Coat Bobby Martin, the 1986 tournament chairman.

that wouldn't be possible otherwise. Both the Bosellis and I are grateful for that."

The PLAYERS 2016 raised \$8.5 million

for local charities, with more than \$84 million donated to local charities since the tournament moved to Ponte Vedra Beach.



Photo courtesy of Kiwanis Club

Members of the Kiwanis Club and student volunteers serve Thanksgiving dinner to seniors at the Bennie Furlong Senior Center.

Kiwanis, Fleet Landing serve Thanksgiving dinner to local seniors

The Kiwanis Club of Jacksonville Beach joined with Fleet Landing to serve local seniors Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 18 at the Bennie Furlong Senior Center. Nearly 100 guests enjoyed a traditional holiday feast of turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and butter prepared by Fleet Landing chefs and served by Kiwanians as well as 20 members from the Fletcher Senior High

School Key Club. Staff from the Law Offices of Rod Schloth, PA also helped serve guests, who dined on colorful Thanksgiving placemats created by K-Kids, the Kiwanis elementary school club.

Thanksgiving Dinner has been a tradition at the Bennie Furlong Senior Center for many years, begun by the family of Susan Merchant, who also are Kiwanians.



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Photos courtesy of Nocatee

Nocatee A Glow brightens the holiday season

Nocatee's Splash Waterpark was ablaze with colored lights last week, as the master-planned community held its popular Nocatee A Glow celebration.

Thousands of residents flocked to the water park to witness the holiday light display. Due to the event's popularity, this year's Nocatee A Glow was expanded to two nights, with shuttles buses

transporting visitors to the park from the Nocatee Town Center Field. Both evenings also featured train rides, a tree lighting countdown, refreshments and more.

The Splash Waterpark light display will continue to run nightly on the half hour from 6 to 9:30 p.m. through Jan. 1.



Photos courtesy of Fun4FirstCoastKids.com.

1st Annual Psych Ed Connections Turkey Trot enlivens Thanksgiving

Nearly 500 people participated in the 1st Annual Psych Ed Connections Turkey Trot 10K/5K run/walk on Thanksgiving Day in Nocatee.

Organized by Fun4FirstCoastKids.com and Dr. Abigail Levini, the event attracted hundreds of spectators, who cheered on the Turkey Trot participants and enjoyed the Advanced Disposal Thanksgiving Day Parade. The race also succeeded in raising \$2,000 for donation to the local Youth Crisis Center.

"We were thrilled with the first year's turn out," Levini said. "Families coordinated shirts, dressed up as turkeys, and came together to celebrate community, our local businesses in Nocatee, and to burn some calories before Thanksgiving dinner – all for a good cause."

The Rice Orthodontics Fun Run was also popular, attracting more than 150 kids and adults who were handed purple and white pomppoms at the finish line. Participants lined the course to catch candy as cheerleaders, decorated golf carts and vans paraded by. An ambulance and fire truck rounded out the day, as kids enjoyed climbing in the big trucks and meeting their local station's heroes.



'Oh What Fun!'

Sawgrass Village rings in the season with holiday festivities

Sawgrass Village will host a day of holiday fun Dec. 10 with its "Oh What Fun!" event. Featuring horse-drawn car-

riage rides, live music, activities, raffles and more, the festivities will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Attendees are invited to play "Stuff Your Stocking" to win a stocking stuffed with items from Sawgrass Village mer-

chants. Visitors will also have a chance to purchase raffle tickets for the "Spirit of Giving" raffle featuring more than \$4,000 in prizes from Sawgrass Village businesses. Proceeds will benefit the charities of the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club, including the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, St. Gerard's Campus and St. Augustine Youth Services.

Raffle tickets are three for \$10 and will be sold at the corner across from Nona Blue and the corner across from J Turner & Co. For more information, visit www.sawgrassvillagepvb.com.



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'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. The most festive display as judged by our editorial staff will receive a family four-pack of tickets to the Jacksonville Zoo's popular Zoo Lights holiday extravaganza.

Simply email a photo of your outdoor holiday display to 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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The Nights of Lights Park & Ride Shuttle is a free service offered by the City of St. Augustine to enhance the Nights of Lights experience for residents and visitors alike and is possible because of the cooperation of the St. Johns Co. Administration and St. Johns Co. Health Department.

PV2-LV33507

beyond  the horizon.

PV2-LV33490



Photo courtesy of The Bolles School

Checkmate: Bolles students well-represented at chess tournament

Bolles students representing all four of the school's campuses competed as individuals and as teams at the recent Greenwood Invitational Chess Tournament.

In the high school division, Henry Li placed first as an individual. Satvik Reddy placed first as an individual in the grade 6-8 division, while Spencer Lewis

placed first in the grade 3-5 division and second place as a team alongside John-Marko James in the grade 3-5 division. Paris James placed second as an individual in the K-2 division.

Advisor and math teacher Angela James accompanied the students to the competition.



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Church members from Apostolics of St. Augustine pose in front of their Grinch-themed float at the St. Augustine Christmas parade.



The St. George Mummies at the St. Augustine Christmas parade

St. Augustine holds annual Christmas parade

By Jon Blauvelt

St. Augustine ushered in the holiday season Dec. 3 with its annual Christmas parade.

Starting at the Mission of Nombre de Dios, the parade proceeded through downtown and finished behind the visitor center. The parade included floats, festive decorations, animals and holiday-themed performances presented by local businesses and community groups.

Visiting St. Augustine from Georgia, Lynne Melos and her friends called the parade a unique experience

"This is only the second parade I've been to," she said. "It fulfills something I didn't have in my childhood."

Santa served the role of showstopper as the last attraction of the parade.



Santa travels down the street atop a firetruck to the wide-eyed amazement of children and adults alike.

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SHORT TAKES

December in the Park

The Beaches Museum and History Park will host “December in the Park,” throughout the month. The buildings of the History Park will be lit and the tree will be decked. The Foreman’s House, the Historic Chapel and the newly opened Oesterreicher-McCormick Cabin will take visitors back to Christmas of an earlier time with period décor. There will also be a model train display in the Mayport Depot transformed into the “Polar Express” with a seasonal layout.

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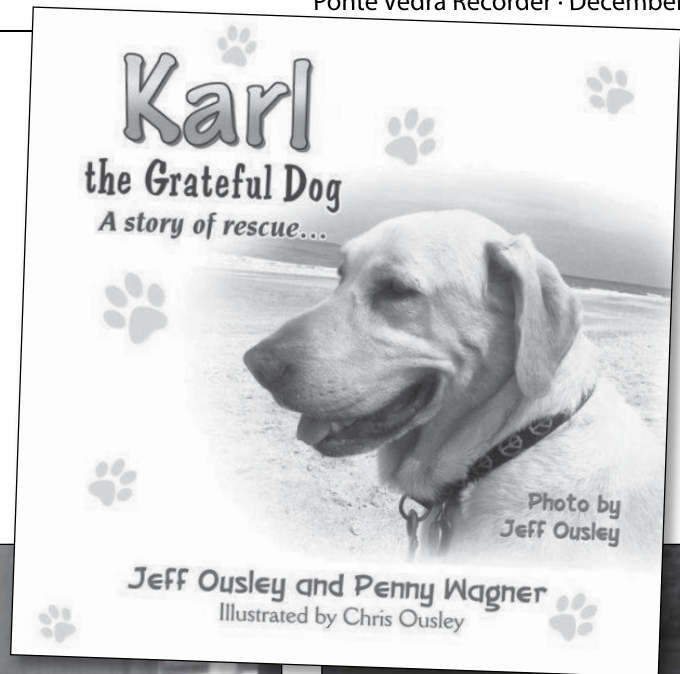
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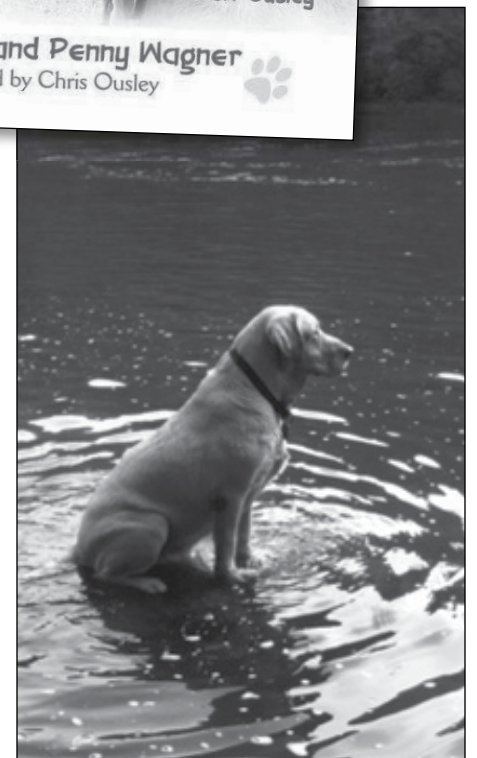
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beyond expectations.

'Karl the grateful dog' centerpiece of effort to save seniors' dogs



Photos provided by Jeff Ousley



By Jasmine Marshall

Karl the grateful dog, writers Jeff Ousley and Penny Wagner insist, is no ordinary dog.

The golden lab rescue is the titular character in a series of books penned by the two authors. The first book, "Karl the Grateful Dog: A Story of Rescue" (2014), follows the fateful spring night in 2011 that Ousley was tasked with picking up the lab to transport him to a local SAFE (Saving Animals from Euthanasia) shelter in St. Augustine. Through a series of hijinks, the lovable pup manages to cause some major trouble for everyone he encounters throughout the course of the evening. But soon-to-be owner Ousley sees something worth saving in his

amber eyes and drooping head: a dog who needed love, and who wanted to give love in equal measure, whose very presence has touched the lives of many.

"We felt that it was a story that just needed to be told," Ousley said. "When it comes to rescues you're really ... giving them a second or third or fourth chance. You never know just what they've gone through."

Wagner doesn't hesitate to assign their meeting to fate. The former teacher and writer said she connected with Ousley, a touring guitar technician for Ann and Nancy Wilson of the rock band Heart, at a time when she had a lab of her own named Kingsley. When he unfortunately died, Wagner said Karl worked to erase the hole left behind.

"Karl worked to fill an empty spot at that time," she said. "I really believe it was God given."

Recognizing the healing power of animals, she and Ousley began taking Karl to others in need of love.

The certified service lab dons his vest and visits senior and nursing homes, children and friends offering a bit of the pet therapy methods that are increasingly adopted in the Northeast Florida area. Karl works in small ways just about every day, and Wagner and Ousley are determined to see his purpose to new heights.

With the support of the book series, they've set ambitions high to build a home for seniors' dogs. Wagner and Ousley realized that many of the seniors Karl visited had pets of their own – some of whom were the last of their living "family" – and unfortunately had to surrender them. Understanding the significance of giving up a furry friend, they're determined to make the home happen.

"Somewhere along the line there will be a senior home for senior dogs with Karl's name above the door," said Wagner. "We felt how much Karl meant to them...so we decided we could build a home for dogs that were surrendered from certain facilities and provide an opportunity for a safe haven for them."

Wagner also said she'd like to establish a program that helps at-risk or incarcerated youth by exposing them to the love of an animal and allowing the responsibility of its

care to be an integral part of healing.

As for the not-so-distant future, Wagner feels that Karl acts as an example of kindness that everyone can emulate – and she and Ousley both hope his message is received during the most wonderful time of the year.

"People can learn so much from Karl during the holidays," Wagner said. "The purpose of the book is not to commercialize Karl but to make people experience an unconditional love that dogs surrender so easily."

"Everybody and everything needs a place to call home," she continued. "We're not looking to make money, we're looking to make a difference."

Karl's story continues

Karl's adventures don't end with book one – Ousley and Wagner have "soft-released" its sequel, "Karl the Grateful Dog: Karl in Concert," chronicling the adventures Ousley and Karl share on the road. Most recently, an audiobook of the first story was released on Amazon and Audible featuring narration by Nancy Wilson of Heart.

Karl and Wagner will also make an appearance at St. Augustine's Barnes and Noble, located at 1930 U.S. 1 South throughout the afternoon on Sunday, Dec. 11.

To learn more about Karl, Wagner and Ousley, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KarlTheGratefulDog and their website at www.sbprabooks.com/jef-fousleyandpennywagner.

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Photos by Susan Griffin

Ayla's Acres Executive Director Fran Charlson, Underwood's General Manager John Rutkowski and actress Loretta Swit

Underwood trunk show benefits Ayla's Acres Animal Rescue

Lagos jewelry was the focus of a special trunk show hosted by Underwood Jewelers last week to benefit Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue.

Held Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at the Ponte Vedra Beach jewelry store, the trunk show concluded with a cocktail reception fundraiser featuring celebrated actress and animal activist Loretta Swit. During the show, 10 percent of all sales of Lagos jewelry was donated to Ayla's Acres. In addition, Underwood's raffled off a \$2,750 Lagos diamond-beaded bracelet, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the animal rescue organization.

"We are very excited that Lagos partnered with Underwood's to support Ayla's Acres and our third annual trunk show," said John Rutkowski, manager of Underwood's Ponte Vedra Beach location. "Lagos has been a leading designer in our store and this will be the first trunk show with their product. What a win-win for our clients and Ayla's Acres!"



Mary Rowley, John Vaculik and Adrienne Arnone

Fran Charlson, executive director of Ayla's Acres, agreed. "The hard work, effort and passion that everyone at Underwood Jewelers has shown over the last three years has been nothing short of outstanding," she said. "Their annual event is a cornerstone of our fall fundraising initiatives and has contributed more than \$15,000 to our animals and mission. We are so thankful for this partnership."



Debra Waters and Liz McMasters



Margo Doran and Sue Hollis



St. Augustine Humane Society reveals 'Pin Up Paws' calendars

The St. Augustine Humane Society has unveiled its 2017 "Pin Up Paws" calendar.

Each year, the Humane Society produces a calendar featuring local pets that compete for featured monthly pages. This year, calendar votes raised close to \$15,000 for the nonprofit organization, with terrier mix Fletcher Watson raising \$3,475 for first place and earning the title of fan favorite and a spot on the cover.

The 2017 calendar depicts a travel destination, with the winners posing as tourists. The new calendar with a theme of "Travel Tails" is available at locations in St. Augustine including the Humane Society at 1665 Old Moultrie Road, the Amiro Art & Found Gallery at 9 Aviles St. and Dogtown at 6988 US-1, Ste. 301.

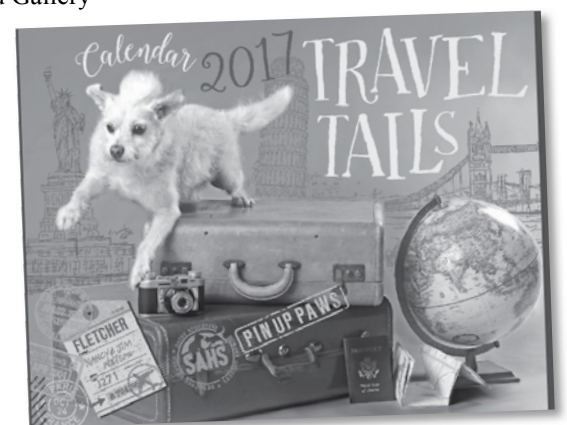
The \$10 fundraising calendars support the non-profit's mission to prevent pet overpopulation through affordable spay and neuter programs and to eliminate the need to relinquish pets to shelters. Additional program offerings include a charity pet clinic, dog training classes, a pet food bank, pet

grooming at the Society Pet Spa and the Humane Society's re-homing service, among others.

In addition, the recent Pin Up Paws winners will be honored with a party on Thursday, Jan. 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Mark Lance Armory, located at 190 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine.

In addition to dinner, the event will feature music, cocktails, auction, a wine pull and a photo booth.

Tickets are \$50 per person and \$60 at the door. Party sponsorships and program book tributes are also available for purchase. For more information about the calendar and event tickets, call (904) 829-2737 or visit the website at www.PupParty.org.



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OBITUARIES

Betty C. Fetty

Betty C. Fetty, 77, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Nov. 28, 2016. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.

pontevedravalle.com

Jane Kirkpatrick Canady

Jane Kirkpatrick Canady, 93, died peacefully Nov. 22, 2016. Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors- (229) 883-6600- www.kimbrellstern.com includes full obituary.

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Apex Theatre Studio to present 'It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play'

The Apex Theatre Studio will present the American holiday classic "It's a Wonderful Life" as a live radio play on Thursday, Dec. 22.

The time-honored tale will come to life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble that brings a few dozen characters to the stage, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve.

"We wanted to offer something which allowed families to gather together once all the shopping and the running around have commenced," said Ian Mairs, director of Apex Theatre Studio. "The live radio format and 1940s setting will transport the audience back to another time and place. The play's message has resonated for over 75 years because it is timeless."

The cast features alumnae from the Apex Theatre Studio's Summer Musical Theater program, who are currently enrolled in theater programs around the country, including those at Florida State University, the University of Florida and New York University. Part of the proceeds will go toward Apex Theatre Studio's "Raise the Mic" campaign to purchase a wireless sound system for the company.

Tickets for "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" are \$25 and available for purchase at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Offices, ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets and by phone at (800) 745-3000. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the performance begins at 8 p.m. The show's runtime is 80 minutes without intermission.

For more information, visit www.pvconcerthall.com and www.apextheatrejax.com.



Actors rehearse the live radio play version of 'It's a Wonderful Life.'

Apex Theatre Studio photo

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Thursday, Dec. 8	Friday, Dec. 9	Saturday, Dec. 10	Sunday, Dec. 11
<p>Save Guana Now Meeting Save Guana Now will host a meeting Dec. 8 to discuss fundraising events, strategize and share ideas concerning 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; register online at SaveGuanaNow.org/contact-donate.</p> <p>Nights of Lights 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 own Christmas tree. For information about shuttles and parking visit www.floridashistoriccoast.com/nights-lights.</p> <p>Deck the Chairs 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 the pavilion is known for year-round. This year's Shine Hope & Peace Light & 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>WinterFEST at Adventure Landing 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 www.jax-winterfest.com. Adventure Landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p>St. Augustine Orchestra Concert A staple of St. Augustine's Christmas season, this event will be held Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. in the historic courtyard area of the Lightner Museum, formerly the Hotel Alcazar. The orchestra and chorus will perform a number of seasonal favorites and attendees are invited to sing along. The Lightner Museum is located at 25 Granada St. in St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 655-7944 or visit www.staugustineorchestra.org.</p> <p>ZooLights Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' ZooLights returns for the holiday season with thousands of LED lights, moving sculptures, lighted treats and animal silhouettes. The show includes work by student-artists from the University of North Florida, a fairy village and a lighted train in addition to carousel rides and a 4-D theater. ZooLights runs from Dec. 9-11 and Dec. 16 through Jan. 7. The event will not be open Christmas Day. To learn more about show times and ticket prices, visit www.jacksonvillezoo.org/zoolights.</p> <p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets Fridays at 9 a.m. at Watson Realty Corp., 615 Highway A1A S. in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call Gloria at (904) 635-6103, visit www.pvpng.com or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</p> <p>Coastal Wine Market Wine Tasting Coastal Wine Market will host a Friday wine tasting 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>'Welcome Yule!' The St. Augustine Community Chorus, under the direction of Mike Sanflippo, will open its 2016-2017 concert season with two performances of 'Welcome Yule!' On Saturday, Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine. The community chorus will be joined by the St. Augustine Youth Chorus directed by Kerry Fradley, and accompanied by harp and traditional choral arrangements. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$5 for active military, students and children. Tickets may be purchased at several local businesses and online. For more information, visit www.staugustinecommunitychorus.org or call Donna Molinari at (904) 316-4354.</p> <p>Santa Suits on the Loose 5K Nearly 600 "Santas" will be on the run Dec. 10, when Bozard Ford and Island Doctors present the 5th Annual Santa Suits on the Loose 5K benefiting St. Augustine Youth Services. The walk/jog/run starts at the St. Augustine Beach Pier Park at 8 a.m. and follows a flat 3.1 mile course through St. Augustine Beach neighborhoods. Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. and the entry fee is \$35 per person. For more information or to register, email santasuitsontheloose@gmail.com or visit www.racesmith.com.</p> <p>Sawgrass Village Holiday Celebration Sawgrass Village will host a day of holiday fun Dec. 10 with its "Oh What Fun!" event. Featuring horse-drawn carriage rides, music, activities, raffles and more, this event will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors will get the chance to purchase raffle tickets for prizes from Sawgrass Village businesses. Proceeds benefit the charities of the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club.</p> <p>Beaches League of Storytellers The Beaches League of Storytellers will meet on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. in the Community Hall of Pablo Towers at 115 Third Ave. in Jacksonville Beach. The organization invites all interested in the art of storytelling to join the free meeting. Guests include members of the Vintage Players in Jacksonville, who will perform sketches. Contact Marianne at (904) 280-2976 for more information.</p>	<p>Atlantic Beach Luminaria Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty will begin the Inaugural Atlantic Beach Luminaria on Sunday, Dec. 11, celebrating 90 years of Atlantic Beach History. Locals and visitors are welcome to attend the lighting at The Attic at Archway. Kits can be purchased for \$5 and include five bags, five candles and sand. Proceeds will go back into the Atlantic Beach community. For information and to purchase a kit, call (904) 802-0353 or email atlanticbeachluminaria@floridanetworkrealty.com. The Attic at Archway is located at 363 Atlantic Blvd. Ste. 2.</p> <p>Downtown Dazzle The Jacksonville Children's Chorus (JCC) presents its second annual holiday celebration by illuminating the outside of its downtown office, located at 225 East Duval St., with lights synchronized to recorded songs of the season performed by JCC. Holiday, Christmas and Hanukkah songs will be broadcast on 94.5 FM radio. Downtown Dazzle continues through New Year's Eve. Each night, 12-minute presentations run from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The synchronized lights are designed by Darren Hufty, who along with Miller Electric, bring the building and the downtown block to life. For more information, contact Carolyn Audije at carolyn@jaxchildrenschorus.org.</p> <p>Collection Tour 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> <p>Voice of the People Showcase Fall 2016 MOCA Jacksonville will unveil the results of the Richard Lewis Brown Gifted and Talented Academy fourth-grader's work at its Voice of the People Showcase for the fall of 2016. From noon to 2 p.m., celebrate the creation of student-made audio guides where students analyze the museum's permanent collection. A presentation will be given in the MOCA theater, then guests can join the students in the permanent collection galleries on the second floor. This event is free and open to the public.</p>

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Monday, Dec. 12	Tuesday, Dec. 13	Wednesday, Dec. 14	Thursday, Dec. 15
<p>Travel Training Program 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 karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group This 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 life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com</p> <p>Enchanted Christmas Village The Keeler Property will be alight with Christmas spirit 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 any day passes or event tickets, visit www.jacksonvillechristmas.com. The Keeler Property is located at 17255 Normandy Blvd in Jacksonville, Fla.</p> <p>Florida Forever! 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, the 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 www.staaa.org.</p>	<p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & 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 www.cummuseum.org. The Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p>Jax Beach Art Walk Better Jax Beach presents its monthly Jax Beach Art Walk the second Tuesday of each month. This event takes place along storefronts of businesses located from First Street from Beach Boulevard north to Fifth Avenue North. This event showcases the work of local artists and businesses and includes live music and specials. Jax Beach Art Walk takes place from 5 to 9 p.m. For more information, visit www.betterjax-beach.com.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club Meeting 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 jwhart1208@gmail.com.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Day Retreat 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 www.at-pontevedra.com.</p>	<p>Sandbar Santa Charity Fish Fry Join the Council on Aging for the 15th annual Sandbar Santa Charity Fish Fry, Wednesday, Dec. 14 from 4 to 8 p.m. at The Sandbar Pub, 7025 A1A South. The menu consists of fried fish with trimmings for \$10 and will feature celebrity bartenders. All proceeds from the fish fry and all tips will go to the Council on Aging to provide a special Christmas for low-income elders in the area. For information, call Jeannie Berger at (904) 461-4671 or Jane Faybik at (904) 209-3687.</p> <p>Mayport Navy League Mixer The Mayport Navy League will hold its December mixer on Wednesday, Dec. 14 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Tomo Japanese Restaurant. Tomo is located at 1253 Penman Road in Jacksonville Beach. Join for an evening of drinks and conversation.</p> <p>'The Polar Express' The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library invites the entire family to Ms. Suzanne's special Readers Theatre presentation of holiday favorite, "The Polar Express." Children and caregivers are encouraged to wear their pajamas to this reading. This special edition of the library's Bedtime Storytime series sponsored by the Friends of the Library will be held in the FOL Community Room from 6 to 7 p.m. Milk and cookies will be provided. The library is located at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Well-Being Wednesday During and after the Mid-Week Market in Bull Park, free well-being classes will be held at the Adele Grage Cultural Center. Qigong classes, including Tai Chi, are now available Wednesday mornings at the Adele Grage Center from 9:30 to 10:30 am. 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 and classes.</p>	<p>Yoga for Survivors at the Y 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 www.baptistjax.com/ymca 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 will run Dec. 15 and 22 at 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Savvy Job Hunters Ministry Workshop The Savvy Job Hunters Ministry is wrapping up 2016 with two presentations by Dr. Priscilla Berry, adjunct lecturer at Hough Graduate School of the University of Florida; and Cari Andreani, associate dean of academic affairs at Keiser University. This event will take place Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon at Christ Episcopal Church's Parish Center Conference Room. These workshops are free to attend. RSVP to Cindy Corritore, ccorritore@christepiscopalchurch.org, or Pastoral Care Office, (904) 285-7390 ext. 231. For more information, contact Pam Ottesen at pottesen66@gmail.com. Christ Episcopal Church is located at 400 San Juan Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach. Park on the upper deck to enter the second floor conference room.</p> <p>Grief Support Group A grief support group meets on the third Thursday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Room 102 of the Family Life Center located at 578 First Avenue North in Jacksonville Beach. The group is for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Dec. 15. For information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to jasmine@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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Chabad at the Beaches to celebrate Chanukah with annual 'Wonderland' concert

Chabad at the Beaches is gearing up for its largest Chanukah event with its 14th annual Chanukah Wonderland Concert.

Chabad expects hundreds to attend the yearly community Chanukah celebration to be held Tuesday, Dec. 27. Set to take place at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra

Beach, the event kicks off at 5 p.m., followed by a 6 p.m. menorah lighting with free Chanukah delicacies, including hot latkes, music and a free raffle.

"Chanukah's a time for celebrating the freedom to openly honor our values; freedom, goodness and light are all cel-

ebrated," said Rabbi Nochum Kurinsky, director of Chabad at the Beaches. "This event is designed to bring the joy of Chanukah to people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests."

The event will also feature Toronto-based musician and entertainer Yossi

Berktin, also known as master magician Rabbi B.; a Grand Chanukah Family Carnival and Fair including games, inflatables, face paint and photos; and dinner packages with a choice of Zahava's falafel and kiddie hot dogs for purchase.

Chabad's Chanukah Wonderland is open to the public and is free to attend. Donations are appreciated. For more information, visit www.ChanukahWonderland.com, call the office at (904) 543-9301 or email info@chabadbeaches.com.



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Books A Million and Chabad at the Beaches to host Chanukah story and craft hour

Books A Million and Chabad at the Beaches will join forces to present a Chanukah story and craft hour Dec. 18.

Beginning at 3 p.m., Jacksonville Beach's Books A Million will host an hour of books, crafts, raffles, dreidels and fun for the family.

"Chanukah is such a great time to read," said Leah Kurinsky, program director of Chabad at the Beaches. "I felt a pre-Chanukah story hour would be a wonderful opportunity to have a great time and get in the Chanukah spirit.

"Last year I was so excited to see the

wide variety of Chanukah reading material Books A Million had available," Kurinsky continued. "They made sure to have the Chanukah selection fully stocked for this event to accommodate Chanukah gift and educational needs."

Books A Million is located at 738 Marsh Landing Parkway in Jacksonville Beach.

For more information about this or other Chabad at the Beaches activities or events, contact Chabad at (904) 285-1588, or by email at info@chabad-beaches.com.



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First Coast Opera to present 'Madama Butterfly'

One of the world's most popular operas comes to St. Augustine next month, when First Coast Opera presents a fully staged production of Puccini's "Madama Butterfly."

Featuring a professional cast and orchestra, the production will be performed Friday, Jan. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017 at 2 p.m. at Flagler College's Lewis Auditorium in downtown St. Augustine. The performance will include projected English translations for the Italian opera.

Set in Nagasaki, Japan in 1900, "Madama Butterfly" recounts the story of an American soldier who weds a young Japanese girl. Though shunned by her family, Madame Butterfly embraces her new relationship and culture. Her American husband takes the ceremony less seriously, however, and marries a "real" bride back home in the United States. When the soldier later returns to Japan and realizes the seriousness of his earlier mistake, the opera ends tragically as the former geisha accepts the fate her culture demands.

Soprano Shannon Kessler Dooley will perform the title role. Dooley last appeared with First Coast Opera in its November production of "Opera Paris." The North Carolina resident has sung with Pittsburgh Opera and the Spoleto Festival.

The role of her American suitor, Lieutenant Pinkerton, will be sung by tenor Josh Kohl, making his company debut. Recent appearances for Kohl include Seattle Opera and Sarasota Opera. Baritone Cory Schantz sings the role of American Consul Sharpless. He coordinates the opera program at Reinhardt University in Georgia, where he has also sung with Atlanta Opera. International opera singer and Saint Augustine resident Lisa Lockhart, meanwhile, makes her company debut in the role of Suzuki.

Vermont-based Helena Binder will direct the production, which will be conducted by FCO Artistic Director Curtis Tucker.

Reserved seats are \$40 for adults and \$10 for students. For additional information and to purchase tickets, visit www.firstcoastopera.com.



"Rising Through the Fog"



"Sunrise on the Quarry"



Photos courtesy of Cutter & Cutter

Artist Matthew Cutter is a founding partner of Cutter & Cutter Fine Art, which recently opened a gallery in Sawgrass Village.

Cutter & Cutter to host exhibition of new Matthew Cutter originals

"Sea Energy" is one of a series of five paintings that are available.



Cutter & Cutter Fine Art will host an exhibition of new originals from artist and founding partner Matthew Cutter at the firm's new Sawgrass Village gallery on Friday, Dec. 9 and Saturday, Dec. 10.

The exhibition will feature more than 50 creations in oil, acrylic and watercolor on display at the new gallery, located at 333 Village Main St. #640 in Ponte Vedra Beach.

"This event will rival the major shows we have hosted in the past and will serve as a celebration of fine art," said Len Cutter, president and father of Matthew Cutter. "We are a family business that delights in bringing

things of lasting beauty to our friends and neighbors and all those who enjoy the finer things in life."

The exhibition will also feature a painting demonstration by Matthew Cutter on Dec. 10 during the Sawgrass Village holiday celebration.

"This show is a celebration of not only that beauty which surrounds us but, in a way, is also a celebration of our new gallery in Ponte Vedra Beach and is filled with a feeling of excitement about the future," he said. "It is always a pleasure to create a new body of work and then witness the response of collectors, old and new, to my paintings."

Saint Augustine Ballet to perform annual holiday classic 'The Nutcracker'

The Saint Augustine Ballet will present its annual production of "The Nutcracker" Saturday, Dec. 17 at 1:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. in Flagler College's Lewis Auditorium.

For the past four months, Saint Augustine Ballet's multi-generational cast of 85 members, comprised of students and several well-known local celebrities, have been rehearsing every Saturday since August. Carlos Miguel Guerra and Jennifer Carlynn Kronenberg, the ballet's principal dancers and former dancers with Miami City Ballet, will perform the iconic principal roles of the Cavalier and Sugar Plum Fairy. They, along with the other guest artists, will arrive in time to participate in the final week of rehearsals.

"I think this will be our best show ever," Artistic Director Luis Abella said. "We've been making many changes to keep it fresh and exciting for our returning audiences. I'm really looking forward to showing off our guest artists. They are going to provide a spectacular ending to this magical show."

Kronenberg trained at the School of American Ballet before joining Miami City Ballet where she was a principal dancer from 2001-2016. She has been featured numerous times in Pointe Magazine, DanceView Times, Dance Spirit Magazine and is the author of the book, "So, You Want to be a Ballet Dancer."

Guerra, a native of Cuba, began his training at the Professional School of Ballet and Plastic Arts in Camaguey, Cuba. He was a principal dancer with Miami City Ballet from 2003-2016 and is known for his spins, lifts and dynamic partner-



Carlos Miguel Guerra and Jennifer Carlynn Kronenberg, both former principal dancers with Miami City Ballet, will perform the roles of the Cavalier and Sugar Plum Fairy.

ing. Guerra was the recipient of the 2015 Miami Life award in the category of "Best Male Ballet Dancer."

Dancing the role of the Prince, Reinhard von Rabenau is new to Saint Augustine Ballet. Born in Duluth, Minnesota, he trained at Minnesota Ballet in 1997 and attended programs at Point Park University and Pacific Northwest Ballet. He danced with Minnesota Ballet from 2006-2015 and most recently with Ballet Palm Beach.

Returning to the role of the mischievous



Orlando Molina will again dance as the role of the mysterious Uncle Drosselmeyer.

Uncle Drosselmeyer is Orlando Molina, associate school director of the Georgia Ballet. Molina received his diploma as a dancer/teacher from the Cuban School of Ballet and has performed around the world as a principal dancer before settling in the United States.

The story of "The Nutcracker" revolves around Clara and her fantastical journey to the Land of the Sweets. Clara will be danced by local dancer Elea Woodward, a 13-year-old student at Fruit Cove Middle School.



Fruit Cove Middle School student Elea Woodward will dance the role of Clara.

"What excites me the most about being Clara is the fact that I have achieved my dream," Woodward said. "Since I started dancing with Saint Augustine Ballet, I have always wanted to be Clara and I have worked hard to try to get the role."

Tickets for "The Nutcracker" are \$25-\$30 with discounts for people 65 years and older and 12 and under. Tickets are available at saintaugustineballet.com or by phone at (855) 222-2849. Audience members are asked to help fill the donation bins in the lobby with canned goods for the St. Francis House food pantry.

Apex Theatre Studio to present inaugural Fall Young Artists Showcase

Apex Theatre Studio will present its inaugural Fall Young Artists Showcase Friday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.

To be presented at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, the program will feature artists ages 8 to 18 from the Northeast Florida area in a variety of performances developed during Apex Studio's inaugural fall training sessions.

"There is a little something for everyone," said Ian Mairs, executive director of Apex. "And the way our format works, this show is very fast paced and entertaining."

The musical theater workshop will present a staged medley of songs from the current Broadway hit, "Matilda," featuring numbers such as "Naughty" and "Revolting Children" under the direction of workshop leader Leah Page and featuring choreogra-

phy by Michelle Ottley-Fisher. The acting and improvisation workshop will follow with a contemporary update of Aesop's Fables which highlight the multifaceted skills of each ensemble member.

"Our improv and acting class is filled with students who excel at so many kinds of skills, such as gymnastics, musical instruments, tumbling and clowning, that we wanted to incorporate them into our storytelling," said Jason Nettle, who heads the acting program at Apex.

The upper division scene study class will present a short one-act comedy titled "Freeze Tag" by Jaquelyn Reingold. The stage combat class, meanwhile, will offer up a highly-charged fight presentation which involves a series of hilariously disgruntled Christmas elves.



Tickets for the Fall Young Artists Showcase are \$15 and available for purchase at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Offices, ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets

and by phone at (800) 745-3000. Doors open for the Fall Young Artists Showcase at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit www.pvconcerthall.com or www.apextheatrejax.com.

Holiday Pops, Messiah, Nutcracker highlight Jacksonville Symphony holiday offerings

The Jacksonville Symphony gets in the Christmas spirit this month with a schedule replete with holiday offerings.

Holiday Pops

The symphony's Fidelity National Pops Series begins this week with performances Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 9 at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. Associate Conductor Nathan Aspi-

nall will lead the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus – under the direction of Donald McCullough – with guest soloist Mikki Sodergren. The program will also feature performances by students from the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts; guests dancers Joshua Clinton, Jose Jimenez, Kaleb Sims; and a special appearance of the Bethel Baptist Institutional Church Choir.

Tickets for the Holiday Pops concerts range from \$27 to \$77.

Handel's Messiah

The Jacksonville Symphony will also present two performances of Handel's "Messiah" this holiday season on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. Aspinall will lead the orchestra and soloists Susannah Biller, Aleksandra Romano, Chris Carr and Daniel Mobbs, who will be joined by the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus. Ticket prices range from \$27 to \$77.

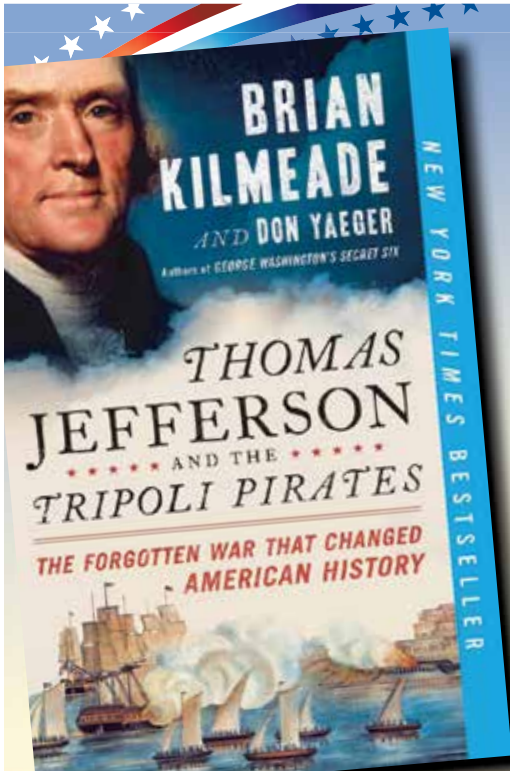
The First Coast Nutcracker

The First Coast Nutcracker will perform its first season as an official part of the Jacksonville Symphony. To be presented in the Moran Theater at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, the production will be the only area Nutcracker performance to include a full, live orchestra. Performances will be presented Friday, Dec. 16 at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. Chelsea Tipton will conduct the symphony, and Yumelia Garcia and Mauro Villaneuva will be the principal dancers.

New Year's Eve

The symphony's holiday celebrations will conclude with a bang on New Year's Eve, when conductor Steven Reineke and guest vocalists Tony DeSare and Montego Glover present the Music of Frank Sinatra at its New Year's Eve celebration. The music director of the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, Reineke will lead the swinging sound starting at 9 p.m. Dec. 31, followed by the symphony's After Party and fireworks viewing from the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. Ticket prices for the New Year's Eve event range from \$27 to \$77; the After Party is \$25 for standard admission and \$40 for VIP.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit jaxsymphony.org or call the box office at (904) 354-5547.



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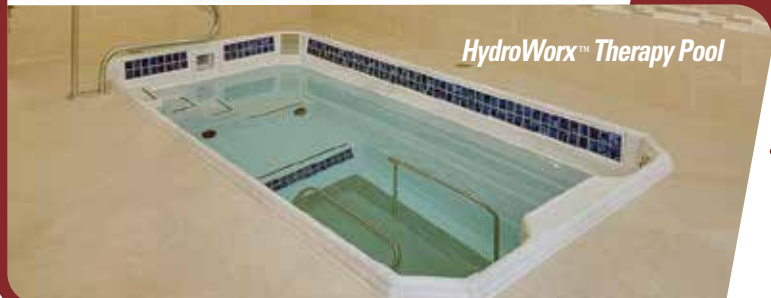
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PV2-LV33512

Jacksonville Symphony to present 'Violins of Hope' concert

The Jacksonville Symphony will present "Violins of Hope," a concert featuring 16 violins recovered and restored from The Holocaust, on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017 at 8 p.m. in Robert E. Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

The Jacksonville Symphony will be conducted by Associate Conductor Nathan Aspinall. The program will include Bach's "Sarabande" from Partita No. 2 in D minor, Mendelssohn's "Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage," Wieniawski's "Polonaise brillante No. 2" in A major and Maher's "Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor.

The concert will be presented in collaboration with the "Anne Frank: A History for Today" exhibit to be on display at the Museum of Science and History (MOSH) in January and February.

"We are honored to participate in this community initiative that gives voice to the many who were silenced," Symphony President and CEO Robert Massey said.

International series

The "Violins of Hope" international series of concerts was started by Israeli luthier Amnon Weinstein, who in 1996 was asked to restore a violin that had been played by a man interred in one of World War II's concentration camps. Weinstein – whose parents fled Europe in 1938 only to learn later of the deaths of more than 400 relatives – felt compelled to bring the violin back to life. After restoring the first violin, he actively sought out other violins that had been played in concentration camp orchestras. Thirty violins have now been restored.

A special 6 p.m. pre-concert reception will feature Weinstein and symphony musicians in a musical/historical presentation. VIP tickets – which include the reception and premium concert seating – are \$100 for symphony members and \$125 for non-members. Non-premium concert tickets range from \$22 to \$46. For tickets or more information, call (904) 354-5547 or visit jaxsymphony.org.



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PV2-1V33499

NIGHTS OF LIGHTS

Thousands of holiday revelers gravitated to St. Augustine this weekend to witness the historic city's famous "Nights of Lights" extravaganza.

Visitors circled around the block waiting to board trolleys to witness the more than 3 million lights adorning the city. Nease High School's Bella Voce select choir entertained visitors as they waited, performing a program of traditional Christmas classics including the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's "Messiah."

The Nights of Lights celebration continues through January 31.



Nease High School's Bella Voce choir performs traditional Christmas songs for Nights of Lights visitors.

Photos by Jennifer Logue



St. Augustine's historic Columbia Restaurant is adorned with lights.



Visitors line up to board the sightseeing trolleys for Lights of Nights

Local businesses and community groups participate in Dressing of the Palms in Vilano Beach Town Center

By Jon Blauvelt

Drive through the Vilano Beach Town Center, and you'll marvel at holiday-themed works of art adorning the palm trees that line the streets.

For the fourth consecutive year, local businesses, community groups, families and artists are adopting these trees as participants of Dressing of the Palms, competing to design the most creative and festive display of palm tree-based art. Organized and sponsored by Vilano Beach Main Street, Dressing of the Palms complements St. Augustine's Nights of Lights, with nearly 100 trees decorated each year along Vilano Road and A1A Coastal Highway.

"It's amazing to see what creativity we have in the area," said Sallie O'Hara, executive director of Vilano Beach Main Street.

Held from Oct. 30 through Dec. 31, the project raises funds for improvements to Vilano Beach Town Center



A beautifully decorated tree at the corner of A1A Coastal Highway and Vilano Road

and its surrounding area.

A nonprofit organization, Vilano Beach Main Street is dedicated to the



Atlantic Stone & Tile "The Christmas Story"-themed palm tree

preservation, maintenance and improvement of Vilano Beach and the historic properties surrounding it by



Freedom Boat Club's maritime-themed palm tree

educating the public about the significance of the district's architecture, history, environment and culture.

Photos by Jon Blauvelt



The GriggsGroup becomes Pivot CPAs

By Jennifer Logue



REYNOLDS

Ponte Vedra Beach CPA firm The GriggsGroup has changed its name to Pivot CPAs, rebranding the firm in a move officials say is designed to better align with the firm's core business strategy of playing a pivotal role in its client's business practices.

In announcing the name change, Managing Partner Peter Reynolds noted that while accounting firms typically use the name or initials of the partners, a marketing study convinced the firm to break with tradition and adopt a name that better communicates the value it delivers to



clients.

"We continually hear from our clients that they feel we are much more deeply involved with them than just handling their taxes or annual audits," Reynolds said. "It was truly gratifying to learn that they think of us as business partners and not just a vendor, that they rely on us for guidance and leadership."

Conducted by MediaShare Consulting, the marketing study found that the firm's clients considered The GriggsGroup to be a central point of focus, or pivot, on which

they rely.

"CPAs can and do play a pivotal role in their clients' business practices by providing business insight beyond tax and audit work," Reynolds said. "We're thrilled to be the one our clients call with an idea or an issue. We enjoy and take great pride in being an overall consultant as well as a tax and audit consultant. We are excited to be what may be the first CPA firm to not be named after its partners."

Partner Wendy Ranson agreed. "This rebrand gives us all a new torch to carry and provides a rallying cry for the firm," she said. "While we are the same firm, we have a new outlook."

The new name also reflects the change in ownership that occurred in 2007, when founder Eric Griggs sold the firm to the existing ownership group. Since that time,

officials said, the firm has grown significantly.

"Not only did our prior name not reflect the depth of our brand, but there is no longer a Griggs on the letterhead," Reynolds said. "A shift toward a more demonstrative name that invokes the critical themes of the business is what we wanted in a new name."

Added Audit Partner and longtime Co-Owner Scott Heller: "The brand promise is that Pivot CPAs provides the integrated expertise of a deep, national firm – strategy, tax and audit services – but our true value is providing a much broader scope of guidance to our clients' entire financial landscape," Heller said.

"So, as our name and subsequent new tagline represents, we go beyond accounting."

Publix coming to Palencia



Franklin Street rendering

Supermarket to anchor expanded shopping center featuring new fitness center, restaurant

By Jennifer Logue

Publix has signed a 20-year lease to anchor the Palencia Commons shopping center, giving the community its first full-service neighborhood supermarket since the Food Lion closed in 2012.

The new 45,600 square-foot supermarket will anchor the expanded shopping center located on U.S. 1 at the entrance to the master-planned community. Palencia Commons will add 16,800 square feet of available space and include two new tenants: Workout Anytime, a 4,500 square-foot fitness facility; and Broad River Tavern, a 3,600 square-foot restaurant.

Build-out for the new Publix is expected to start in early 2017 and be complete by 2018.

"Palencia residents and nearby retailers have expressed the need and desire to have another grocery store anchor here in the center," said Katy Figg, senior director of retail leasing for Franklin Street, which announced the lease agreement in conjunction with shopping center manager Cape Asset Management.

"Publix has been asked for by name for many years and we're proud to say we've been able to attract them to the center and take advantage of the growth in the Palencia area."

According to a statement announcing the lease

agreement, Franklin Street had worked to lease the center for the past 18 months, during which time other retailers came to the center.

"We know that a new Publix store will attract more attention and interest from regional and national retailers who benefit from being near a Publix," Figg said. "We expect this announcement to not only please area residents but all the retailers in the area, especially those who have been awaiting a new anchor tenant."

Currently, 4,000 square feet of adjoining retail is available at the center, with another 8,700 square feet available in the planned shop space.

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PV2-LV33534



Photos by Jennifer Logue
Rock Solid Law Attorney John Miller and Diana Molimock



David and Kathy Henderson and Rock Solid Law Associate Yasmin Adamy

Rock Solid Law hosts holiday gathering

The Beaches Museum & History Park was the setting for Rock Solid Law's holiday gathering.

Held Dec. 1 at the Jacksonville Beach museum, the reception hosted by attorney John Miller attracted local business and community leaders to celebrate the season with

the law firm, which recently changed its name from Rock Solid Business Law. The new name, attorney John Miller said, better reflects the scope of the firm's services, which include estate planning, probate, real estate law, veterans' assistance with military pension benefits and more.



Teri Du Buisson-Mai, Beth O'Connor, Marie Cochran and Stuart Ashby-Fore



Kim Deas and Heather Quick



Adam Robinson, Dave Strohecker and Thomas Bozzuto



Karen and Chris Chartier and Judy Hicks



By Michael Hannon
 Special to the Recorder

The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors recorded 29 residential sales in Ponte Vedra (32081) and Ponte Vedra Beach (32082) for the week of Nov. 25-Dec. 2, 2016.

RECENT SALES

Ponte Vedra 32081 Condominium

\$289,000 192 Orchard Pass 545 2B/2B

Single Family Homes

\$295,557 30 Bloom Ln 3B/2B
 \$325,000 324 Paradise Valley Dr 4B/3B/1HB
 \$332,000 228 Princess Dr 4B/3B
 \$340,000 486 Citrus Ridge Dr 4B/3B/1HB
 \$341,306 132 Bison Trail 4B/3B
 \$348,300 223 Jackrabbit Trail 3B/2B
 \$353,000 436 Captiva Dr 4B/2B/1HB
 \$376,000 717 Wandering Woods Way 2B/2B
 \$415,360 141 Skywood Trail 4B/3B/1HB
 \$420,000 84 Prospect Ln 4B/4B
 \$422,898 298 Whisper Rock Dr 4B/3B
 \$429,900 170 Skywood Trail 4B/3B
 \$439,000 236 Cape May Ave 4B/3B/1HB
 \$465,812 177 Skywood Trail 4B/4B/1HB
 \$577,920 532 Portsmouth Bay Ave 5B/4B
 \$745,000 631 Eagle Rock Dr 5B/3B/1HB
 \$930,587 283 Deer Valley Dr 6B/6B/1HB

Ponte Vedra 32082 Condominiums

\$112,000 705 Boardwalk Dr 426 1B/1B
 \$130,000 695 A1a N 38 3B/2B/1HB
 \$165,000 2710 Seahawk Dr 3B/2B
 \$170,000 2814 Sea Hawk Dr 2B/2B

Single Family Homes

\$176,000 156 El Dorado Way 3B/2B
 \$236,900 174 Bermuda Ct 3B/2B
 \$395,000 168 Crossroad Lakes Dr 4B/2B
 \$430,000 273 N Mill View Way 4B/3B
 \$435,000 6559 Commodore Dr 4B/2B
 \$615,000 105 Magnolia Hammock Dr 5B/4B
 \$649,000 439 Osprey Point 3B/2B/1HB
 \$1,300,000 1 Sawgrass Dr S 4B/3B/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.



ABOTA President Michael Tanner and David Dunlap

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Dunlap receives ABOTA award

Attorney **David Dunlap** received the Joseph P. Milton Professionalism and Civility Award from the North Florida chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates at its recent annual dinner. Presented Dec. 3 at the San Jose Country Club, the award honors an ABOTA member who exemplifies the character and commitment to the legal profession and the administration of justice of founding

member Joseph Milton.

A founding partner of Dunlap, Ravis & Miller, PLLC, Dunlap has been practicing civil trial law in Jacksonville since 1989. He has been designated a "Pre-eminent Attorney" with an AV rating through Martindale-Hubbell, a nationally recognized attorney rating organization. A recent past president of the Jacksonville Justice Association, he has been a member of the Florida Justice Association for many years, serving as a member of its board of directors and receiving awards for excellence in trial work.

Dunlap was elected by his peers in 2009 to join the American Board of Trial Advocates, a national organization comprised of civil trial lawyers representing both plaintiffs and defendants. He practices law with his wife, Holly Green Dunlap, at the firm's Beach office located at 1400 Marsh Landing Parkway in Jacksonville Beach. A Ponte Vedra resident for 28 years, he is a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, serving as club president in 2011-2012.

PGA Tour names Todd Anderson director of TPC Sawgrass Performance Center



ANDERSON

Golf instructor **Todd Anderson** has been named director of the PGA Tour's expanded Performance Center at TPC Sawgrass, which is scheduled to open following THE PLAYERS Championship in May.

The newly upgraded center will serve as the centerpiece of the new practice grounds that reopened Nov. 15 along with the Stadium Course.

"I am very excited about this opportunity with the PGA TOUR and look forward to using our state-of-the-art performance center to create programs that will help players of all levels improve," said Anderson, the 2010 PGA Teacher of the Year.

Anderson, who will begin leading the performance center staff in February, has been a Class A member of the PGA of America since 1987 and has held a number of high-profile instruction jobs since then, including at the Elk River Club, Old Marsh Golf Club and Sea Island Golf Performance Center. Since 2000, Anderson has been listed among Golf Digest's 50 Greatest Teachers and since 2002, he has been one of Golf Magazine's Top 100 Instructors.

Dumadag, Herbstritt join Watson Realty's Nocatee office



The real estate team of **Heather Dumadag** and **Kerry Herbstritt** recently joined the Nocatee office of Watson Realty Corp.

An accounting and finance expert, Dumadag holds a degree in accounting and an MBA from Purdue University. Herbstritt also has a background in finance. Prior to becoming a real estate professional, she traded at the Chicago Board of Trade and Chicago Mercantile Exchange for 10 years. After meeting Dumadag at the University of Chicago, they both decided to pursue their MBA at Purdue University.

One Ocean welcomes Mendoza as resort chef

One Ocean Resort & Spa has named **Jay Mendoza** as the resort chef respon-

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Santa's Mailbox
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Letters mailed to Saint Nick by Dec. 16 will 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.

Don't delay, kids! Get working on those Christmas lists and mail them at Santa's mailbox TODAY!

LETTERS FOR SANTA

NOEL

Merry Christmas

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PV2-LV33537

BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Jennifer Logue



Photo by Jennifer Logue

Agnes Blanarik and Rebekah Scroggins of Dina – the Real Piadina, which will hold a grand opening celebration Dec. 10 at the new location in St. Augustine.

Italian specialty sandwich restaurant to host grand opening in St. Augustine

A new Italian fast-casual restaurant located in the heart of St. Augustine's historic district will hold its grand opening this weekend.

Dina – The Real Italian Piadina specializes in the piadina – a grilled sandwich made from thin, handmade Italian flatbread and filled with a variety of local and imported meats, cheeses and fresh vegetables.

"In Italy, there's a piadina shop on every corner," General Manager Rebekah Scroggins said, "so the owners are looking forward to introducing the concept here in St. Augustine."

For the grand opening on Saturday, Dec. 10, Scroggins said, the restaurant will offer free piadinas from 3 to 6 p.m. The owners will also be on hand to greet patrons at the restaurant located at 100 St. George St. across from the Columbia Restaurant.

"We take pride in the quality of our ingredients and source as much of our vegetables from sustainable growers in

North Florida," said Stefano Braganti, co-owner of Dina along with friends Andrea Maccario, Hezi Mena and Luca Bonfante. "We import our cured meats and cheeses from the best Italian producers and hand-select our smoked fish from right here in St. Augustine."

Some of Dina's signature piadinas include the Maialina (mozzarella, mortadella, eggplant and truffle oil) and the Dina (stracchino cheese, prosciutto, fresh arugula, and balsamic glaze). The restaurant also features homemade desserts such as tiramisu and coffee semifreddo and a selection of Italian wine, beer and sodas.

"Our mission here at Dina is RO5, which stands for the 'Rule of Five,'" Braganti said.

"Everything we serve in our restaurant is made with five ingredients or less. We believe that what you eat doesn't need to have more ingredients than the fingers on your hand. Simple is better!"

Dina is open Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. The restaurant has indoor seating as well as outdoor seating in a picturesque courtyard dining area set back from the bustle of St. George Street. Dina – The Real Italian Piadina is located at 100 St. George St., Suite J, on the corner of Hypolita Street. For more information, call (904) 826-3535 or visit eatdina.com.

Memorial Hospital opens Mandarin ER

Memorial Hospital is now serving patients at its newest emergency room location in Mandarin.

Located at 10910 San Jose Blvd., the Memorial Emergency Center – Mandarin is a full-service 10-bed, 11,000 square-foot facility officially staffed by board-certified physicians and clinical staff trained to treat both adults and children. The facilities include on-site advanced lab, imaging and telemedicine services.

"This facility demonstrates Memorial's commitment to the community to expand access to care in an area with a growing need for ER services," President and CEO Jim O'Loughlin said. "By bringing a full-service emergency room to this area, we are able to offer patients quick access to

care with shorter wait times in a compassionate and caring setting."

The facility is Memorial Hospital's third free-standing ER and fourth ER location. In 2012, Memorial opened the first free-standing emergency room in the region, the Memorial Emergency Center – Julington Creek, followed by a second free-standing ER (Atlantic) in 2014.

"When it comes to emergency care, every second counts," said ER Medical Director Dr. Fred Jenkins. "By having an emergency room in this neighborhood, patients can have peace of mind that they will be treated quickly in an ER that can handle just about any emergency."

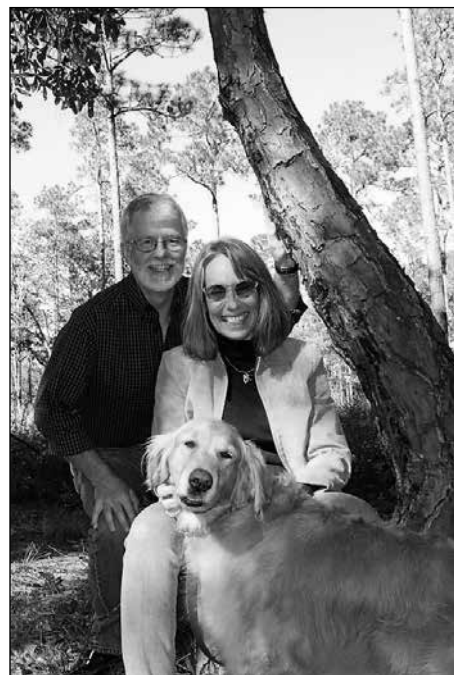


Photo courtesy of NFLT

Charles and Mary Farr

St. Johns County couple donates conservation easement to North Florida Land Trust

A St. Johns County couple donated a conservation easement to the North Florida Land Trust on their property along Mill Creek near Lake Beluthahatchee in the northern part of the county.

Charles and Mary Farr donated the easement on Horse Creek Farm of 44 acres to the conservation organization to ensure the land they own and love will never be developed.

"St. Johns County is one of the fastest

growing counties in Northeast Florida, so it is wonderful that Mr. and Mrs. Farr have decided to donate an easement on Horse Creek Farm," said NFLT Executive Director Jim McCarthy, noting that donated easements can generate a 50 percent or 100 percent tax deduction to the donor, with a 15-year carry forward. "It will keep its natural beauty forever."

The Farris purchased the land in 1994 and originally used it as a farm for their horses. In 1996, they built a home on the property, which also features a barn, workshop, riding area and a small dock used for recreational purposes.

The donation of the conservation easement means the Farris continue to own the land and will allow them to stay on the property and continue to enjoy all the land offers.

"The tax benefits were also a significant factor in considering the easement," the Farris said.

North Avenue Capital provides \$4.5M USDA loan for Treetops Resort

Commercial lender North Avenue Capital has provided a \$4.5 million loan for Northern Michigan's Treetops Resort. Managing Partner Alex Louis led NAC's origination and underwriting activities for the loan, which was funded through the USDA Rural Development Business & Industry program.

"NAC is pleased to play a central role in funding Treetops Resort's Lodge and Inn renovation," Louis said. "The capital improvements made with this loan will elevate Treetop's facilities to be in line with the extraordinary recreational experiences and excellent service already found at Treetops Resort."

The 2,100-acre retreat features 81 holes of championship golf, including Three-tops, North America's #1 Par 3 course, and 23 ski slopes.

"Strong financing partners are scarce in this industry and economic climate," General Manager Barry Owens said. "NAC has shown their commitment to small businesses in Northern Michigan ...and is assisting our team to make Treetops Resort one of the premier destinations in the country."

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Continued from 30

sible for Azurea, the resort's award-winning restaurant. In his new role, Mendoza will be responsible for menu development, staff recruitment and management while overseeing daily restaurant and bar operations. Bringing knowledge and experience in the luxury hotel and restaurant market, Mendoza has worked at top-rated hotels and restaurants in New York, California, Alaska and Louisiana, including three Michelin star-rated restaurants.

"We are thrilled to have Jay join our team at Azurea," said Ted Peters, vice president of culinary for Remington Hotels. "He has a dynamic background and has worked in some of the top restaurant kitchens in the country."

Mendoza's professional experience spans more than 14 years at an array of restaurants, resorts and hotels throughout the country. Beginning his culinary career in California, Mendoza held positions at Los Angeles

hotspots including Bouchon Bistro, Sona Restaurant, Ortolan Restaurant and Patina Restaurant. He went on to hold a chef de cuisine and executive pastry chef position at Hotel Indigo in Santa Barbara, California; executive chef and director of food and beverage positions at Stonebridge Companies/Hilton Properties in Anchorage, Alaska; and Le Pavillon Hotel in New Orleans.



PACE

The Bridge names Pace CEO

The Bridge of Northeast Florida, Inc. (The Bridge) has named **Elaine Pace** as the organization's next chief executive officer.

"After a comprehensive search process, the board is pleased to have found Ms. Pace to assume leadership of this world-class organization," says

Brian King, chair of The Bridge Board of Directors and

chief strategy officer for Acosta Sales & Marketing. "Her wealth of experience and demonstrated leadership will guide The Bridge in its mission to provide integral services which promote the development of healthy, productive, self-sufficient youth and families in greater Jacksonville."

Prior to The Bridge, Pace served as the president of USANA True Health Foundation, a public charity making grants for global disaster relief and child hunger; as CEO for the Girl Scouts of Utah; and in several other top leadership positions for organizations committed to improving people's lives. She has guided the evolution and growth of organizations through a multitude of challenging circumstances, setting and achieving aggressive programmatic and financial goals. She holds an MPA in Negotiations and Conflict Management, Nonprofit Management from Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and a BA from the University of North Florida.



The Sharks' Hal Swan outraces Clay defenders for a touchdown.



Jarrett Stepp #84 prepares to catch a touchdown pass from Nick Tronti.

Sharks extend streak, head to state championships

By Jerry Norton

After a thrilling 52-42 road win over Clay High School Dec. 2, the Ponte Vedra Sharks football team can justifiably be classified as an offensive juggernaut. With a record of 13 wins and no losses, the Sharks boast a 41 points per game scoring average. By virtue of their victory over Clay, they will play for the state championship against American Heritage on Friday in Orlando. It will be the Sharks' first time ever in the title game.

A most compelling aspect of the Sharks' potent offense is that it puts enormous pressure on opponents to match Ponte Vedra score for score to avoid falling too far behind. Adding to this pressure is the presence of a reliable field goal kicker, Chris Howard, who is capable of converting good field position into potential game winning points — a powerful weapon in close games.

Those aspects were each evident last Friday. The Sharks took the opening kickoff and needed just eight plays to score the big play, a 33-yard run to the end zone by Hal Swan. The Blue Devils answered with a 13-play drive of their own, tying matters.

The Sharks then moved in front 14-7 on a Nick Tronti five-yard keeper and this time Clay wasn't able to answer as the Shark defense stopped them on a fourth and four play from inside the PV eight-yard line.

Ponte Vedra then drove 95 yards for its third touchdown and a 21-7 lead. Swan's 29-yard run, a pass for 20 to Jake McGuire and Tronti's dash for 20 more set the stage for a 12-yard scoring

pass to McGuire.

The hosts climbed back with a quick strike to pull within 21-14, then survived a rare field goal miss by the Sharks to go to the locker room behind by just seven.

Following the Sharks' second-half kickoff, Clay drove to the PV 16 but turned the ball over on downs again when the Shark defense stiffened. Passes to Jarrett Stepp, Marshall Few and McGuire put Ponte Vedra in field goal range and Howard converted the 37-yard attempt for a 24-14 Shark lead.

Clay used 10 plays to pull within 24-21 with two minutes left in the third quarter. From here on both teams would combine for 49 more points in the final 14 minutes. Tronti connected with Stepp for a 50-yard score that the Devils quickly matched.

Clay's attempt at another on-sides kick-off failed, giving the Sharks a short field. A 10-yard completion to Kyle Barker followed by a 25-yard burst by Swan put PV up 38-28. At this point, touchdowns would come quickly. Clay scored at the five-minute mark on a 75-yard pass play, then seconds later, Tronti raced 73 yards to answer.

After Clay made it 45-42, another on-side kickoff failed. Stepp recovered for the Sharks and Tronti raced 25 yards for the deciding touchdown and a 52-42 advantage. The Blue Devils threatened in the final minutes but Andrew O'Dare's interception sealed the win and a trip to Orlando for a spot in the state championship game against the



Nick Tronti executes a backflip to score for Ponte Vedra.

Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton



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Sharks

Continued from 33

American Heritage Patriots.

As was evident in the Clay game, Ponte Vedra indeed has all the weapons associated with an offensive juggernaut. In Tronti, they have a quarterback who is capable of dominating a game with his arm or with his feet – as he did Friday night – and the judgment to make good, instant decisions about what to

do with the football in any situation. Against Clay, he completed 28 of 39 passes to seven different receivers and rushed for 244 yards on 18 carries. His 3,063 yards passing for the year is a school record that will probably stand for a long time.

In Swan, they have a dominant running back with incredible vision who is strong enough to pick up the tough yards in short yardage situations, and has the speed and ability to break tackles, make would-be tacklers miss and outrace defenders. Swan gained 112 yards on 13 carries and also caught four

passes.

In Few, JD Pirris, McGuire and Stepp, they have four quality receivers with remarkable hands and great speed, each capable of running precise routes and picking up additional yards after the catch. The four caught 19 passes for 242 yards against Clay.

In Taylor Montroy, Rob Wortelboer, Zach Lowery, Korey Johnson, Parker Shannon and Kit Connelly, they have a solid and cohesive offensive line capable of opening holes for the elusive Swan or providing critical protection for quarterback Tronti. At

center, Montroy's reliable shotgun snaps are an essential element of the Shark shotgun offense. Connelly provides the same reliability as the long snapper for Ponte Vedra's kickers while Few's good hands as the holder on field goals and PATs mitigate potential dangers.

Ranking 25th in the nation, American Heritage represents a significant challenge for the Sharks. But challenges are something on which the Sharks seem to thrive. No matter the opponent, it is difficult to count out a team with such a potent offense.

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DENVER 20, JACKSONVILLE 10

Defensive battle goes to Broncos as Jags drop seventh straight

By Mike Bonts

Denver rookie quarterback Paxton Lynch led the Broncos to a 20-10 win over the Jacksonville Jaguars Sunday at EverBank Field, but defense decided the game.

“A little bit of what we expected,” Jacksonville coach Gus Bradley said. “Really two good showings by two defensive units. I thought our defense came out and played well.”

Jaguars QB Blake Bortles was 19 of 42 for 181 yards while rushing for 29 yards. He scored on a 22-yard run in the final quarter.

The Jacksonville miscues began with the Broncos leading 10-3, Denver’s Von Miller hit Bortles, causing his pass to be picked off by cornerback Bradley Roby, who returned it 51 yards for a touchdown.

The interception was the 11th returned for a score in Bortles’ career, including the third in the past four weeks.

“It wasn’t a great throw,” Bortles said. “I’ll have to look at it again; (it was) probably behind him. It’s kind of what we want, man coverage with A-Rob running across the field with a guy behind him, so you’ve



Photo by Rick Wilson/Jacksonville Jaguars

The Jacksonville Jaguars defense forced a three-and-out on the Broncos’ first offensive possession, marking the second consecutive week in which the defense has forced a three-and-out on their opponents’ opening drive. just got to put it in front of him and let him run.”

Broncos’ cornerback Chris Harris picked off a pass in the second quarter and returned it 36 yards.

Denver sealed the game with a fumble recovery by Shane Ray, after Miller forced the ball from Bortles, that set up a 41-yard field goal by Brandon McManus.

Tight end Neal Sterling was the Jaguars’ leading receiver against the Broncos,

finishing the game with five receptions for 53 yards, including a long reception of 17 yards.

In the second quarter, Jason Myers converted a 47-yard field goal to give the Jaguars a 3-0 lead.

The Jaguars defense held the Broncos to 206 total net yards while Lynch completed just 12 passes for 104 yards.

The Broncos’ 206 total net yards were the fewest the Jaguars defense has allowed this season and the fewest since holding Baltimore to 146 total net yards in the 2011 season.

With two sacks, the Jaguars defense held the Broncos to 102 net passing yards. Linebacker Telvin Smith and defensive tackle Sen’Derrick Marks each recorded a sack. Smith was tied with linebacker Paul Posluszny with a team-leading with six tackles.

For Lynch, making his second career start in place of injured regular QB Trevor Siemian, it was a homecoming of sorts.

“It was exciting to come back in front of my family and friends, too, with them being

able to watch me start in the NFL,” said Lynch, who grew up in Central Florida. “I played with most of them growing up, too. It was a special moment to go out there and get my first win as a starter.”

The Jaguars have lost seven in a row and host Minnesota Sunday.

“We talked in the locker room about total team effort though,” Bradley said. “They got three turnovers on the defensive side and we didn’t get any. We had a couple drives where we were driving and then one of the interceptions took place. They made more plays than us and the turnovers were a big key.”

Game notes: Lynch attended high school at Trinity Christian Academy in Deltona, Florida, which is less than two hours south of Jacksonville... Denver finished with just 206 yards – the fewest allowed by the Jaguars under Bradley... wide receiver Shane Wynn made his NFL debut against Denver. Wynn had two rushes for five yards... running back Chris Ivory, receiver Allen Hurns and tight end Julius Thomas were out due to injury... the Broncos finished the game 1-for-13 on third down.

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- Legal wrong
- Be in harmony
- *“And to _____ a good night”
- Fraction
- Big dipper
- Flying saucer?
- To stand forth
- *Hanukkah spinning top
- *C.C. Moore’s character
- *“_____ the fields we go laughing all the way”
- Actor Wilder, 1933-2016
- Fast-food staple
- Unpleasant road display?
- *How many days of Christmas?
- Pinocchio, e.g.
- *Like Tim Cratchit
- Iron setting
- Like Andersen’s duckling
- Many times
- World’s longest river
- Bellhop, technically
- Fork prong
- Malaria symptom
- School supplies staple
- Pale gray
- H in HMS

DOWN

- Shiny on top?
- Lab culture
- “Trade” without one vowel
- Sunny prefix
- Sowing machine
- Author Bellow
- *North Pole worker
- Bring to an end
- De Niro’s ride, 1976
- Relating to ear
- Classic board game
- *Marines’ giftee
- Checks out again at the library
- Muse of love poetry
- Blast maker
- Herbalist’s bitter cure
- *New Year stemware

53. “_____ there, done that”

55. R in rpm

57. *Tournament of Roses tradition

60. *Burning block

64. Lacy neckwear

65. Poe’s Morgue, e.g.

67. Guanaco’s cousin

68. Mountain ridge

69. Retirement plan

70. Cowboy movie

71. _____ farewell, past tense

72. Ensign, for short

73. Small songbirds

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26. _____ mortis

27. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin meeting spot

29. *Stocking stuffer

31. Tallest volcano in Europe

32. “Gone with the Wind” actress

33. Monetary worth

34. Mideast V.I.P.

36. Whiskey grain, pl.

38. Strong desires

42. India’s first Prime Minister

45. Sales lure

49. *Prominent Christmas color

51. Like directory pages

54. Bone-chilling

56. Relating to velum

57. Legal prefix

58. In the sack

59. Learning method

60. Those voting “yes”

61. *A Christmas present given on the 26th

62. Black cat, e.g.

63. Needlefish, pl.

64. Mike Tyson’s punch

66. Big coffee holder

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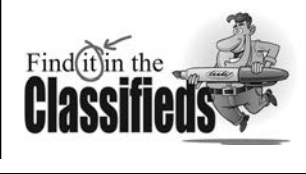
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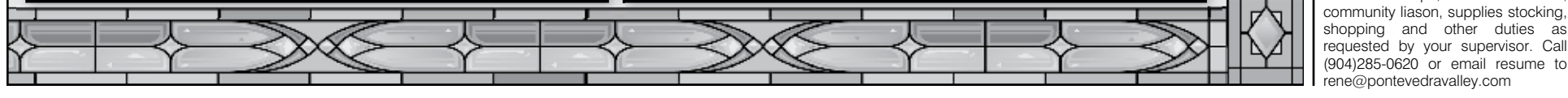
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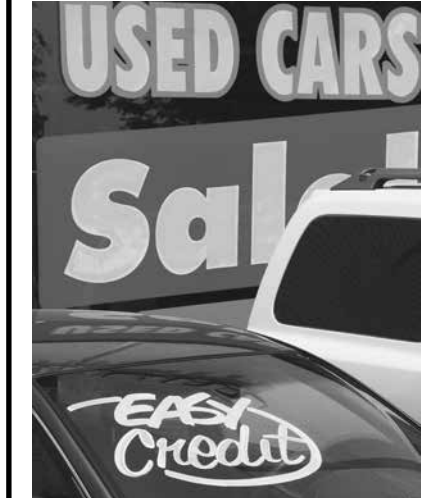
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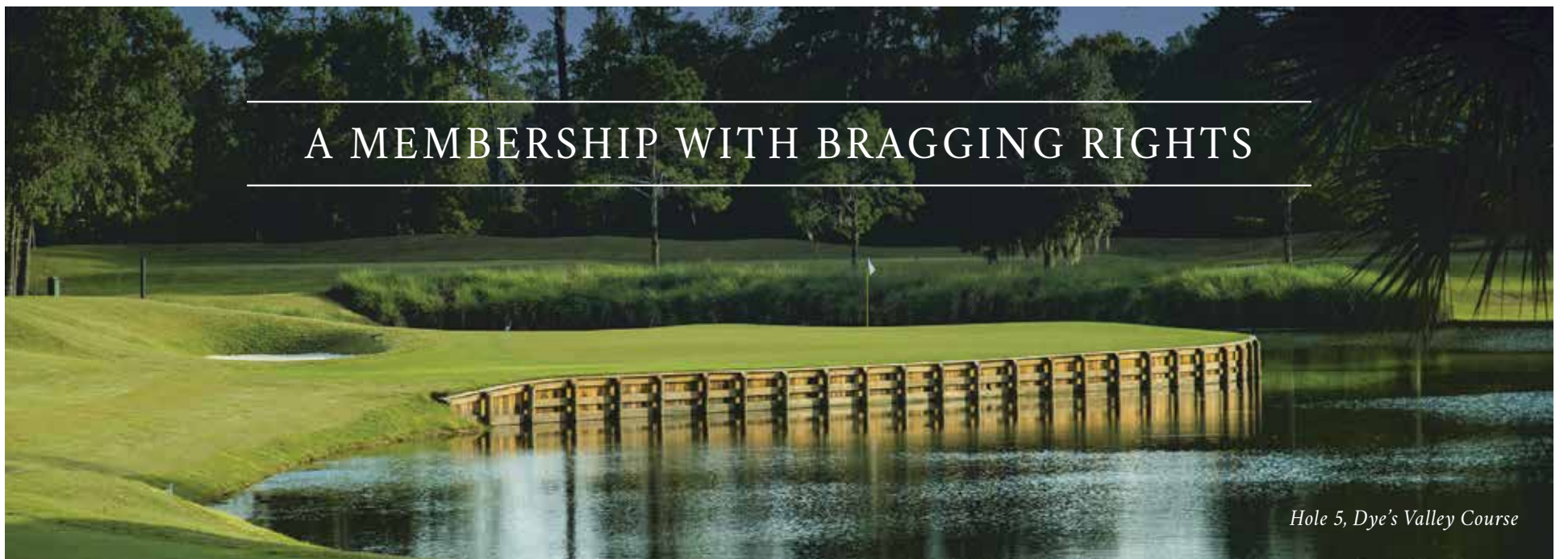
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