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FIRST COAST

December 2018-January 2019

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Sophisticated Coastal Living at its Best!
 This home is the epitome of southern charm with over 8,400 sq. ft. that showcase spectacular ocean views. The open living areas, including large formal dining room with grand fireplace, lend themselves to entertaining everything from large celebrations or simply enjoying intimate moments near a roaring fireplace. 5 bedrooms and 5.5 bathrooms. **\$6,100,000**



Stunning Classic with Beach Access
 Picturesque home in a charming neighborhood off Ponte Vedra Blvd. Large kitchen with granite countertops and island plumbed for gas. Also features a downstairs master, study & game room. Access available to the Old Ponte Vedra Condos amenities. This home is the perfect backdrop for all of life's memories. 3 bedrooms & 2.5 bathrooms. **\$649,500**



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



Stunning Riverfront Estate
 You will instantly feel as though you have been swept away to a chateau in Normandy, France. Exquisitely designed with extensive custom finishes, this 10,204 square foot tudor-style home is truly a masterpiece in design and built for entertaining. Designed with the materials and attention to detail expected with this architecture, this 5 bedroom, 6 full bath, 5 half bath home will not disappoint. **\$7,800,000**



Extraordinary Views
 The only home that sits atop the bluff next to the exquisite DuPont Mansion, this home shares the same breathtaking views of the formal gardens, the marina, & the St. Johns river. Wonderful & livable floorplan takes advantage of the home's premier location. 4 bedrooms & 4.5 bathrooms. **\$1,295,000**



Turnkey Beach Condo
 Oceanfront turnkey property features a 2 bedroom/2 bath Condo, which comes completely furnished. This gated community features amenities such as pool/spa, clubhouse, basketball/tennis courts, and beach walkovers. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. **\$999,000**



A Sophisticated and Luxurious Retreat on Ponte Vedra Blvd
 This impressive oceanfront home reflects that magical merging of beach living and architecture. Situated on 220ft of Oceanfront and designed by Residential Designs by Kevin Gray, Inc and built by Elwood Collier, this estate is a masterpiece of design and craftsmanship. It's location atop one of the highest natural sand dunes along the Florida coast (with the finished floor elevation is approximately 33.5' above sea level) allows owners the ultimate beach living experience. 4 bedrooms, 5 and 3 1/2 bathrooms. **\$8,750,000**



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Ultimate Beach Retreat
 Steps away from the ocean, this beach bungalow is the ideal space to call home or utilize as an investment property. Located in a highly desired neighborhood within walking distance of restaurants and shopping, this home is the perfect space to enjoy the quintessential beach lifestyle. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. **\$775,000**



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Renovated Coastal Home
 Move-in ready home beautifully renovated in 2017 in established neighborhood with no HOA. Open floor plan features pristine kitchen with granite countertops and new stainless steel appliances. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. **\$340,000**



Elizabeth Hudgins, REALTOR®

904.553.2032 cell

904.280.0486 office direct

elizabeth@elizabethhudgins.com

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about this magazine

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

Hugh Osteen, Florida Market Manager

Susan Griffin, Publisher

Jon Blauvelt, Editor

Paris Moulden, Publication Designer/Staff Writer

Samantha Logue, Staff Writer/Production Coordinator

Benjamin Naim, Staff Writer

Ed Johnson, Senior Account Executive

Kristin Flanagan, Account Executive

Suzanne Kirby, Account Executive

April Snyder, Sales Assistant

Bob Bueno, Circulation Manager

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1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 • 904.285.8831

on the cover

The cover of this Register features photos of holiday events and happenings on the First Coast, including Deck the Chairs in Jacksonville Beach, Dickens on Centre in Fernandina Beach, the Palm Valley Boat Parade in Ponte Vedra, the lions fountain at San Marco Square, Nights of Lights in St. Augustine and the Holiday Spectacular at St. Johns Town Center. The photos are by and courtesy of Jennifer Logue, Ameliainsland.com, Wendy Patton, Paris Moulden, FloridasHistoricCoast.com and St. Johns Town Center.





What what FUN!

Saturday, December 1
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★ **Horse-drawn Carriage Rides**

★ **Visit with Santa**

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★ **Spirit of Giving Raffle**

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One of Us!

edited by
JON BLAUVELT

photo by JON BLAUVELT

**DIANE
HALVERSON**

Diane Halverson is the executive director of the Children's Christmas Party of Jacksonville, an annual charity event that hosts as many as 6,000 local kids who otherwise might not receive gifts during the holiday season. The First Coast holiday tradition and largest one-day giveaway event in Jacksonville is celebrating its 20th party on Saturday, Dec. 8 at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center.

For those who are unfamiliar, what is the process of the Children's Christmas Party of Jacksonville?

The way it works is children stand in line with their parents or guardians at the convention center to wait for the opportunity to receive three tickets (one ticket per toy of their choice). They also receive a bag full of novelty toys donated by JA-RU, a toy company located here in Jacksonville. The children also have a random chance of getting a specially stamped ticket that indicates they won an item in the Wheels Depot (bikes, scooters, wagons and tot riding toys). Last year, we had 600 items in our Wheels Depot. Since this event is run on a first-come, first-served basis, the families do not need to provide ID or an application.

How did the event start?

Travis and Margaret Storey saw on the television news how a local toy giveaway program needed Christmas toys just days before the event, so they decided to donate 100 bikes. The next year in 1999, Travis and Margaret saw the need to get involved again and started the Children's Christmas Party of Jacksonville, an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. That first year, Travis Storey,

a well-liked Jacksonville accountant, was able to enlist the help of other prominent business leaders to raise enough funds in one month to purchase enough toys to hold a successful toy giveaway event.

How did you get involved in the event?

I got involved in year two in 2000, when my daughter and I were invited by Travis Storey to hand out toys. In 2002, I was asked to be on the Board of

Directors and in the next five years, I also served as the volunteer coordinator. In 2007, I became the executive director. This is the kind of event that gets a volunteer "hooked" the first year they hand out toys. Just seeing the kids come in after standing in the cold and then seeing their faces when they choose their toys is such a heart-warming experience that you keep coming back year after year.



What feelings come to mind as the 20th anniversary of the event approaches?

Appreciation is my foremost feeling. I appreciate my own background and how my parents made Christmas such a special time. Even though they couldn't afford expensive things, they gave us new toys special to us on Christmas morning. I appreciate the Jacksonville parents who participate in this event for taking a day off and bringing their children to receive toys, no matter the weather. I appreciate the hundreds of donors and dozens of sponsors for sharing their hard-earned funds and donated toys so we can give out lots of fun toys to the children who attend. I appreciate the thousand volunteers (most are employees from the sponsor companies) who take time out during the busy holiday week in December to serve others by helping to set up the event at the convention center and by handing out toys on party day. Jacksonville is indeed a community of givers who make sure the children have a merrier Christmas.

How has the event grown?

The number of toys we have purchased and the donated toys we have collected have grown over the years. Last year, we had 23,000 toys in the toy booths (plus 8,000 bags of JA-RU rack toys) in the building when the doors opened. JA-RU has donated over 1 million toys over the life of this nonprofit organization! The number of sponsor employee volunteers who help at the event and during set-up week has also risen steadily over the years. In total, our funds raised reached an all-time high level in the past few years of around \$250,000.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 ■

PONTE VEDRA'S BEST KEPT SECRET!!



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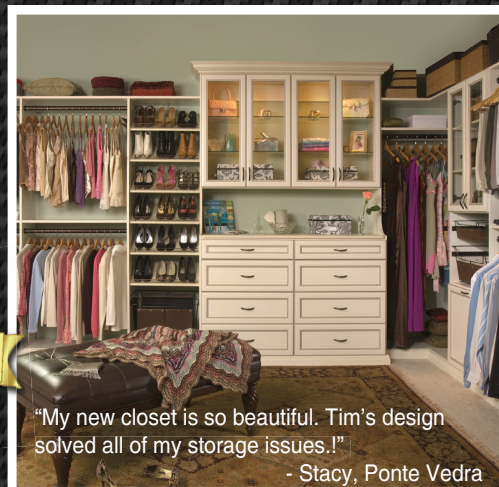
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Photos courtesy of
DIANE HALVERSON

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

What has been the event's impact?

The tangible impact over 20 years has been the incredible number of toys that have been purchased with donated funds and then placed in the hands of children who needed them. In many cases, the toys are educational (board games, electronic games and books), creative (crafts and art), sports-related (bikes, balls and sports equipment) and artistic (art supplies, Play-Doh and music instruments), so one can only imagine the positive impact on the development of thousands of children over the years. The more important intangible impact has been the love and care that this community of donors and volunteers has shown the children of our community. Each child and parent receives not only toys handed to them but they also receive lots of smiles and kind words. And each volunteer receives a "thank you" and the satisfaction that they helped make their community's children happier at this important holiday.

What makes the event so special?

As far as we know, there is not an event that is designed like this anywhere else in the country. Every year, after reviewing our event with key volunteers and board members, we make improvements and adjustments unique to our needs and the needs of the

families. We are fortunate to have the support of two major in-kind media sponsors (Florida Times-Union and WJXT Channel 4) who make sure the word gets out about this annual event and in the case of WJXT, over 2,000 donated toys are collected through the WJXT and Ace Hardware toy drives. All our sponsors, including the many in-kind sponsors, as a whole community, make this event a great success. The other thing that makes this event special is the great number of people involved: Roughly 5,000 children are given toys, 3,000 parents accompany their children, 1,000 volunteers give their time, 33 event sponsors give their funds, 10 major in-kind sponsors donate their services and thousands of individual donors (both from the general public and employees from our sponsor companies) give their donated funds and toys.

What's the schedule of the day?

Set-up week at the convention center includes the four days leading up to party day. The toys arrive from our wholesale toy company and volunteers unpack toys, set up the toys in the toy booths and decorate the entry area at the convention center. On Saturday, the volunteers arrive at 7:30 a.m. Volunteer orientation is at 8 a.m. The families arrive by school buses (donated by Durham), by car or by public transportation. Some families start lining up many hours before the event. Santa Claus and the

mayor arrive at the entrance door at 9 a.m. to cut the ribbon. The families start coming into the convention center to see all the beautiful decorations and to be directed down one of three aisles. Each child is given three tickets. If one has a special stamp, that means the child won a toy in the Wheels Depots where he/she can choose a bike, scooter, wagon or tot riding toy. The toys are organized in special categories (balls, electronics, games, girls, boys, etc.), where volunteers stand in the booths and hand the child a toy for a ticket. As many as 7,000 parents and children file through the toy booth aisles in only three and a half hours.



What work goes into organizing the event?

The work is year-round and in fact, activities related to the next year start at this year's event! We ask potential sponsors to come see the event for themselves in case they want to be sponsors next year. The fundraising happens all year-round. Around April, the collecting of toys starts with the ordering of the first 15,000 toys from our wholesale toy company source, Group Sales from Cincinnati. Later, the Wheels Depot items are ordered from Walmart. The collection of donated toys starts at the beginning of December and continues up until the day before the party. Another factor is getting the word out to the families about the event. Besides our major media sponsors and local radio and newspapers, we rely on schools, the United Way and Jacksonville Housing Authority to get the word out to anyone who may need the services this event offers. We are grateful to have a city that provides the venue for this event (convention center), as well as the security that JSO, event staff and SMG provide.

What is something about the event people may not know?

For all 20 years of our existence, we have had the same Santa, Mike VonDolteren. Also, we have always held our event at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center. Another amazing fact is that almost all of our founding sponsors have remained our sponsors 20 years later.

How can people get involved and help?

The best way to get involved is by becoming an event sponsor because it not only means that toys are able to be purchased with those funds, but it also means the sponsor's employees, friends and family may volunteer at the event, if they so desire. Another way to be involved is through donating toys. The WJXT/Ace Hardware toy drives bring in thousands of great toys from the generous, concerned public.

Toys may also be dropped off at the convention center during the three days before the party on Dec. 8. More information about the nonprofit organization and the event is found at www.ccpoj.org. You can also call our hotline at (904) 350-1616 for information about the event.



Photos courtesy of
DIANE HALVERSON

December 2018 - January 2019
A Special Supplement to

REGISTER
FIRST COAST



HOLIDAY RECIPES

Find out some of the favorite holiday recipes
of these area restaurants:

House of Leaf & Bean | Raintree Restaurant
Ana Maria's Kitchen

PAGES 11-13

Guilt-Free Pumpkin Pie

Gluten Free & Low-carb Recipe

Total Carb: 8.5g per serving (1/8 pie)

Brought to you by
**HOUSE OF
LEAF & BEAN**

ORGANIC INGREDIENTS:

- 1 can 15 oz pumpkin puree
- ½ cup coconut whip cream
- ½ cup coconut flour
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- ½ cup coconut oil, softened
- 4tbsp flax seed powder
- 1 cup of soy milk (freshly-made from the House of Leaf & Bean)
- 2 tsp vinegar
- 1 tbsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tsp pumpkin spice
- 1 tsp stevia
- Optional toppings: vegan whipped cream



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350F
2. Combine coconut oil, flax powder, ½ portion of vegan egg (soy milk, vinegar, and baking soda mixed), and vanilla extract until well mixed.
3. Stir in coconut flour and mix until everything forms a stiff dough, and is well combined.
4. Press dough into the pan and dock the crust.
5. In a large bowl or stand mixer mix pumpkin puree, flax seed powder, vegan egg ½ portion of vegan egg (soy milk, vinegar, and baking soda mixed), pumpkin spices, and stevia
6. Pour evenly into the pie crust
7. Bake 45-50 minutes or until a knife in center comes out clean
8. Chill to solidify
9. Top with whipped cream and sprinkle some nutmeg or cinnamon if desired.



Wen Raiti, President
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Raintree's holiday bread pudding

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INGREDIENTS:

- 5 eggs
- 1 pint heavy cream
- 4oz craisins
- 4oz raisins
- 14oz can crushed pineapple, drained
- 4oz Bourbon
- 4oz melted butter
- 10 oz brown sugar
- 4 oz powdered sugar
- Tbsp. Vanilla
- 2oz Molasses
- Dash of cinnamon and nutmeg
- 3 ½ - 4 quarts stale white/brown seedless bread in 1" cubes



RAINTREE'S WINTER WONDERLAND

Dine under the stars visit Night of Lights, enjoy the restaurant during the Christmas Festivities. Now through February 3rd.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Toss cubed bread in powdered sugar. Whip eggs, mix in all other ingredients in a large bowl, then add the cubed bread.
2. Pan spray 9 x 13 baking pan. Flatten out mixture in dish. Sprinkle top with an additional 2oz brown sugar.
3. Bake 325 degree oven for 40-50 minutes. (300 degree convection oven reduce cook time)
4. Rotate pan at half way point. Bread will be firm and the top slightly crispy from the caramelized sugar.

**Adapted from Alex MacDonald's family recipe*



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Swiss Chard & Spinach Quiche

Brought to you by

ANA MARIA'S KITCHEN



INSTRUCTIONS:

For the pie crust

1. In a food processor, combine flour, butter, vegetable shortening, salt and sugar. Pulse the mixture until it resembles oatmeal. Add 5-6 tablespoons of iced water, one at a time and pulse until a dough forms. Wrap in plastic wrap or put in a plastic bag & refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. *Note: dough can be kept in the refrigerator for up to 3 days or frozen up to 3 months)
2. Preheat oven to 375 degrees and set aside a pie dish.

For the filling

1. Trim the Swiss chard by removing the tough vein through the middle and keeping the tender leaves. Trim the spinach leaves by removing the stems & then chop greens into small bits. Rinse & drain.
2. In a medium saucepan set over medium-high heat, warm the oil & toss in the onions & garlic. Sautee until soft & translucent, about 3 minutes. Add in the chard, spinach, salt, pepper & nutmeg and cook for another 2-3 minutes or until the greens have cooked down & wilted.
3. Take off the heat and mix in the grated parmesan.
4. Taste for seasonings. Sometimes, as this sits, the mixture gets juicy from the water from the greens. Be sure to drain the extra juice before putting the filling in the pie crust, otherwise, it will get soggy.

Assembly

1. Take half of the pie crusts out of the fridge, take off plastic wrap & flour your cutting board or flat working surface. Dust the dough & your rolling pin with some flour. Working quickly, roll the pie crust until it's about the size of your pie dish, turning it over, dusting it with flour occasionally to ensure it doesn't stick to your work surface.
2. Transfer to your pie dish & use your fingers to gently tuck it inside the dish allowing the rest to drape over. Use a fork & prick the pie crust all over.
3. Pour the drained chard & spinach filling over the pie dough & flatten. Make 6 small 1 inch holes in the filling and gently drop one egg into each hole.
4. Grab the remaining portion of pie crust dough from the fridge and repeat the rolling process & drape it over the top of the filling & eggs and gather the edges to seal the pie in a rustic way.
5. Brush egg wash all over the top & place into the middle rack of the oven. Bake at 375 for approximately 45-55 minutes or until the top crust is golden brown.
6. Let cool for about 10-15 minutes before slicing and serving with lime wedges.

INGREDIENTS (Serves 6-8):

Pie Crust

- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup butter
- ½ cup vegetable shortening
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 5-6 Tbsp. iced water, for blending

Filling

- 2 bunches Swiss Chard
- 1 bunch spinach
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- ½ medium yellow onion, diced
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- Salt & pepper
- Pinch of nutmeg
- ½ cup grated Parmesean cheese
- 6 eggs
- Egg wash (1 beaten egg with 1 Tbsp. water)
- 4 limes, cut in wedges



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Anna Washington and Carol Maurer of Sawgrass Events with Waine Banyas



Sperry Lee and Sally Sergeant



Toni Boudreaux-Godwin and David Godwin



Paul and Lynn Bass



Shannon Thuren and Tracy Arthur



BayStreet performs at Caring Chefs.



Michelle and Joe Mecca

First Coast foodies flocked to the 35th annual Caring Chefs event on Nov. 4 at The Avenues Mall to help raise money for Children's Home Society (CHS) of Florida.

Event attendees had the opportunity to sample new foods, fine wines and craft beer from approximately 50 chefs and restaurants hailing from First Coast favorites such as Mojo Kitchen, Roy's Restaurant, Moxie Kitchen + Cocktails, Taverna and Sweet By Holly, among several others.

All proceeds benefited CHS of Florida, which is the oldest and largest statewide organization devoted to helping children and families. CHS of Florida serves more than 50,000 children and family members throughout the state each year. Also every year, the organization helps more than 10,000 children and family members in the Northeast Florida region. To learn more about the organization's local efforts, visit chsfl.org/buckner.

The Ponte Vedra Recorder was proud to serve as a media partner of this event.



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Built by Nocatee resident Brendan Hoffman, these two Victorian-style doll houses will be donated in December 2018 to children in hospice care in the Community PedsCare program at Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

First Coast resident warms hearts with

Photo by SAMANTHA LOGUE

HANDMADE GIFTS

by SAMANTHA LOGUE

to terminally-ill children

In Nocatee's Austin Park neighborhood, there is a garage filled with the unlikely combination of Ohio State football memorabilia and beautiful, handmade doll houses. That garage, belonging to resident craftsman Brendan Hoffman, might as well be Santa's workshop to the terminally-ill children in Community Hospice & Palliative Care's Community PedsCare program, who receive Hoffman's donated creations each year.

"I normally take (the doll houses) to them about the first week of December," Hoffman says. "I like them to go to terminally-ill children first, and then maybe a child who lost a parent around Christmastime. They have plenty to choose from."

Community PedsCare serves children up to age 21 through a number of different programs, including a hospice program for children who have been diagnosed with six months or less to live. Hoffman, who has been donating doll houses to the program for

the past eight years, says his project was born out of a promise he made to his daughter, who died of melanoma in 2009.

"When I was growing up, elderly people got melanoma," he says, "but my daughter was 28 and melanoma skin cancer doesn't discriminate. It's the easiest cancer to cure if caught in time, but it's the fastest and deadliest of all cancers."

Hoffman spent the last six weeks of his daughter's life by her bedside in hospice care, and that was where she made her final requests, one of which being that he build doll houses — like the one he made for her when she was little — for children in hospice care.

"I've been trying to keep my promise to her," he says. "I told her I'd do these as long as I can ... and if it takes their minds off their sickness, this is all worth it. It really is."

Hoffman has kept his word faithfully, devoting half of each year to building the intricate houses, even going the extra mile to decorate them with wreathes, garlands and Christmas lights.

“They’re incredible,” Community PedsCare Director Patrice Austin says of Hoffman’s houses. “You can’t even imagine when you walk into a room and see six of them built. It’s like they’ve taken the most beautiful homes in Jacksonville and just shrunk them. And the detail and the love that he puts into them is incredible — you’ve not seen anything like it.”

In addition to the doll houses, Hoffman has also begun making tabletop cornhole sets for boys with the help of his wife. According to Austin, each gift recipient is specially selected by her team based on which child they feel would most appreciate its worth.

“The children are so grateful,” she says. “Some of them don’t have an opportunity to have such a gift, so it’s truly special. And when they learn that someone has made (the gifts) particularly for them to have, it just puts so much meaning on the holiday.”

Others have also been touched by Hoffman’s story and cause. For instance, Brillium, Inc. CEO Curt Rogers, a former neighbor of Hoffman’s, was so moved that he enlisted the help of his business partner to fund the efforts, and the help of his employees to make more gifts.

“We weren’t really sure if this was intruding upon something that was very meaningful and personal to (Hoffman),” Rogers says, “but he allowed us to help, and as it turns out, I think it benefited both the initiative and him in a lot of different ways. It started to become somewhat of a social effort as much as a personal mission for him.”



For a festive touch, Hoffman also likes to decorate his doll houses with holiday decorations. Photo courtesy of CURT ROGERS

Rogers adds that his father-in-law, having heard about the project, has also been inspired to follow in Hoffman’s footsteps.

“To date, he’s built a couple houses now that kind of came out of this whole experience we had,” Rogers says. “He’s delivered them to a few places in North Carolina and I think he’s got two or three more in the works, so it’s starting to kind of take on a life of its own.”

For Austin, the thought that Hoffman’s heartwarming mission could ignite a national movement is truly amazing.

“I think it’s a beautiful concept,” she says. “It’s organic and it’s pure, and if he has sparked a movement to join in on such a beautiful gift coming from the heart, it doesn’t get any better than that.”

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A pair of candy cane twins strolls through a tunnel of Christmas lights at Nocatee-A-Glow. Photos courtesy of Nocatee Ponte Vedra WWW.NOCALEE.COM

Nocatee-A-Glow

BEHIND THE CHRISTMAS MAGIC

by SAMANTHA LOGUE

Each holiday season in Ponte Vedra, Nocatee-A-Glow draws thousands of Nocatee residents and their guests to the community's Splash Waterpark for a two-night Christmas extravaganza featuring fun, food and festivities for the whole family. While the event gets bigger and better every year, for those who work behind the scenes to make the winter wonderland a reality, the work is all worth it.

"It's great when you actually see it come together and realize you're actually making a difference in the community," shares David Ray, community manager of Nocatee. "The people come out and all the families are enjoying it, and it's nice just to sit back and watch."

Featuring a Christmas village, performers, a live nativity scene and more in addition to the main attraction — light shows synchronized to Christmas music — the event has something for everyone to enjoy. And although the two-night event is exclusive to Nocatee residents and their guests, Ray has good news for non-residents looking to take in the Christmas lights.

"We have the two-day event, and then the light and music show goes all month," he says. "The two-day event is for Nocatee residents and guests. The light show that happens throughout the month is open to the public and it's free."

Last year's Nocatee-A-Glow event had more than 5,000 attendees, and this year, staff are anticipating even more, thanks to the community's continued expansion.

"Every year, there's 3,000 more residents in Nocatee than there were in the previous year, so our events have to keep up with that in terms of size, in terms of expectations and just the way the community is growing," Ray says, noting that Nocatee's resident events are what attracts so many people to the community.



Nocatee staff prepare for Nocatee-A-Glow.

"I talked to a woman at one of our recent events," he adds. "She said she'd recently moved from California, and that she chose Nocatee because she'd stumbled across some of our event videos and decided that Nocatee was the place she wanted to go, because we have such great community events."

Nocatee-A-Glow is Nocatee's biggest event of the year, and although it has become quite a spectacular display, according to Ray, it was born out of the humbler beginnings of a small tree-lighting ceremony hosted by The PARC Group, the developer of Nocatee.

"The first one was done in 2010 by the developer, and it was just a simple community Christmas tree in the parking lot of the Welcome Center," he says. "There were only a couple hundred families even living in Nocatee at that time, so it was just a very small event. The community development district took it over in 2012."

Instrumental in making Nocatee-A-Glow into the major production it is today was Nocatee Operations Manager Lee Hovis, who likens his enthusiasm for the Christmas season to that of Clark Griswold in the film “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation.” According to Hovis, Nocatee’s Christmas celebration evolved from a small tree-lighting to a lighting of the whole waterpark, and then eventually the idea to add music was born.

“One of our managers showed me a YouTube video, and being that I’m part Griswold, I loved it,” he says. “Someone had taken their house and had things moving with the music and trees lighting up, and we started researching it to see if it was something we could do.”

Fast forward several years, and now Hovis oversees the production of three musical light shows each year for visitors to enjoy: a traditional Christmas music show, a contemporary Christmas music show and a “Variety Spectacular” show.

What’s more, all programming, planning and construction for the shows and other festivities is done internally by Nocatee staff, and they waste no time in doing so.

“The Monday after the Nocatee-A-Glow weekend, we start planning for the next year,” Hovis advises. “Then we meet at least once a month and discuss other things we can do, or research things, so we’re not rushing at the last minute. The event staff here will go ahead and book Santa right away, for example, because getting a good Santa is super critical.”

But even with all the changes over the years, the roots of Nocatee-A-Glow are still celebrated every year with a nod to that first tree-lighting ceremony in 2010, as visitors gather around a



A family prepares to take in the Christmas Village at Nocatee-A-Glow.

tree made of Christmas lights to take in the twinkling, flashing and strobing lights synced perfectly to a soundtrack of Christmas joy.

“It started off with a very simple concept, the lighting of the community Christmas tree, and for as big and bright and spectacular as this is, it still begins with the lighting of the community Christmas tree,” Ray says. “And watching thousands of residents gather around there, it’s great to just blend into the background and listen.”

Nocatee-A-Glow will take place this year from 6 to 9 p.m. on both Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. The first night’s event will be open to Nocatee residents only and the second night will be open to residents and their guests. Non-residents may view the community’s synchronized light shows from 6 to 10 p.m. throughout the month of December, with a new show beginning every half hour.



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HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

St. Johns Town Center
kicks off holiday season

by BENJAMIN NAIM

A Christmas tree stands at the St. Johns Town Center during the Holiday Spectacular on Nov. 10. Photos by BENJAMIN NAIM

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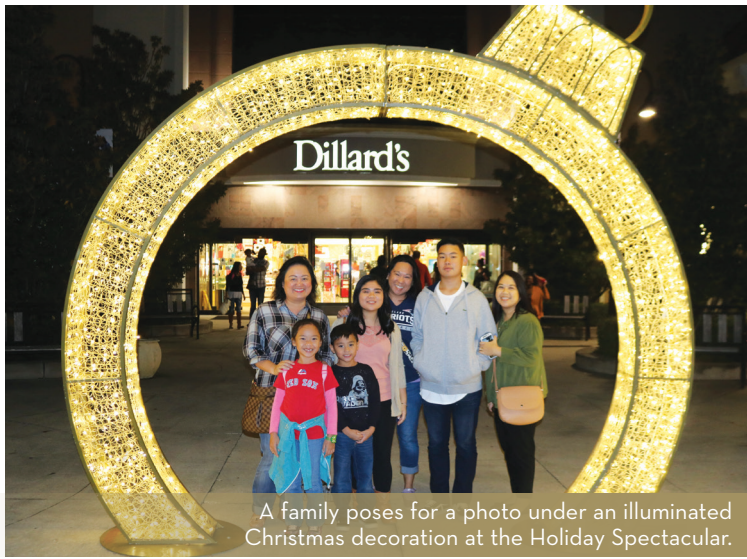
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A family poses for a photo under an illuminated Christmas decoration at the Holiday Spectacular.

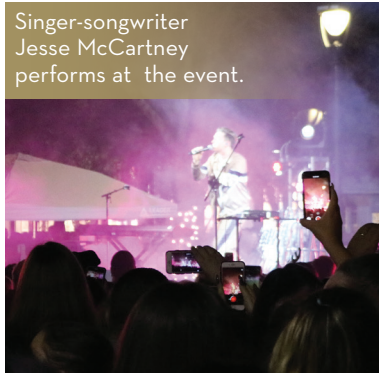
The 13th annual St. Johns Town Center Holiday Spectacular kicked off the holiday season on Nov. 10 with a series of festivities, including a live performance from singer-songwriter Jesse McCartney.

Throughout the day, guests enjoyed games, an interactive hot chocolate station, jugglers, caricature artists, artificial snow, letters to Santa, ornament decorating, a festive photo booth and more. The event culminated with a fireworks display and a ceremonial lighting of the Christmas tree. Furthermore, local St. Johns Town Center businesses and restaurants offered special discounts for attendees, which were outlined inside special event guides.

McCartney, who performed his most popular hits at the event, also appeared at the original St. Johns Town Center Holiday Spectacular event in 2005. This year, McCartney participated in a meet-and-greet with VIP ticket holders after the show.



Santa's house at the St. Johns Town Center



Singer-songwriter Jesse McCartney performs at the event.



The St. Johns Town Center is now adorned with Christmas decorations, including this light-up reindeer.

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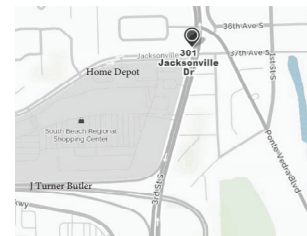


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25 YEARS OF THE ST. AUGUSTINE ...



Photo courtesy of
MARTHA NIGHSWONGER

Bed & Breakfast Holiday Tour

by JON BLAUVELT

The St. Augustine Bed & Breakfast Holiday Tour is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

To be held Dec. 8-10, the holiday tradition is a self-guided walking tour of over 20 of the Oldest City's bed and breakfasts decorated for the season. The tour also includes more than 10 cultural/heritage institutions in the city such as the Lightner Museum and St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, among others.

The tour on Saturday, Dec. 8 (1 to 5 p.m.) will feature bed and breakfasts and cultural/heritage partners on the south side of King Street, while the tour on Sunday, Dec. 9 (1 to 5 p.m.) will feature those on the north side. The tour on Monday, Dec. 10 (noon to 4 p.m.) solely features the cultural/heritage partners. According to Martha Nighswonger, the director of the tour for the fourth consecutive year, the tour is running an extra hour on Saturday and Sunday this year.



Photos by JOE DES PHOTOGRAPHY





Photo courtesy of MARTHA NIGHSWONGER

Each bed and breakfast on the Saturday and Sunday tours partners with a restaurant in town that provides tastings of a signature dish or treat. For example, the St. Francis Inn is partnering with Meehan's Irish Pub & Seafood, and the Collector Luxury Inn & Garden is partnering with St. Augustine Distillery. Nighswonger says many of the stops will also include entertainment ranging from guitar and piano players to singing quartets. In addition, Nighswonger says a complementary trolley courtesy of Old Town Trolley Tours will be provided for the Saturday and Sunday tours, stopping at convenient locations near many of the inns.

Tickets for the tour, including food, entertainment and transportation, cost \$45 and are good for all three days. They are available online at staugustinebandbtour.com and in person at Rembrandtz on King Street. In addition, ornaments in recognition of the tour's 25th anniversary are for sale online for \$5.

A portion of proceeds will support the RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) of St. Johns County, which provides opportunities for people 55 and over to assist children and adults in their educational pursuits, mobilize community volunteers for service and assist local nonprofits with special support.

"There's no way you're going to see this many bed and breakfasts all in one weekend and have fun figuring out which one is your favorite," Nighswonger says.

Visit staugustinebandbtour.com for more information.

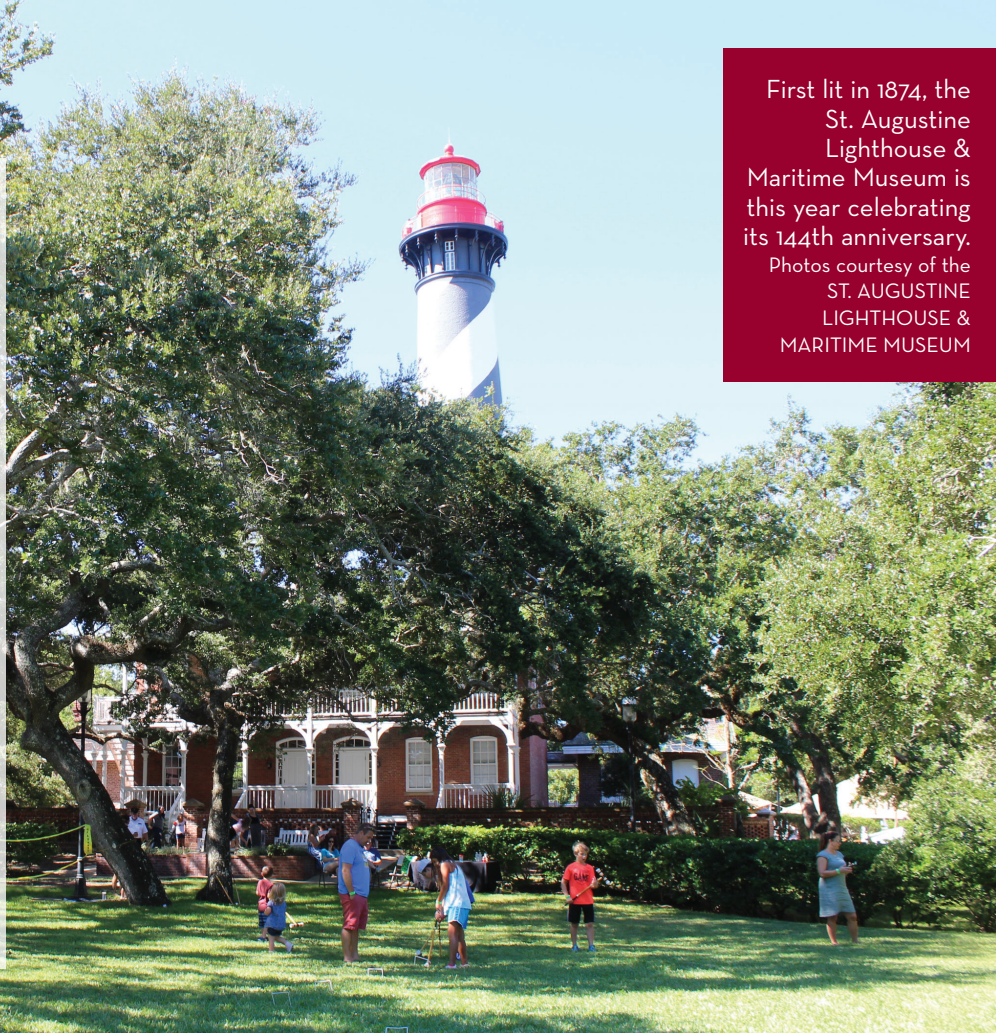


HY


A SHINING LIGHT ON THE FIRST COAST

St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum celebrates 144th anniversary

First lit in 1874, the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is this year celebrating its 144th anniversary. Photos courtesy of the ST. AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE & MARITIME MUSEUM




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The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum celebrated its 144th anniversary on Oct. 13 with an event that included photos with Lighthouse Keeper Rick Cain, games for the public on the front lawn, self-guided tours of the tower and behind-the-scenes tours throughout the day.

Wilma Daniels, the youngest daughter of Cardell Daniels, keeper from 1935-1943, cut a celebratory cake with Keeper Cain, who currently serves as director of museum services.

The celebration launched a year-long observation culminating with the 145th anniversary on Oct. 15, 2019. Throughout the year, the Museum will host events designed to highlight the history of the lighthouse, its keepers and the local maritime history of the nation's oldest port.

The Lighthouse was built from 1871 to 1874 and was lit on Oct. 15, 1874. At the top, the original, first order Fresnel lens still serves the beacon, but today is lit by a 1,000-watt bulb, maintained by the Museum and volunteers. The Lighthouse rises 165 feet above sea level and contains 219 steps that are climbed by visitors. It is St. Augustine's oldest surviving brick structure, containing over 1.2 million Alabama bricks.

Today, the Museum uses admission and store sales, as well as memberships and donations, to protect the original restoration to the Department of the Interior standards. The nonprofit, private



Wilma Daniels, the youngest daughter of Cardell Daniels, Lighthouse keeper from 1935-1943, cuts a celebratory cake with Keeper Rick Cain, who currently serves as director of museum services.

Museum also provides educational services to the community, supports at-risk children and funds a maritime archaeology program that studies shipwrecks in the waters of the Nation's Oldest Port.

In July 2002, the U.S. Coast Guard, through the National Park Service and the General Services Administration, transferred the deed for the tower to the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, Inc., through the pilot program of the National Historic Lighthouse

Preservation Act of 2000. The Museum won a National Trust for Historic Preservation award in recognition of its work in helping to transfer historic lighthouses to nonprofits for this law. In addition, the Coast Guard turned over the first-order, Fresnel lens to the Museum. The Museum now operates the site as a private-aid-to-navigation and literally keeps the light shining.

Hours at the Lighthouse are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission is \$12.95 for adults; \$10.95 for seniors and children under 12; and free for children less than 44 inches (unable to climb the tower). Resident and membership packages also are available.

For more details about the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum, visit staugustinelighthouse.org or call (904) 829-0745.

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Nancy LaFleur and Sherri Pickard participate in the 70th anniversary of the Lightner Museum and 130th anniversary of the former Alcazar Hotel.
Photos by BENJAMIN NAIM

Lightner Museum celebrates 70th anniversary, 130th anniversary of Alcazar Hotel

by BENJAMIN NAIM

The Lightner Museum in St. Augustine hosted a celebration entitled “Promenade the Alcazar” on Monday, Oct. 19 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the museum and the 130th anniversary of the former Alcazar Hotel, where the museum is located.

Event guests enjoyed The Raisin Cake Orchestra in the courtyard, mini architectural tours of the Alcazar Hotel, wine tastings and food pairings, opportunities to engage with the museum’s collection and more.

Additionally, a representative from New York City’s Museum Hack interacted with guests in the galleries. Participants in the evening’s festivities were eligible to win a Viking Cruise for two to a destination in Europe, featuring a river-view stateroom, guided tours, onboard meals and more.

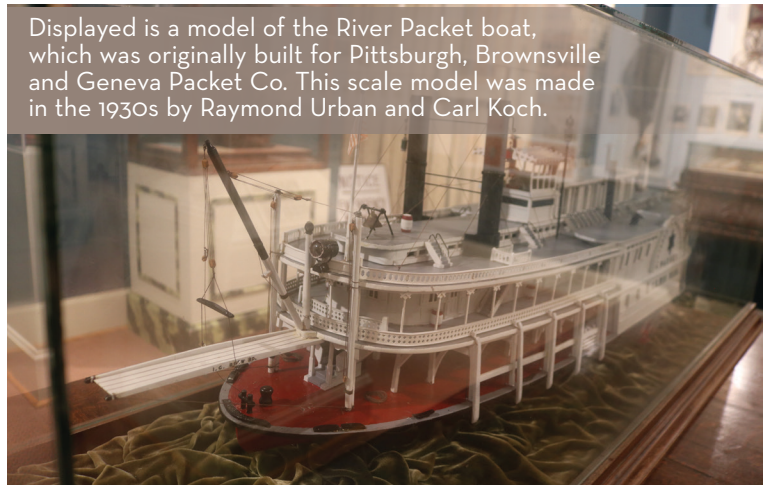
The event also offered guests an opportunity to view newly restored exhibition spaces highlighting the museum’s permanent collection. Additional food and wine were made available in the Historic Pool and Mezzanine areas, where Michael Arenella & His Dreamland Orchestra entertained the audience with a special performance. The Dreamland Orchestra is known for performing at the Cannes Film Festival, the Manhattan Cocktail Classic and the Jazz Age Lawn Party on Governors Island in New York City.

VIP ticket holders enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum’s storage areas, which featured in-depth information on the changes and additions made to the museum’s collection storage floor and what developers have in store for the future.

The Lightner Museum is a nonprofit cultural institution sustained by the support of individuals, businesses and sponsors. For more information on the museum, visit www.lightnermuseum.org.



Asian art is on display at the Lightner Museum's 70th anniversary celebration.



Displayed is a model of the River Packet boat, which was originally built for Pittsburgh, Brownsville and Geneva Packet Co. This scale model was made in the 1930s by Raymond Urban and Carl Koch.



Paul Black and Kimberly Newsome



Harpist Andrea Akers entertains guests with live music.



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BAGS & BREWS

benefits Northeast Florida autism community in big way

by JON BLAUVELT

The HEAL Foundation's board of young professionals, TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) HEAL, hosted a cornhole tournament on Sept. 29 at Intuition Ale Works in Jacksonville that raised nearly \$20,000 for the foundation's efforts.

Entitled the Bags & Brews Cornhole Shootout, the tournament included 32 teams that, in addition to competing, enjoyed beers and snacks from the local craft brewery. Presented by Capital Markets Cooperative and emceed by Action News Jax First Alert Meteorologist Garrett Bedenbaugh, the event served as the first fundraiser for TEAM HEAL. The relatively new board of young professionals is comprised of Blake Griffis, Josh Rotta, Case Walther, Kane Sears, Neily Braren and Haley Weed.

"It's nice to get the millennials, the young blood shouldering this generation of kids with autism," Heal Foundation Co-founder Leslie Weed said. "They're spreading awareness, hope, fundraising for our foundation."

The HEAL Foundation has been serving Northeast Florida's autism community since 2004. Leslie and Bobby Weed, of Bobby Weed Golf Design, were inspired to establish the organization after raising their daughter, Lanier, who is non-verbal and profoundly affected by autism. She was 8 years old when the organization started. She's now 20.

Based in Ponte Vedra Beach, the nonprofit has awarded nearly \$2 million in grants since 2007, providing summer camps, sports leagues and support groups; educational enhancements and iPads for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) classrooms; educational seminars for parents, teachers and therapists; year-round recreational and social events for families; and service dogs. According to Leslie Weed, the HEAL Foundation helped fund 15 camps in summer 2018 supporting 350 individuals with autism. In total, she said the Foundation has helped provide 350 iPads to ESE classrooms.



HEAL Executive Director Jason Gurka and HEAL Co-founders Leslie and Bobby Weed gather at TEAM HEAL's Bags and Brews Cornhole Shootout on Sept. 29 at Intuition Ale Works.

The funds from the Bags and Brews event will help to support the organization's next initiative of building five special needs parks in five local counties, including Baker, Clay, Nassau, St. Johns and Duval. The HEAL Foundation hopes to hold a ribbon cutting for the project in 2020. Funds will also be used to continue funding grants to local organizations, programs, camps and schools serving those with autism in Northeast Florida.

"The foundation continues to grow," Bobby Weed said. "More people recognize us as the go-to foundation that can assist these families and children and young adults. It's very gratifying to see the support that we get and have at not only this event, but all of our other events and our summer camps that we fund."

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HEAL Gala Thursday, February 21 TPC Sawgrass 6:30pm	Bobby Weed's Golf Gig Friday, February 22 TPC Sawgrass - Dye's Valley Course 8:30am - Bloody Marys & Morning Munchies 9:30am - Scramble
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The HEAL Foundation provides grants to local organizations, programs, camps and schools serving those with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Northeast Florida.



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◀ HEAL delivers iPads to local ESE classrooms

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James McVeigh, Case Walther, Nick Duncan and George Garcia
Photos by JON BLAUVELT

Red Shield Ball

RAISES FUNDS, AWARENESS FOR SALVATION ARMY'S RED SHIELD LODGE

by JON BLAUVELT



Maj. Bert Tanner, of the Salvation Army, recognizes the event's committee chairs, Francesca Rutherford and Meredith Guess.

Over 300 people gathered at the University of North Florida's Adam W. Herbert University Center on Oct. 20 for the fifth annual Salvation Army Red Shield Ball.

The fundraiser benefited the organization's Red Shield Lodge in downtown Jacksonville, which provides shelter and support to women and families. Services provided at the shelter include case management, crisis intervention and counseling; training in personal finance, parenting skills, child development, stress management and health and wellness; assistance to find sustainable, permanent housing; and three meals per day for all shelter residents.

The elegant, gala-style event included dinner, live music by the Faze Band, dancing and live and silent auctions. A "Fund-A-Need" portion of the night raised \$139,000 to support the renovation of the Red Shield Lodge's kitchen, exceeding a target fundraising goal of \$125,000. The kitchen, which has not been renovated in 30 years, still has appliances that are original to the building from 1987. Other appliances need significant repair or need to be replaced.

In addition, the event raised around \$12,000 via the silent auction and around \$15,000 via the live auction, which included a mountain getaway to North Carolina and a painting completed the night of the event by artist Eric Waugh, among other items/experiences. The Salvation Army is anticipating additional donations from the event via online submissions.



ABOVE: Tanner recognizes the event's honorary chairs, Chip and Jenifer Skinner.

LEFT: Members of the Faze Band perform during the event.

Photos by JON BLAUVELT



Major Tim Williford, Major Bert Tanner and Robert Devers of the Salvation Army



Santa Claus makes an appearance at the Red Shield Ball.



Artist Eric Waugh creates an original painting that was auctioned off during the event.



Tanner and Mike Buresh, event emcee, Salvation Army Advisory Board member and Action News Jax chief meteorologist

Chip and Jenifer Skinner served as the event's honorary chairs, while Francesca Rutherford and Meredith Guess served as the event's committee chairs. Included on the event committee were Peggy Bacalis, Mike Buresh, Carol Blumeyer, Peter Blumeyer, Marilyn Carpenter, Christine Carter, Tricia Humphries, Ron Kuruvilla, Marcie Lee, Dianne Lott, Susie O'Quinn, Sally Ragsdale, Tracie Rampley, Michael Rutherford, Lauren Scheible and Janet Westling. Buresh, a meteorologist at Action News Jax, was the emcee.

Rutherford says it was extremely special for her to contribute to such an important cause.

"Salvation Army has a heart for the community," she says. "And that's why you want to give to them. You're pushed to give more and more because you see the results. You give your money and you see the projects realized. For me, it makes a difference. I think for a lot of people it's the same."



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GTM Research Reserve hosts OCEANWISE FUNDRAISER

by BENJAMIN NAIM

The GTM Research Reserve hosted its annual fundraiser, Oceanwise: An Evening for the Estuaries, at the visitor's center on Saturday, Sept. 29, to benefit the programs at the Reserve.

According to Friends of the GTM Reserve Executive Director Ellen Leroy-Reed, money raised from the event goes back into the research, education and stewardship offered by the Reserve. Oceanwise also helps fund ecological education programs for local youth, along with research by visiting and local scientists, the Reserve's landscape and more.

This was the ninth annual Oceanwise benefit to be held at the GTM Research Reserve Visitor's Center, which is located on the Guana River in Ponte Vedra Beach. Each year, the fundraiser features fine restaurants serving seafood and other locally-sourced dishes, entertainment, live music, a silent auction and a sunset view over the river. This year, guests enjoyed fine wine and beer spon-



ABOVE: Mickey Hall and Katy Keene



LEFT: A band performs live music to entertain event-goers at the GTM Research Reserve Oceanwise gala.

Photos by BENJAMIN NAIM

sored by Bold City Brewery. Action News Jax evening anchor John Bachman served as emcee for the evening.

For more information on the GTM Research Reserve, or to become a Friends member, visit www.gtmnerr.org.

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Boot Scootin' BBQ

by JON BLAUVELT



ABOVE: Lori McCarron, Seymoine and Jack Schmidt and Mac McCarron

LEFT: Laura Lancaster, Heather Barsh and Aldijana Heljo
Photos by JON BLAUVELT

Investing in Kids (INK!), an organization that support teachers and students in St. Johns County, hosted a western-themed fundraiser and barbecue on Sept. 29 at the St. Augustine Rod and Gun Club called Boot Scootin' BBQ.

Dressed in cowboy boots and hats and flannel shirts, event attendees enjoyed delicious fare from Smokin D's BBQ, Woodpeckers Backyard BBQ, Smoked. Southern BBQ and Mojo Old City BBQ. The Grant Paxton Band and DJ Chad Sorensen from White Tie Events provided entertainment throughout the evening. Attendees also enjoyed the opportunity to ride a mechanical bull, play interactive games and participate in an impressive silent auction with items including a guitar signed by Taylor Swift and a weekend at THE PLAYERS Championship, among others.

Funds raised from the event benefited various programs of INK!, including FLY (Five Learning Years), Take Stock in Children and Tools for Schools, as well as classroom mini grants and match funding opportunities.

"This event is the major kickoff to our season," INK! Director of

Development David Hartzel says. "To be in a place where our community can come together, laugh together and share together ... all for the great success of INK! is fuel to the rest of the year. The need for education is endless.

"This barbecue embodies the community impact," Hartzel continues. "It is up to all of us to keep funding our schools in order to promote academic success within all students. The community wants our students to succeed with the necessary tools they need to thrive in our modern society."



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A ROARING GOOD TIME

San Marco celebrates 21st birthday of beloved lions statue

by PARIS MOULDEN

The three lions surrounding the fountain in San Marco Square are a distinct symbol of the area, and the bronze recently celebrated their milestone 21st birthday with area residents, merchants and visitors.

The lions' birthday party was held Oct. 13, at Balis Park in San Marco Square. The three famed felines donned birthday hats as local band members played music, vendors served food and drinks and visitors sang "Happy Birthday" to the big bronze cats that greet visitors to San Marco.

The birthday celebration was a joint effort between the San Marco Preservation Society and the San Marco Merchants Association.

"The idea really is to try to continue to keep the energy going in the central area, and allow the off-square merchants to come participate, but also to try to drive traffic to the entire San Marco area," says Robert Harris, president of San Marco Merchants Association.

Harris says one of the things that makes the San Marco area so special is its walkability and wide selection of restaurants and unique shops.

During the event, area retailers offered visitors numerous discounts and specials, and a smaller bronze model of the lion statue donated to the San Marco Preservation Society by T. Wayne Davis was on display.

Bryan Mickler, president of the San Marco Preservation Society, says the preservation society and the Merchants Association were looking at ways to drive traffic to the area, and found out the lions' 21st birthday was approaching, which made it a perfect pairing.

"Our goal was to push as many people into the square as possible," Mickler says. "As an aside, it was an opportunity to explain the history of the lions."



Events were held at Balis Park in San Marco Square Oct. 13 to celebrate the 21st birthday of the popular lions fountain.

Photos by PARIS MOULDEN



Mickler says he was very pleased with the party turnout, and expects more parties celebrating the cool cats in the future.

"I think it was a complete success," Mickler says. "Every retailer I've heard from said it was as good a shopping day as they've ever had. I know anecdotally, I saw lots of

people in the community walking around enjoying themselves."

The San Marco area also has several events scheduled for the upcoming holiday season, including the Lighting of the Christmas Tree in Balis Park on Nov. 30, and the Festival of Lights 5K and Holiday Magic on Dec. 8.

St. Augustine community celebrates restoration of

OLD JAIL MUSEUM

A rededication and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Old Jail Museum in St. Augustine on Sept. 26 to celebrate the 127-year history of the facility and to commemorate its recent renovations.

Funded by Historic Tours of America, the owner and caretaker of the property, the \$1 million restoration efforts took place following damage from Hurricane Irma.

“The Old Jail Museum is back in order including newly recreated interiors of the sheriff’s office, the jailer’s sleeping quarters, parlor, kitchen and the prisoner’s cell blocks,” says Dave Chatterton, general manager of Old Town Trolley Tours and Attractions of St. Augustine.

During the event, a \$5,000 check was presented to St. Augustine Police Chief Barry Fox, who also represented the St. Augustine Police Benevolent Organization, to recognize the longevity of law enforcement in St. Augustine. St. Augustine Police Benevolent Organization is a 501 (c) (4) nonprofit founded more than 50 years ago to aid in the welfare of the public, police employees and their families.

Various public and civic officials attended the event, as well as



Local officials and representatives from Historic Tours of America celebrate the restoration of the Old Jail Museum in St. Augustine on Sept. 26. Photo by SUSAN GRIFFIN

Historic Tours of America President Ed Swift III, other company leaders and cast members. St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce officials participated in the ribbon cutting. Local group Ball and Chain Gang provided entertainment, and Smokin D’s BBQ served food and beverage. Local actors impersonating Henry Flagler and an 1891 deputy sheriff were also in attendance.

The historic jail, now on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, served the City of St. Augustine from 1891 until 1953. It is open all year except on Christmas Day and is located just north of the downtown district.

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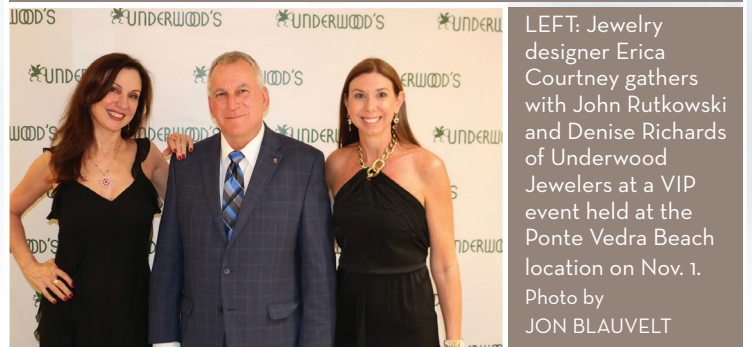
It's been a busy but exciting few months for the team at Underwood Jewelers in Ponte Vedra Beach.

On Oct. 4, the First Coast jeweler hosted a cocktail reception with designer brand Lagos in support of several local charities designated by the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club. Attended by Kate Lagos, the event kicked off the store's Lagos trunk show, which ran through Oct. 6. A portion of the trunk show's sales, in addition to funds raised by raffling off an 18-carat yellow gold Ladies Caviar Lagos bracelet, benefited St. Augustine Youth Services, the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry, the Betty Griffin Center and Expanding Your Horizons.

Then on Oct. 9, Underwood's hosted a special event to educate clients about Forevermark's Exceptional Diamond Collection. Customers at the event learned how the De Beers-branded diamonds are responsibly sourced, how De Beers gives back to the



ABOVE: Underwood Jewelers Ponte Vedra Beach General Manager John Rutkowski and Kate Lagos at a cocktail reception on Oct. 4
Photo by SUSAN GRIFFIN



LEFT: Jewelry designer Erica Courtney gathers with John Rutkowski and Denise Richards of Underwood Jewelers at a VIP event held at the Ponte Vedra Beach location on Nov. 1.
Photo by JON BLAUVELT

communities it sources diamonds from and how the company traces diamonds from the ground to the retailer. Forevermark USA President Charles Stanley was in attendance.

A few weeks later, Los Angeles-based celebrity jewelry designer Erica Courtney visited the local jeweler to present her jewelry line and meet with customers. Courtney, who has worked with celebrities such as Jessica Alba, Sandra Bullock and Sofia Vergara and for red carpet events and television productions, was at Underwood's on Nov. 1 for a VIP event. She stayed in the area for the weekend.

Lastly, Italian jeweler Marco Bicego paid Underwood's a visit on Nov. 14 to present his latest collections. In addition to offering on-site hand-engraving for any existing or newly purchased pieces, guests enjoyed complimentary artisanal Italian light bites.

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Light Up Four Seasons

Compiled by BENJAMIN NAIM



Celebrate the holiday season by checking out these festive events scheduled to take place in November and December in Northeast Florida.

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ST. AUGUSTINE • PAGE 44 | AMELIA ISLAND • PAGE 45



JACKSONVILLE

JAX ILLUMINATIONS DRIVE THRU HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW (NOV. 16-DEC. 30)



Enjoy the magic of driving through a mile of holiday lights that are synchronized to holiday music. Come see 1 million LED lights that dance, twinkle and sparkle to some of your favorite holiday songs. The winter wonderland is open nightly. From Sunday to Thursday, the cost is \$20 per car, truck or family van with a maximum of seven people. There will be an additional charge of \$2 per person. On Fridays and Saturdays, the cost is \$25, with the same additional charge (\$2) per additional person. This holiday event is held at the Morocco Shrine Center located

at 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road S. in Jacksonville. Visit jaxilluminations.com for more information.

'ELF THE MUSICAL' AT ALHAMBRA THEATRE & DINING (NOV. 21-DEC. 24)

Buddy is a young orphan who sneaks into the present bag of Santa and is taken back to the North Pole. There, the would-be elf is raised unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toymaking abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, he journeys to New York to find his real father. Faced with the harsh realities that his father is on the naughty list and his half-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas. The theatre is located at 12000 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville. For tickets, call (904) 641-1212 or visit www.alhambrajax.com.

CHRISTMAS MADE IN THE SOUTH (NOV. 23-25)

The 30th annual Christmas Made in the South event will feature arts and crafts exhibits, unique and gourmet food, entertainment and more. This event will be held Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Nov. 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Nov. 25 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center, located at 1000 Water St. in Jacksonville. Tickets cost \$7 for adults, while admission for children age 12 and under is free. One admission is valid for all three festival days with a hand stamp. Visit www.madeinthesouthshows.com/jacksonville-christmas.html for more information.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY AT THE JACKSONVILLE LANDING (NOV. 23)

The 32nd annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Jacksonville Landing's courtyard. The 56-foot-tall energy-efficient tree features over 78,000 LED lights and more than 150 ornaments and performances highlighting Jacksonville's local musicians. Following the tree lighting ceremony, there will be Christmas tree light shows until New Year's Eve. Visit www.jacksonvillelanding.com for more information.

COMMUNITY FIRST JACKSONVILLE LIGHT BOAT PARADE (NOV. 24)

The Jacksonville Light Boat Parade has been a holiday tradition for more than 30 years. Vessels of all shapes and sizes adorn their hulls with festive decorations as they float along the north and south banks of the St. Johns River. Residents and visitors alike gather along the north and south riverbanks in downtown Jacksonville to witness this event. The evening then culminates with one of the best fireworks show on the First Coast featuring "waterfalls" off of the Main Street and Acosta bridges. The boat parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. Boats will start at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel and follow along the Northbank Riverwalk to the Fuller Warren Bridge. The parade will then cross to the south bank and follow along the Riverwalk to the Duval County School Board building. Visit specialevents.coj.net/ for more information.

GINGERBREAD EXTRAVAGANZA (NOV. 29 TO DEC. 28)

The Jacksonville Historical Society will present the Gingerbread Extravaganza at Old St. Andrews, located at 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. in Jacksonville. Visitors can enjoy creative gingerbread creations built by chefs, bakers, architects, engineers, culinary school students and families. This year's theme encompasses Jacksonville's historic landmarks and whimsical spirit of the holidays. Visit www.jaxhistory.org for more information.





ZOOLIGHTS AT THE JACKSONVILLE ZOO AND GARDENS (DEC. 7-9, DEC. 14-JAN. 5, 2019)

Celebrate the holiday season and create a family tradition admiring the sparkling lights and brilliant hues at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' seventh annual ZOOLights event. Thousands of LED lights will be on display at the zoo along with lighted animal sculptures and a forest of lighted trees and animal silhouettes. Event activities will include live holiday music, a lighted train, carousel rides, a 4-D theater, marshmallow roasting and more for an additional fee. The zoo will be open for ZOOLights Sunday to Thursday from 6 to 9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost of admission is \$10 for non-members and \$8 for zoo members. For more information, visit www.jacksonvillezoo.org.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 5K (DEC. 8)

To be held at 6 p.m., the Festival of Lights 5K will feature jugglers, children's bounce games, a Christmas tree lighting, music, pictures with Santa, horse drawn sleigh rides, awards for best stroller decoration, carolers and more. For more information and to register (for a fee), visit www.1stplacesports.com/races/fol. This event will take place at San Marco Square, located at 1999 San Marco Blvd. in Jacksonville.

HOME FREE COUNTRY CHRISTMAS AT THE FLORIDA THEATRE (DEC. 9)

Since winning NBC's "The Sing Off," Home Free has released two albums: "Crazy Life" and "Full of Cheer." The group has also amassed 185 million views on YouTube. On Dec. 9, catch Home Free for a holiday-themed show at the Florida Theatre at 2:30 p.m. The Florida Theatre is located at 128 East Forsyth Street, Suite 300, in Jacksonville. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.floridatheatre.com.

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA (DEC. 13)

Experience the sounds of the season with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena, located at 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. in Jacksonville. Visit www.floridatheatre.com for more information and to buy tickets.

'FIRST COAST NUTCRACKER' (DEC. 14-16)

Presented by VyStar Credit Union, the "First Coast Nutcracker" has been a beloved tradition in North Florida for over 40 years. Experience Tchaikovsky's timeless ballet with Jacksonville's only full symphony orchestra. Showtimes are Dec. 14 at 8 p.m., Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. Performances will be held at the Jim and Jan Moran Theater, located at 300 Water St. in Jacksonville. For tickets, call (904) 354-5547 or visit www.jaxsymphony.org.

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FOR KING & COUNTRY: 'LITTLE DRUMMER BOY' (DEC. 16)

Soaring melodies, driving rhythms, theatrical instrumentation and personal themes are the heartbeat of for King & Country. The Australian duo, comprised of brothers Joel and Luke Smallbone, will bring their headlining Christmas tour, "Little Drummer Boy," to the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.. Visit www.jaxarena.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

'A CHRISTMAS WITH ROCKAPELLA' AT THE FLORIDA THEATRE (DEC. 19)

For their new Christmas show, Acapella superstars Rockapella will perform holiday classics like "Silver Bells," "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" and "White Christmas" with their original holiday hits "The Hope We Hold," "Christmas Without You" and more on Dec. 19 at 8 p.m. at the Florida Theatre. Since the early 90s, when they first achieved national television fame on PBS's "Where In The World Is Carmen Sandiego," Rockapella has toured the globe and released 13 albums including "Comfort and Joy," "Smilin'" and "Christmas." For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.floridatheatre.com.

'RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER, THE MUSICAL' AT THE FLORIDA THEATRE (DEC. 20)

First airing in 1964, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" has become a beloved Christmas classic, capturing the hearts and

wonder of generations of fans. On Dec. 20, more than 50 years later, the beloved classic soars off the screen and onto the stage in this family musical. The performance starts at 7 p.m. For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.floridatheatre.com.

'HORTON'S HOLIDAY HAYRIDE' AT THE FLORIDA THEATRE (DEC. 21)

Set for 7 p.m., this hip, holiday extravaganza features Rev. Horton Heat performing his hits "Psychobilly Freakout," "Cowboy Love," Havana Moon," "Motorhead," and funky versions of George Jones' cover, "New Baby For Christmas," and Gene Autry's "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer." The event will also feature The Blasters, Big Sandy and Junior Brown. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.floridatheatre.com.

TAXSLAYER GATOR BOWL (DEC. 31)

Attracting thousands of visitors from out of town, this annual college football game is played at TIAA Bank Field in Jacksonville. Come experience the excitement as the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl treats thousands of fans to one of the most exciting bowl games of the year. The 74th annual TaxSlayer Gator Bowl kicks off under the lights at 7:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve and will feature a team from the SEC against the Big Ten, ACC or Notre Dame. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.taxslayergatorbowl.com.



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NEW YEAR'S FROM VIENNA (DEC. 31)

Join Courtney Lewis and the Jacksonville Symphony for another New Year's Eve celebration. The evening begins with a program of Viennese classics, followed by a New Year's party with the Chris Thomas Band and a view of the fireworks on the river at midnight. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.jaxsymphony.org.

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN DOWNTOWN JACKSONVILLE (DEC. 31)

Say goodbye to 2018 and ring in the New Year with a fireworks display over the St. Johns River. Make your way down to the waterfront with friends or family before midnight to snag a great seat for the festivities. Fireworks will begin exactly at midnight. This year fireworks will be launched from a barge on the St. Johns River between the Hyatt and Double Tree hotels and high above the St. Johns River from the Acosta Bridge. These locations are able to be viewed from both the north and south banks in downtown Jacksonville, in addition to viewing from Brooklyn and under the Fuller Warren Bridge where the Riverside Arts Market is held. Visit specialevents.coj.net for more information.



THE BEACHES

WINTERFEST 2018 (NOV. 16 TO JAN. 7, 2019)

Adventure Landing in Jacksonville Beach transforms its Shipwreck Island Water Park every year into a winter wonderland for the annual WinterFEST celebration. The event features outdoor ice skating, an alpine ice slide, visits and pictures with Santa, s'more roasting and other attractions. Additionally, visitors can wind through a snowy village and enjoy window displays, hologram lights and decorations. Adventure Landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach. Call (904) 516-9739 or visit www.jacksonville-beach.adventurelanding.com for more information.

10TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY (NOV. 23)

The 10th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Rockaway, Inc. in Jacksonville Beach will be held Nov. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. Light hors d'oeuvres, beer, champagne and soft drinks will be served during the ceremony. The champagne toast will start around 7:30 p.m. The event will feature live music, arts and crafts, a photo booth and more. Santa Claus will also be in attendance. Visit www.facebook.com/events/2176107535971820/ for more information.

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DECK THE CHAIRS (NOV. 25 TO JAN. 1, 2019)

Jacksonville Beach Deck The Chairs (JBDC) is an annual lighted sculptural exhibit using the iconic chairs of The American Red Cross Life Saving Corps.



Marking its sixth year in community service, JBDC gathers the community to decorate and display the Beaches life-guard chairs during the month of December to promote local business, instill public pride and share cultural diversity through creative expression. Free and open to the public, the light display aims to provide a wholesome and festive downtown during the holidays. All net proceeds from JBDC will benefit the Volunteer Life Saving Corps of Jacksonville Beach. On kickoff day, participants can enjoy chair decorating, music, hot cocoa, judging and lighting ceremonies. Visit www.deckthechairs.org for more information.

OH WHAT FUN AT SAWGRASS VILLAGE (DEC. 1)

Join for the third annual OH What FUN! holiday event at Sawgrass Village in Ponte Vedra Beach on Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides, a visit with Santa, music, activities and more. Visit www.sawgrassvillagepb.comevents/ for more information.

'MIRACLES: MESSIAH FAVORITES AND CAROLS OF MYSTERY' (DEC. 1)

This holiday event, entitled "Miracles: Messiah Favorites and Carols of Mystery," is sponsored by The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. The concert is presented by the University of North Florida Chorale and Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Cara Tasher. This will be held Dec. 1 at 3 p.m. (gates open at 2 p.m.) at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, located at 1050 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach. Call the box office at (904) 209-0399 or visit www.pvconcerthall.com to purchase tickets.

PALM VALLEY BOAT PARADE (DEC. 1)

In what has become one of the Beaches' best holiday traditions, the annual Palm Valley Boat Parade will be held Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. Beginning just south of the Palm Valley Bridge and traveling north through the Palm Valley cut to the end of Marsh Landing, this event provides fun for all ages and helps ring in the holiday season in a truly Florida fashion. While similar to other local boat parades, the narrow nature of the Palm Valley Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) creates a very personal atmosphere and offers unique spectator proximity and interaction. Visit palmvalleyboatparade.com/ for more information.



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**'THE NUTCRACKER'
AT UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH FLORIDA
(DEC. 8)**

The 23rd annual Christ Church Nutcracker will be performed at The Lazzara Theater at the University of North Florida's Fine Arts Department Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. Proceeds from the show support Dreams Come True, Pediatric Hospice and Amistad

Orphanage in Bolivia. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.missfeliciasdance.com.

BEACHES NORTH POLE EXPRESS (DEC. 7-8)

Meet Santa and the conductor of the Beaches North Pole Express Dec. 7 from 2 to 6 p.m. and Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Beaches Museum & History Park, located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach. Visitors can write a letter to Santa, enjoy cocoa and cookies, watch the movie "The Polar Express" in the Dickinson Gallery, make crafts and enjoy other festivities at the park. This event is free to museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. Contact the Beaches Museum & History Park at (904) 241-5657 for more information.

**'A PETER WHITE CHRISTMAS' AT THE
PONTE VEDRA CONCERT HALL (DEC. 11)**

Jazz guitarist Peter White will visit the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. to perform his fan-favorite holiday show: "A Peter White Christmas." Additionally, Rick Braun and Euge Grove will join White to perform jazz, pop and classical interpretations of Christmas classics such as "Little Drummer Boy," "Sleigh Ride," "Greensleeves," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and their own hit songs. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pvconcerthall.com.

**APEX THEATRE STUDIO PRESENTS
'A CHRISTMAS STORY' (DEC. 14)**

Celebrate the holidays with hilarity and Apex Theatre Studio this December when Apex Theatre Studio presents "A Christmas Story" Dec. 14 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall at 7 p.m. (gates open at 6:30 p.m.). Humorist Jean Sheperd's memoir of growing up in the midwest of the 1940s follows Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. All the elements from the classic motion picture are here: the exploding furnace, the school bully, the boys' experiment with a wet tongue on a lamppost and the infamous leg lamp. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pvconcerthall.com.

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ST. AUGUSTINE

LUMINARY NIGHT (DEC. 5)

Luminary Night at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum will be held Dec. 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. During the event, the Museum offers luminaries throughout the grounds, visits with Santa, children's activities and holiday crafts, yuletide refreshments and live music. Guests can enjoy the lighthouse's holiday decorations and climb the lighthouse tower to see St. Augustine's Nights of Lights from the top. Admission is free with a suggested donation of a non-perishable food item to be donated to a local food pantry. The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is located at 81 Lighthouse Ave.

CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE (DEC. 8)

From 6 to 8 p.m., the Castillo de San Marcos opens its doors to the community for this St. Augustine holiday tradition. This free event allows visitors to informally explore the Castillo by lantern light, interacting with staff and volunteers dressed to represent the more than 300 years of Castillo history. Cannon firings will take place at 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. The Castillo is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.

'ST. AUGUSTINE WINTER SPECTACULAR' (DEC. 8-9)

The "St. Augustine Winter Spectacular" is a performance by The Dance Company about a young girl's journey home for the holidays. This family friendly performance features many dance styles, characters and holiday scenes. Performances start at 7 p.m. on Dec. 8 and 2 p.m. on Dec. 9 at the Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College in St. Augustine. Visit www.staugustinewinterspectacular.com or call (904) 471-4946 for more information and to purchase tickets. The Lewis Auditorium is located at 14 Granada St. in St. Augustine.

HOLIDAY REGATTA OF LIGHTS (DEC. 8)

To be held at 6 p.m. at the St. Augustine Bayfront, this annual holiday event is a colorful parade of boats that reflects the maritime heritage of the Oldest City. The parade features a boat awards presentation for the best theme, most colorful, best in class and best overall. Visit www.staugustineyachtclub.com for more information.

BEACH BLAST OFF (DEC. 31)

Head to the St Johns County Ocean and Fishing Pier in St. Augustine Beach on New Year's Eve to bring in 2019. To be held from 6 to 8 p.m., the event will feature live entertainment, food, a kids fun zone area, carnival rides, a fireworks show and more. Visit www.sabevents.com/beach-blast-off/ for more information.

ST. AUGUSTINE NIGHTS OF LIGHTS (NOV. 17 TO FEB. 3, 2019)

Previously selected by National Geographic as one of the 10 best holiday lighting displays in the world, St. Augustine's Night of Lights features millions of white lights that create a magical atmosphere in the nation's oldest city.

VILLA ZORAYDA CANDLELIGHT TOUR WITH REFRESHMENTS (NOV. 23 TO JAN. 5, 2019)

Join Villa Zorayda Museum this holiday season for its ninth annual Candlelight Tour, which is offered on select evenings during St. Augustine's Nights of Lights. The museum will be decorated for the holidays with a Christmas tree adorned in the colors of the Zorayda — red and gold. More than 100 candles will be aglow throughout the museum. Visitors can enjoy refreshments and homemade Christmas cookies, coffee and a special holiday punch. Reservations are required and can be made by phone at (904) 829-9887. The Villa Zorayda Museum is located at 83 King St. in St. Augustine.

ST. AUGUSTINE CHRISTMAS PARADE (DEC. 1)

To be held at 9 a.m., St. Augustine's annual Christmas Parade features floats, marching bands, cars, horses and the grand arrival of Santa. The parade begins on San Marco Avenue at the Mission of Nombre de Dios and continues through the downtown streets of historic St. Augustine along the Bayfront, and ends behind the Visitors Center on Castillo Drive.



AMELIA ISLAND

THE RITZ-CARLTON AMELIA ISLAND



THE WORLD'S LARGEST GINGERBREAD PIRATE SHIP (NOV. 21-28)

Visit the lobby to see the world's largest gingerbread pirate ship, helmed by an edible fondant pirate crew. The 17-foot gingerbread ship is created by a team of eight pastry chefs using more than 600 pieces of gingerbread.

BUILD A GINGERBREAD HOUSE (NOV. 24, 2 P.M.; DEC. 8 AND 15, 4 P.M.; DEC. 23, 2 P.M.)

Enjoy a new family tradition as you craft a gingerbread house alongside Ritz-Carlton pastry chefs, with a portion of proceeds benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Nassau County. Cost is \$175 per group of four guests.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA (NOV. 24 AND DEC. 1, 8 AND 15)

Children whisper their holiday wishes to Santa at a lavish breakfast buffet adorned with magical gingerbread houses and holiday decorations in Salt restaurant. Parents will cherish a keepsake picture. The event will be held each day from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Cost is \$40 per guest, \$25 ages 5 and under.

SANTA'S STORYBOOK TEA (NOV. 24, DEC. 1, 8 AND 15)

From noon to 1:30 p.m., celebrate the season with a storybook reading by Santa and afternoon tea in a magical space adorned with holiday decor and gingerbread. Delight with a buffet of pastries, candies, cakes, finger sandwiches and a keepsake photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Cost is \$55 per guest and \$25 for ages 5 and under.

SANTA TUCK-INS (NOV. 24 AND 30; DEC. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 AND 22)

From 6 to 9:30 p.m., children will be thrilled by a tuck-in from Santa as he brings cookies and milk and reads a holiday story. Cost is \$55 per child.

FAMILY BEACH BONFIRE (FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENINGS THROUGH FEB. 28)

From 7 to 9 p.m., bring the family to relax around a bonfire in the dunes. The crackling fire, the breaking surf and crisp night air creates the perfect atmosphere to sip hot chocolate and enjoy s'mores.

BLACK AND WHITE GALA (DEC. 31)

Ring in the New Year in classic Ritz-Carlton style at Northern Florida's most elegant and entertaining New Year's Eve party. Enjoy an open bar, lavish buffet, dancing, live music and elaborate fireworks display with midnight champagne toast. This event will be held from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Cost is \$275 per guest (VIP table seating available).



For more information on holiday events at the Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island, visit www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/florida/amelia-island or call (904) 277-1100.

OMNI AMELIA ISLAND PLANTATION RESORT

LETTERS TO SANTA (DEC. 7-21)

Every Friday from 4-6 p.m., enjoy complimentary letter writing to Santa in the lobby of the resort.

FIRESIDE CRAFTS (EVERY SATURDAY IN DECEMBER)

On every Saturday in December from 2 to 4 p.m., bring your creativity to the firepit outside of Seaglass on the pool deck. Prices vary.

GAME NIGHT (DEC. 26)

From 2 to 4 p.m., enjoy a giant Jenga, cornhole, giant Connect Four and more.

CAMP AMELIA AT NIGHT (DEC. 31)

Drop the kids (ages 4-12) off for a fun New Year's Eve party from 6 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$90 per child (dinner included). Early drop-off is available for \$20 per child.

ROCKIN' NEW YEAR'S (DEC. 31)

From 7 p.m. to midnight, ring in 2019 with a fun, relaxing and complimentary celebration on the pool deck, featuring firepits for s'mores, an apple juice toast at 10 p.m. and midnight fireworks.

For more information on holiday events at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort, visit www.omnihotels.com/hotels/amelia-island-plantation or call (904) 261-6161.

Holiday Gift Guide

With the holiday season in full swing, the First Coast Register has compiled the following gift guide to help you find the perfect holiday presents for your loved ones.

PAGES 46-49

HOUSE OF STEREO

Jacksonville

QUAD S2 LOUDSPEAKER

Is this the world's best \$1,000 loudspeaker? It very well could be. These svelte little stand-mount (or bookshelf) speakers impress out of the gate with quality woodwork and a finish that blends in with quality furniture. Designed to be placed near a wall (minimum of about 8 inches is preferable), these loudspeakers never dominate a room and can work in a number of different room types, including apartments, studies and offices. Visit www.houseofstereo.com for more information.

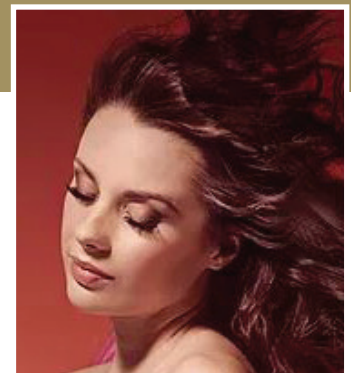


LASHJAX

Jacksonville Beach

GIFT CERTIFICATE OR DISCOUNTED SERVICES

Treat the ladies in your life to the gift of luxury and pampering with a LASHjax gift certificate, which can be used for any service her heart desires. Call or stop by to take advantage of these holiday offers available through Dec. 31: gift certificates of \$250 value for only \$200; a full set of lashes for \$200 (\$255 value); and microblading and permanent makeup \$40 off. Use PVR as the code. Visit www.lashjax.com for more information.



CLAUDE'S CHOCOLATE

Ponte Vedra

GIFT BOX

Delight this holiday season with Claude's Chocolate's four-tiered gift box. The box will contain Claude's selection of his finest milk or dark chocolate bonbons, making a perfectly elegant gift to please the office or family. Thirty-six pieces cost \$55, and 64 pieces cost \$88. Visit www.claudeschocolate.com for more information.



EMILY BENHAM

Jacksonville Beach

TOTE

This camouflage tote by Quilted Koala is \$165. Visit emlybenhamboutique.com for more information.



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VILLAGE JEWELER

Ponte Vedra Beach

LAFONN TRAVEL JEWELRY

Head to Village Jeweler in Ponte Vedra Beach's Sawgrass Village to find Lafonn travel jewelry ranging in price from \$100 to \$300. Visit www.villagejewelerofpontevedra.com for more information.



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Ponte Vedra Beach

BAREFOOT DREAMS

Opulence of Southern Pines has you covered in Barefoot Dreams. Whether it be wraps, cardigans, loungewear, sleepwear, throws or pillows, the business has it all. Shown here is the Long Weekend Cardigan for \$147.

For more information, visit www.opulenceofsouthernpines.com.



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Ponte Vedra Beach

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Escape to an oasis of wellness and serenity at The Sawgrass Spa by purchasing a gift certificate. Treat yourself or a loved one to a steam, soak in the whirlpool, massage, nail care and more. Visit www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/jaxsw-sawgrass-marriott-golf-resort-and-spa for more information.



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Commerce*
Shapiro Group, 2012.

ST. AUGUSTINE DISTILLERY

St. Augustine

GIFT SET

St. Augustine Distillery's first holiday gift pack, Old Fashioned Kit, includes a 750-milliliter double cask bourbon (93.8 proof), with one engraved 10-ounce rocks glass and two sample bottles of the distillery's old-fashioned mix. It is priced at \$60. Visit staugustinedistillery.com for more information.



LULAMAE BOUTIQUE

Jacksonville Beach

AURA MERRY CANDLE

This warm holiday blend will fill your space with festive notes of Siberian fir, cinnamon bark and golden raspberry. Ten ounces of pure bliss, this candle is phthalate-free and features natural wax and a lead-free wick. Burn time is more than 60 hours with proper wick care. It is priced at \$28. Visit www.lulamaestyle.com for more information.



LEMON TWIST

Ponte Vedra Beach

ALASHAN CASHMERE FOX TRIM WIND CHILL TOPPER

As the weather starts to dip down a bit, consider visiting Lemon Twist in Ponte Vedra Beach's Sawgrass Village to purchase an item like this Alashan Cashmere fox trim wind chill topper, which is shown in snow/snow fox.



SCAN DESIGN

Jacksonville

SAVOY SOFA

The Savoy Sofa features a sophisticated, clean design with sleek metal legs and is built with 100 percent top-grain leather and durable inner-coil suspension system. The sofa is available in three sizes and colors — white, stone and black leather with contrast stitching. Visit www.scandesign.com for more information.



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Renowned journalist shares story at *Florida Forum*

Lara Logan credits
illustrious career to
being able to connect with
people from across the world

by PARIS MOULDEN



Journalist Lara Logan toured the Wolfson Children's Hospital during her visit to Jacksonville and spent time with 1-year-old Nathan Wood, who was the patient profile for the Oct. 17 Florida Forum. Wood was diagnosed at 20 weeks gestation with a rare congenital heart defect.

Photo courtesy of THE WOMEN'S BOARD OF WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The life and career of journalist Lara Logan is a compelling story in and of itself, but the journalist finds telling other people's stories is what matters most to her.

"I want to know the truth," Logan said. "I don't want to be the foreign correspondent that knows everything because I don't."

CBS News' chief foreign correspondent for "60 Minutes," Logan was the featured speaker of the Florida Forum Series on Oct. 17 at the Times-Union Center for Performing Arts.

Logan was born in 1971 in South Africa during Apartheid and recounted stories growing up under the system of racial segregation.

"It was a very powerful moment to be born," she said. "It defined so much of my principles and the beliefs that I follow, and the example set by the people I learned from."

She recalled starting out her journalism career during the end of Apartheid, the concern of what could have followed and the magnitude and impact of former South African President Nelson Mandela's steady influence as an activist and as South Africa's first black head of state.

"Mandela never lost a moment to be human and to be a leader," Logan said. "He was just an extraordinary man."

Logan's career has also placed her in numerous dangerous situations, from being embedded with soldiers during

Operation Iraqi Freedom, to living with the Iraqi people during the war and embedding with Afghan soldiers during the war in Afghanistan. Logan discussed how getting to know the Iraqi people and the Afghan people who were fighting the Taliban helped to shape her world view.

"If you don't begin to understand how they view your presence there, how do you begin to understand what the strategy should be?" Logan said.

She also noted the difficulties she's faced being a woman in working as a foreign correspondent and in dangerous areas throughout the globe.

"As a woman one of the things that has been challenging to me is that men are often regarded as brave, and I'm regarded as reckless," she said.

One of the most terrifying situations Logan endured on the job was covering the revolution in Egypt in 2011. While covering the celebration over the resignation of then-president Hosni Mubarak in Tahrir Square, Logan was separated from her CBS News colleagues and was beaten and sexually assaulted. The attack left Logan severely injured and hospitalized for days, but Logan credited a group of Egyptian women for saving her life.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 51 ■

2018 *arts & antiques*

show returning to Jacksonville Nov. 29 to Dec. 2

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital will welcome acclaimed designers, collectors and fashion influencers to Jacksonville from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2 at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center for the 2018 Arts & Antiques Show.

"We invite everyone to the Art & Antiques Show to celebrate art, fashion, décor and more from every era and around the world," says Marleigh Gulliford, who is chairing this year's Art & Antiques Show with Claudia Adams, Liza Barnett Emmet and Holland Gibbs. "There is something for everyone to enjoy and we are thrilled to be raising awareness for Wolfson Children's Hospital."

In addition to more than 30 recognized art and antiques dealers, the Show will host lecturers and special guests, including fashion designer and vintage Lilly Pulitzer collector Keni Valenti; award-winning interior designer Leta Austin Foster; Mary Aarons,

the daughter of famed celebrity photographer Slim Aarons; fashion magazine journalist and author Kathryn Livingston; and Juli Catlin, FASID, and antiques expert William Nash. The event will conclude with the Children's Fashion Show on Sunday, featuring current and former patients of Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Daily admission to the show is \$15. Lecture tickets are \$30. Tickets to the Children's Fashion Show are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free to children 5 and under. Proceeds benefit Wolfson Children's Hospital and the new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to care for the smallest patients.

Show hours are from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are available online at www.artandantiquesshow.com, by phone at (904) 202-2886 or email at womensboard@bmcjax.com.



Dr. Mike Shillingford, Angelique Martinez, Jenn Munson, Lauren Hamel and Peter Scherkenbach
Photos by PARIS MOULDEN



Tabitha Batchelor, CC Brooks and Laura Collins



Women's Board past chairs Julie Howard and Roxane Andrade pose with John Schmitt, North Florida Market president at Capital Bank, which is a sponsor of the 2018-19 Florida Forum Series, during a VIP event following the Florida Forum.

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 50

She also discussed fighting breast cancer at the age of 41 when her son was 1 and her daughter was 2 years old, the impact of being able to visit medical facilities around the world, and, during a question-and-answer session, weighed in on the current state of journalism and the impact social media and the internet has made on her field.

"On one hand I have access to an enormous amount of knowledge, and on the other hand that leads to an enormous opportunity for propaganda and misinformation," she said.

But through all her own adventure, triumphs and tribulations, Logan maintained that it's the ability and opportunity to share other people's stories from across the world that keeps her doing what she does.

"What I love to see and to remember are those places and those people and all those stories, because for me, it was always about them and not about me" she said. "And my job at '60 Minutes' and as a reporter is to find a way to be the vehicle for that story."

The Florida Forum, now in its 27th season, is part of a fundraising effort by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital to raise money to help sick children in the community.



Christmas Services Schedule

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
10938 Hood Road S.
Jacksonville, FL 32257
(904) 268-8854
Monday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH
11665 Fort Caroline Road
Jacksonville, FL 32225
(904) 641-7244
Monday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 25 at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8264 Lone Star Road
Jacksonville, FL 32211
(904) 724-0022
Monday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
JACKSONVILLE (Downtown)**
119 W. Beaver St.
Jacksonville, FL 32202
904-356-6077
Monday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.

CHETS CREEK CHURCH (North)
143 Oceanway Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32218
(904) 223-5954
Monday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

CHETS CREEK CHURCH (Southside)
6625 Terry Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216
(904) 464-0201
Monday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
1423 Eighth Ave. N.
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
(904) 249-5418
Monday, Dec. 24: Children's Program at 6 p.m.;
Worship Service at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 25: Worship Service at 10 a.m.

CHETS CREEK CHURCH
105 Greenleaf Drive
Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
(904) 615-1340
Monday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
400 San Juan Drive
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
(904) 285-6127
Monday, Dec. 24 at 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m.
and 10 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m.

CROSSWATER COMMUNITY CHURCH
211 Davis Park Road
Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
(904) 824-9800
Monday, Dec. 24 at 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

ANCIENT CITY BAPTIST CHURCH
27 Sevilla St.
St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 829-3476
Monday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.

FLAGLER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
32 Sevilla St.
St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 829-6451
Monday, Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

(Note: This is a partial list of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services around the First Coast that does not include regular Sunday services.)

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Jaguars win first playoff game in 10 years, advance to divisional round against Steelers

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NEWSPAPER DIES WEEKS AFTER BEING STRUCK IN HEAD BY SOFTBALL

THREE DUVAL TEENS ARRESTED FOR PONTE VEDRA BEACH BURGLARIES

STUDENT COLLAPSES IN MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM, DIES OF ENLARGED HEART

PONTE VEDRA WOMAN ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF ATTEMPTED MURDER AND AGGRAVATED BATTERY

PARC GROUP, TOLAMOTO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT RECOGNIZED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT VALLEY RIDGE

NOCATEE RESIDENTS ENJOY "BREAKFAST WITH SANTA"

TIMBERLAND RIDGE AT NOCATEE TO HOLD GRAND OPENING JAN. 15

NOCATEE "TURKEY TRAIL" RAISES MORE THAN \$2,000 FOR ST. JOHN'S CARES

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS WORK TO ALLEVIATE DRUG/ALCOHOL PROBLEM AMONG YOUTHS IN ST. JOHN'S COUNTY

ST. JOHN'S COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS GIVING AWAY TREE SEEDLINGS IN HONOR OF ARBOR DAY

PONTE VEDRA RESIDENT'S BOOK ON EXPERIENCES WITH MUSIC STARS PICKS UP STEAM

DR. MAURICE "BUGS" BOWER — A FORMER RECORD COMPANY ASSISTANT, U.S. ARMY SERGEANT, COMPOSER, ARRANGER, PRODUCER, PUBLISHER AND RECIPIENT OF TWO GRAMMY AWARDS — IS A 95-YEAR-OLD PONTE VEDRA RESIDENT AND AUTHOR WHOSE MUSICAL JOURNEY BEGAN AT THE JULLIARD SCHOOL. HIS BOOK, "NINE STORIES ABOUT NINE PEOPLE," IS A MEMOIR OF HIS EXPERIENCES WORKING WITH FAMOUS ARTISTS SUCH AS BING CROSBY AND KOOL & THE GANG, AND NOW IT'S BEING DISTRIBUTED AROUND THE U.S.

PONTE VEDRA BEACHWALK HAS BEGUN TO COLLAPSE ONTO THE BEACH, ST. JOHN'S COUNTY FIRE RESCUE (SICFR) REPORTED TODAY, JAN. 3 ON ITS FACEBOOK PAGE AFTER HAVING BEEN CALLED TO THE SCENE ALONG WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

THE JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS ARE WINNERS OF A PLAYOFF GAME FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 10 YEARS AND WILL PLAY THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS THIS SUNDAY AT 1:05 P.M. IN THE DIVISIONAL ROUND OF THE NFL POSTSEASON.

Christmas Tree Farms

OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Decorating the Christmas tree is one of those special holiday traditions that can really bring the family together, but trying to find the perfect one at those small, roadside pop-up shops can often be a challenge. For more options and a truly authentic holiday experience that the whole family can enjoy, consider visiting one of the region's Christmas tree farms instead.

SONGER'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

5255 Carter Spencer Road
Middleburg, FL 32068
(904) 272-3890
www.floridachristmastreefarm.com
Opens Friday, Nov. 23
Hours: Wednesday, 2-5 p.m.;
Friday, Saturday and Sunday,
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BK CEDARS

20926 N.W. 75th St.
Alachua, FL 32615
(386) 462-2060
www.BKCedars.com
Open Nov. 23 through Dec. 22
Hours: Saturday and Sunday,
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

RUDOLPH'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

11965 O. C. Horne Road
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Hours: Daily, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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Beaches Habitat for Humanity hosts Beach Bash

by BENJAMIN NAIM

Beaches Habitat for Humanity hosted the 15th annual Beach Bash featuring the Ultimate Chef's Challenge on Oct. 16 at Sawgrass Beach Club in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The fundraiser for Beaches Habitat offered guests a chance to pick their favorite foods from 10 area restaurant chefs at Marker32, 3 Palms Grille, Ocean 60, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Eleven South, Chef Kenny Gilbert Group, Restaurant Medure, Roy's Restaurant, Valley Smoke and North Beach Fish Camp/Palm Valley Fish Camp.

At the event, guests deposited rubber bracelets inside ballot boxes at each food station to determine the Ultimate Chef's Challenge winner. Toward the end of the evening, event organizers took the ballot boxes off to the side, counted the brace-



Ultimate Chef's Challenge winner Chef Mike Riska of Valley Smoke stands proudly at the Beaches Habitat for Humanity Beach Bash Oct. 16 at Sawgrass Beach Club in Ponte Vedra Beach. Photos by BENJAMIN NAIM

lets and announced that Chef Mike Riska of Valley Smoke was the winner.

Beaches Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing in the Jacksonville Beaches area. Visit www.beacheshabitat.org for more information.



Shan Cieslik and Ebelin Kolocz



Guests bid on silent auction items at the Beach Bash fundraiser.



Mariel Duffy

Cummer Beaches holds annual kickoff event

Cummer Beaches hosted its annual kickoff event at Sawgrass Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach on Sept. 27.

Following cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, Holly Keris, acting director of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, presented "A Preview of Augusta Savage: Renaissance Woman" and unveiled the Museum's 2019-20 exhibition calendar. Keris also discussed current happenings at the museum and offered an update on art acquisition.

The mission of Cummer Beaches is to support the Cummer Museum and enhance the membership experience. Cummer Beaches members participate in various activities that connect them with other art and garden enthusiasts in the Beaches area. Visit www.cummermuseum.org/join-us/cummer-beaches for more information.



Cummer Beaches President Peter Karpen poses next to a painting at the Cummer Beaches kickoff event at Sawgrass Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach on Sept. 27.

Photo by BENJAMIN NAIM

DARIUS RUCKER PLACES JACKSONVILLE IN A

'Southern State of Mind'

by SAMANTHA LOGUE

On Sept. 30, country music fans converged on Daily's Place amphitheater in Jacksonville to see multi-platinum, Grammy Award-winning artist Darius Rucker perform live in concert.

Rucker performed some of his most popular songs as both a solo country artist and the lead singer of the rock band Hootie & the Blowfish.

In performing one of his more recent hits, "If I Told You," off his 2017 album "When Was the Last Time," Rucker revealed it was one of his personal favorites.

"A friend of mine sent me this song," he said, "and this is one of the greatest songs I've ever gotten to sing."

Rucker's other performances included "Southern State of Mind," "Alright," "Radio," "This," "Straight to Hell" and even Garth Brooks' crowd-pleaser, "Friends in Low Places." He was also joined onstage at one point by his opening act, fellow country artist Russell Dickerson, for a performance of the Hootie & the Blowfish classic, "Hold My Hand."

Darius Rucker performs some of his greatest hits for a crowd of country fans at Daily's Place amphitheater in Jacksonville on Sept. 30.

Photo by SAMANTHA LOGUE

A photographic journey to Mount Kilimanjaro

Monarch Studio in St. Augustine hosted a photography show on Nov. 9 that featured work by studio owner and award-winning photographer Scott S. Smith of his recent journey to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa.

The event enabled attendees to see what it was like to climb the mountain through Smith's eyes and lens. Guests enjoyed the opportunity to speak with Smith, as well as the owner of Killibound Adventures, the climb and travel company that guided and facilitated Smith's journey. Attendees also enjoyed snacks from a food truck and beverages.

The studio will display the Mount Kilimanjaro photography one more time for First Friday Art Walk on Dec. 7 before the work is taken down.

Located at 203 West King Street, Monarch Studio specializes in commercial photography, weddings and family portraits. Visit themonarchwedding.com/ for more information.



ABOVE: Monarch Studio owner and photographer Scott S. Smith (right) and his wife Erin Rohan Smith gather at the studio's photography show on Nov. 9 featuring Smith's work on Mount Kilimanjaro.



LEFT: State Attorney R.J. Larizza and his wife Trish, who also climbed the mountain, enjoy the photography show. Photos by SUSAN GRIFFIN

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