

Your Community Voice for 50 Years

PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

December 10, 2020

Volume 51, No. 58

75 cents

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PonteVedraRecorder.com



Ponte Vedra High School senior Alex Madson drives to the basket for a layup during last Friday's game against Bartram Trail. The Sharks' 57-47 win over the Bears improved the team to a 4-0 start to the season. For more, go to page 28

Photo by Sean Kelly



INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!



Holiday Real Estate

Pages 13-20



Santa Paws

Pages 22-23



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INSIDE

One of Us

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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. Email submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published in the paper, on our website or on our social media platforms.

Visit our website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com



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Also, check out the **Ponte Vedra Recorder** channel on YouTube.

NOTES TO READERS

Don't miss an issue: In case social distancing requirements get more strict, we will email you your paper. Send your email address to pvrecorder@opcfla.com.

Weekly newsletter: The Recorder offers a weekly newsletter every Monday that outlines some of the top stories of the week, as well as providing access to our E-Edition and Entertainment EXTRA! To get the newsletter emailed for free, email don@opcfla.com. We'll add you to the list.

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hello! My name is Charity! I am a 2-year-old female domestic medium-hair bundle of love and fluff! I am

looking to spend the holidays with a new family that will love me and allow me to sit inside of all their empty boxes! P.S. I love to talk. Come see me at the Pet Center today. #56559



DOG OF THE WEEK

Shadow is my name and loving is my game. I am a female (spayed) Jack Russell terrier/chihuahua mix who is 6 years young and ready for fun. I am great on a leash and I love people. I know some commands and I am housetrained.

Come visit me at the Pet Center today. # 56576

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to its new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training, and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

St. Johns County Pet Center

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

BRIEFS

2021 St. Johns County annual beach driving passes available

St. Johns County on-beach driving passes are available for purchase and make great stocking stuffers for the holiday season. St. Johns County resident passes cost \$50, non-resident passes cost \$100, and accessible passes cost \$40. In addition, all 2020 annual on-beach driving passes have been extended through the 2021 beach season. If you have purchased a

2020 on-beach driving pass, retain your sticker, as it cannot be replaced and will require a purchase of a new pass. Only St. Johns County residents are permitted to do business at the St. Johns County Tax Collector's offices at this time. Passes will be available during normal business hours at the following locations:

- St. Johns County Ocean and Fishing Pier Gift Shop – 350 A1A Blvd., St. Augustine
- Tax Collector's Main Office – 4030 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

S	T	A	G	S	N	A	B	P	A	R	E		
C	O	N	I	C	A	B	A	D	E	C	O	R	
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9	7	3	8	1	6	4	2	5
6	4	5	2	9	3	7	8	1
3	1	8	4	7	5	6	9	2
7	9	6	3	8	2	5	1	4
2	5	4	9	6	1	3	7	8

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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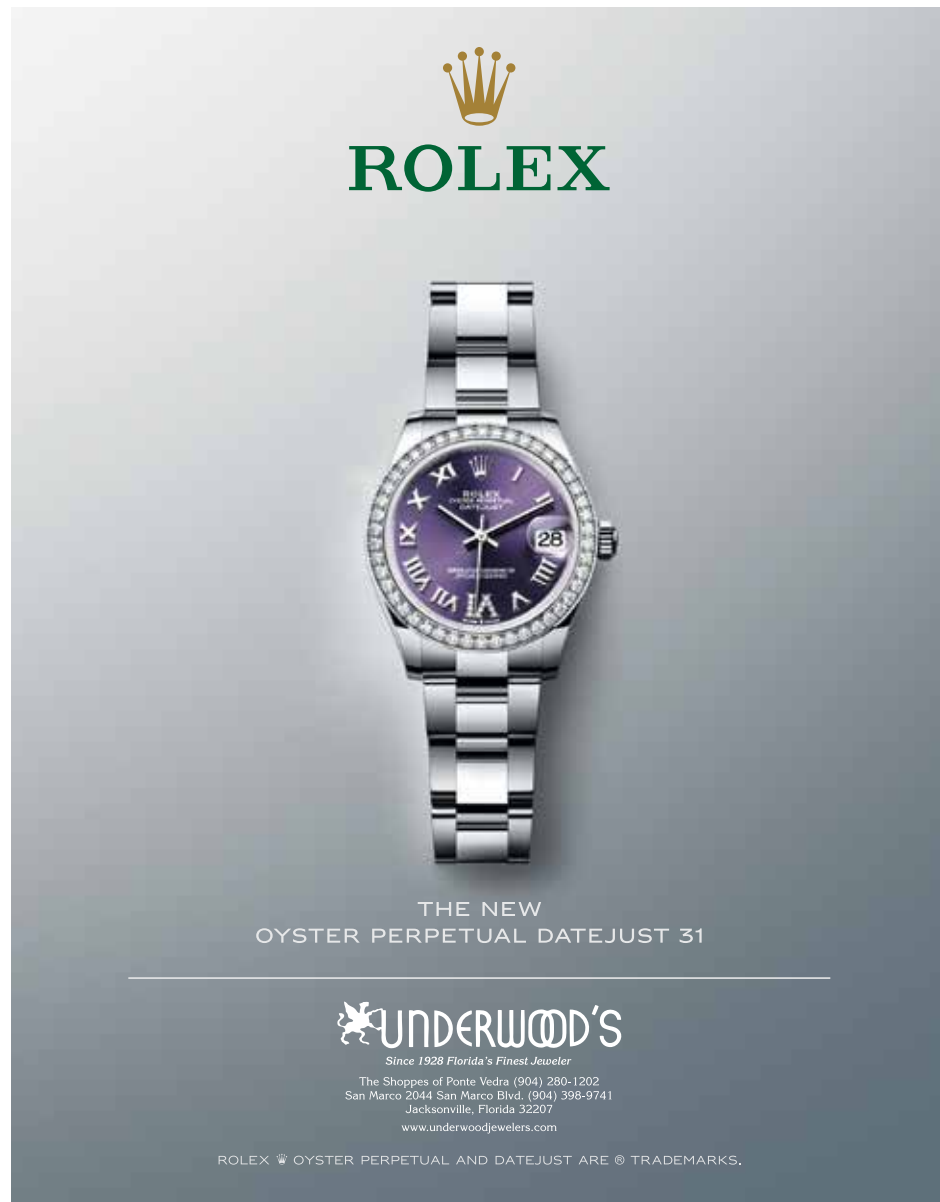
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Briefs

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- Tax Collector's DuPont Center – 6658 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine
- Tax Collector's Julington Creek Office – 725 Flora Branch Blvd., St. Johns
- Tax Collector's Ponte Vedra Office – 151 Sawgrass Corners Drive, Suite 100, Ponte Vedra Beach

Residents must present a valid ID with a St. Johns County address or present proof of property tax payments in St. Johns County to purchase a resident pass. Vehicles accessing the beach do not need a beach pass until March 1. After March 1, beach passes will be available at the tollbooths. For more information, call (904) 209-0344.

St. Johns River Water Management District Public Hearing December 16

The St. Johns River Water Management District is holding a virtual public hearing on Dec. 16 to take public comment on its draft 10-year land management plan for the Julington-Durbin Preserve, located in Duval and St. Johns counties. Register in advance at attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2588983057331305487.

The public hearing begins at 6 p.m., and comments may be made orally or in writing through the virtual platform, by mail to Land Resource Specialist Brent Bachelder, St. Johns River Water Management District, P.O. Box 1429, Palatka, FL 32178-1429, or by email to bbachelder@sjrwm.com. Comments should be received by Dec. 16.

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For more information, contact Murray & Elise Beard: 904.465.2784 | MurrayBeard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

Heroes honored at Pearl Harbor Day Breakfast



Photos by Holly Tishfield

Veterans, family members and supporters attend the Pearl Harbor Day Breakfast hosted by the We Can Be Heroes Foundation on Saturday, Dec. 5, at Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club.

By Holly Tishfield

Saturday morning the We Can Be Heroes Foundation hosted a Pearl Harbor Day Breakfast With Our Heroes at the Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club.

The banquet hall was filled with decorated war heroes and their family members alike, all gathered together to commemorate and highlight the sacrifices war veterans have made for our country.

The morning began with a group of young marines from the Atlantic Coast Young Marines Volunteer group performing a colors march, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and a quick group prayer.

Seats were assigned by group to a specific table. Each table was labelled with the name of a veteran, donated by their loved ones, as another way to honor them.

After breakfast was served, Beth Heath, President of the We Can Be Heroes Foundation, gave a meaningful speech on the importance of the foundation, and how they rely on donations from the public in order to continue honoring veterans and assist them in ways they need.

"These unsung heroes need recognition," said Heath, speaking not only about the day's event, but also about their upcoming Unsung Heroes Gala.

At the back of the banquet hall was a silent auction, where multiple baskets filled with items donated by the public were being auctioned off to the highest bidder.

"[The money] goes straight towards providing food to homeless veterans and sponsoring re-employment programs," said Heath.

Students from the Ponte Vedra High School's Sharks For Heroes club also volunteered their time at the breakfast, helping guests check-in and find their tables.

Mason Romero, a student at PVHS, read an article about the Pearl Harbor Day Breakfast in last year's Ponte Vedra Recorder and was inspired to organize a club at his school that connects passionate students with the heroes that serve our country.

This year's newly elected president,



PVHS Sharks for Heroes President Charles Davidson works at the check-in table for the Pearl Harbor Day Breakfast.



Steve and Lisa Kaufman were among those attending the We Can Be Heroes Foundation's Pearl Harbor Day Breakfast With Our Heroes.

Charles Davidson, stood beside Beth Heath as she explained the heartwarming creation story, and all of the volunteer work PVHS Sharks For Heroes members have been able to accomplish since.

The morning rounded out with a presentation from Captain Ryan Shoaf, and an opportunity for guests to go around the room to meet some of the veterans in attendance. One of which was 102-year-old veteran Sollie Mitchell, who served in the office of General Douglas MacArthur in the Philippines during World War II.

To nominate a hero in your life, or to learn more about the work happening at the We Can Be Heroes Foundation, go to www.wecanbeheroesfoundation.org.

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We Can Be Heroes Foundation President Beth Hughes addresses those attending the Pearl Harbor Day Breakfast.

Empty Stocking Fund seeks donations to brighten holidays for those in need

COVID-19 pandemic has increased the need for assistance in St. Johns County, United Way says

United Way of St. Johns County is seeking donations for its annual Empty Stocking Fund, which provides food, clothing and gifts to hundreds of local families in need each year.

Support for the fund is particularly important this year, the organization says, because the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted thousands of local families, many of whom have never before found themselves needing any form of assistance.

“As we approach the holidays, many of us understand more than ever how important food security is to an at-risk child or a senior citizen,” said United Way-SJC Board Chair Beverly Slough. “Many of our neighbors are facing fears surrounding the holidays that could not have been anticipated. The Empty Stocking Fund has a tradition of offering comfort during

what should be a time of joy.”

Through the Empty Stocking Fund, the United Way-SJC will distribute funds, food and other assistance in collaboration with other nonprofits, including The Salvation Army, St. Johns County Fire Rescue, the St. Johns County School District, CareConnect, Pie in the Sky, Council on Aging and more.

Supported by community donations since the 1980s, the Empty Stocking Fund assists vulnerable children and fragile seniors with funds for food, clothing or toys at the holidays. Tax-deductible donations are fully distributed. Last year, \$104,000 in donations brightened the holidays for more than 550 families and seniors.

Donations may be made online at <https://unitedway-sjc.org/emptystocking/> or by texting “Stocking” to 50503. Donations may also be dropped off in person at United Way of St. Johns County, 117 Bridge St., in St. Augustine or mailed to: United Way-SJC, P.O. Box 1007, St. Augustine, FL 32085 Attn: Empty Stocking Fund.

ROTARY CLUB OF PONTE VEDRA DONATES TO ST. JOHNS FOOD PANTRY



Throughout the month of October, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra collected food items to be donated to the St. Johns Food Pantry. With the help of members, friends and local residents, the club was able to deliver more than 400 pounds of food worth approximately \$3,500. In addition to the food donation, RCPV also donated more than \$100 in cash to help the pantry order additional food items. On Oct. 29, Community Service Chair Dennis Baldwin and member Andy Erickson delivered the large truck load of food items. The items were received by Rich Nowell with the St. Johns Food Pantry with much gratitude.

Photos provided by Meagan Hart Perkins

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Pre-K through Grade 12, Day & Boarding School

The Rev. Jacquie Leveron has been lead pastor at the Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church since July 15, coming from her previous assignment in Naples. She arrived amidst the coronavirus pandemic, a time when connecting to a new congregation is especially challenging. As Christmas nears, she has words of comfort for those who are suffering loneliness during this time.

Jacquie Leveron



Photo by Shaun Ryan

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell me a little bit about your background.

I was born in Cuba. I grew up in Miami — came as a little girl because of communism. And then I went to school at FIU in Miami. Did my undergraduate in criminal justice. And from there, I went to seminary in Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

I worked in the legal system for maybe four years, because I was going to go to law school.

But then, I got the call again, and that's when I went to seminary. From seminary, I went to serve a church. The first church I served was in Key West.

At what point did you decide to make a big change in your life and become a pastor?

I think there's a difference between a career and a calling, and I was called. It was right before I was going to start law school that I got the call again.

I'd felt that call when I was a lot younger — 12, 13 years old. I was going to a private school in the Methodist Church, and there's where I really came to know Jesus. And I sensed that calling.

Right before entering law school, I sensed God was saying to me, "This is the last time I call you; you have a choice." And I decided to obey, and I left for seminary when I was like 21 years old. I got a master's in divinity there.

How did you come here from your former assignment in Naples?

We have a bishop, and we have district superintendents,

and every year they move pastors around.

Basically, your contract is from year to year, from July 1 to July 1 the following year. But you make the decision by the end of December if you're going to continue there.

Things have changed. It used to be that United Methodist pastors served four or five years. Now, some pastors have served the same church for 20, 25 years.

So, they've stayed longer because they have come to realize that that's a lot better for the pastor, for the church, for the pastor's family. Because after four years, you're just getting to know the people. The people are just beginning to trust you. And you have some influence when it comes to the culture. Because every church has a different culture.

What is the life of a pastor like?

I'll tell you what the bishop that ordained us told us in his sermon. The life of the pastor is a life of agony and ecstasy. There's the agony when you're having to deal with the human race, the brokenness, the dysfunction that we all have. Then, there's the ecstasy when you lead someone to Jesus. When you see the transformative power of the Holy Spirit working in their lives. When you baptize babies. When you perform marriages.

And you get to preach Christmas Eve and Easter at the great message of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Coming here during a pandemic when everything's been disrupted, how do you connect with people?

Phone calls. Cards. That has been mainly it, because you can't go visit. You cannot be asking people to take their masks off so you can see who they are.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like going to the beach. I like to read. I like to walk. Listen to music. Meet people. I'm an extrovert, so I have to be out there meeting people.

Do you have a favorite biblical quote?

My life verse is from Joshua. It was given to me when I was 14 years old, and it has become my life verse. And when things get really rough, I go there.

It's Joshua 1:7. "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go."

And then Joshua 1:9 is even better. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

And that has kept me together through it all, knowing that I'm not alone.

Is there anything you'd like to add?

I just would like to remind people in this community that they're not alone through this difficult time. There is a God who loves them right where they are at, whoever they are. There are a lot of people dealing with depression and anxiety, especially now. Even without a pandemic, it's a season where a lot of people suffer seasonal depression — and then you add this [COVID-19] to it.


So I would like to remind the people that God is with us. Emmanuel. If they need a place to go and they don't have one, we're here. We're here. Welcome home.



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Oceanfront Luxury

Comfort and elegance blend effortlessly in this Anglo-Caribbean inspired oceanfront home with the highest level of detail and quality, the beauty of this home is enhanced by the property's premier location **7 bedrooms, 7F/ 2H bathrooms \$7,500,000**



Atlantic Beach Retreat

Ideally located in Atlantic Beach, this 3-story townhome is only two blocks away from the ocean as well as the Beaches Town Center. Enjoy the home's rooftop deck or the easily maintained backyard oasis complete with a 6-ft privacy fence, covered patio, and relaxing hot tub. **3 bedrooms, 2F/2H bathrooms \$810,000**



Oceanfront Beach Escape

Located between The Lodge and the Cabana Beach Club, this second-story condo gives elevated views of the beach while maintaining the unit's privacy and security. Includes a large covered balcony and ground floor storage. **3 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms \$1,585,000**



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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Catch the holiday spirit with these events taking place around the First Coast

DECK THE CHAIRS

When: Runs through Jan. 1

Where: Seawalk Pavilion and Latham Plaza Starting on Nov. 21 and continuing for six weeks, guests can marvel at all the holiday magnificence decorating the Latham Plaza and Seawalk Pavilion area at Jacksonville Beach. Forty lifeguard chairs will be covered top to bottom in shining decorations during the month of December as a way to promote local business, instill public pride and share cultural diversity through creative expression. The area will also be home to a 30-foot hand-crafted musical tree, the Kids' Creative Space and multiple digital light shows. All month long guests can stroll among the decorated chairs and celebrate the holiday season for free.

JAX ILLUMINATIONS DRIVE-THROUGH HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW

When: Sunday-Thursday, 6-9:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 6-10:30 p.m., through Jan. 2

Where: Morocco Shrine Center

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

CULTURAL CENTER AT PONTE VEDRA BEACH MOVING SALE

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 10

Where: 50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach The Cultural Center is holding a moving sale. Wreaths, holiday decor, art supplies, desks, chairs, filing cabinets, furniture, event/catering/kitchen items and more will be available for purchase. Also, explore the Cultural Center's Market full of handmade works made by the talented Cultural Center artists. The Market is currently stocked with Santas, Christmas trees, ornaments, bears, gnomes, and wreaths. For more information, go to www.ccpvb.org.

HOLIDAY NIGHTS AT LIGHTNER

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Dec. 11 and Dec. 12

Where: The Lightner Museum, St. Augustine

On Dec. 11 and Dec. 12, The Lightner Museum will host the St. Augustine Orchestra for two nights of holiday cheer. Enjoy festive music as the orchestra performs throughout the museum: In the grand lobby, in the music room and in the historic casino of the former Alcazar Hotel. While enjoying the music, guests can also shop for unique holiday gifts, tour the museum and enjoy drinks outside on the garden terrace. The event will be from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. both nights. General admission is \$25 and \$15 for children. Advance tickets are strongly recommended. For more information or to order tickets, go to lightnermuseum.org/event/music-at-the-museum-holiday-nights-at-the-lightner.

HAPPENINGS continues on **Page 10**

Trunk Show
Dec 8-15

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'NOCATEE NEIGHBORS' PRESENTS HOLIDAY EXPO

RIGHT: Brittney Day and Jaclyn Taylor of Blue Water Wellness.

BOTTOM LEFT: Jennifer McLendon and Dr. Ryan Heinz of True Wellness.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Theresa Hobbs and Judy Price of Spavia.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Winterfest is coming to Nocatee Farmers Market

The Nocatee Farmers Market will feature the annual Winterfest from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19.

Get into the holiday spirit while enjoying great local shopping, a petting zoo and live music by the Chris Thomas Band. Along with this seasonal and festive theme, the market will include more than 70 local vendors offering items such as organic produce, herbs, spices, delicious unique foods, crafts, jewelry and more.

Paradise Park Playground will not be open for this event. The Nocatee Farmers Market is open to the public and this event is weather permitting.

The primary sponsor for this event is Spavia Day Spa – Ponte Vedra.

Oneblood will also be on site for a blood drive. All donors will receive a \$20 eGift card, plus a wellness check-up including COVID-19 antibody test, blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening. Sign up at hubs.ly/H0B-IgV0.



You're Invited!

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Upper School San Jose Campus
Thursday, January 7 - 10 a.m.

Middle School Bartram Campus
Thursday, January 14 - 9 a.m.

Lower School Whitehurst Campus
Friday, January 8 - 9 a.m.

Lower School Ponte Vedra Campus
Wednesday, January 13 - 9 a.m.

Bolles.org

BOLLES

ALL THINGS POSSIBLE

Pre-K through Grade 12, Day & Boarding School

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Happenings

Continued from 8

HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING

When: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays beginning Dec. 12; Friday, Dec. 18, through Wednesday, Dec. 23; 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 24

Where: South Beach Regional Mall, Jacksonville Beach
Multiple Sclerosis Society volunteers are returning to The Beaches for the seventh year in a row to offer free holiday gift wrapping. Located outside sponsoring businesses Gretchen's Hallmark and Five Below in the South Beach Regional Mall, MS volunteers will wrap packages purchased from all local stores and online services. Donations to the Society help provide programs and services for the thousands of North Floridians impacted by the disease. Wrapping will be available Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. starting Dec. 12. The free service will continue Friday, Dec. 18, through Wednesday, Dec. 23, same hours. Christmas Eve wrapping will be available 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Shoppers this year may also take advantage of a limited concierge service being offered by volunteers. By dropping off large amounts of gifts, volunteers will wrap overnight and deliver locally within 24 hours.

HOLIDAY NIGHT MARKET

When: 4-8 p.m., Dec. 12
Where: St. Augustine Beach Pier Park
Bring the whole family to the inaugural Holiday Market at the pier. Stroll through the market where there will be local vendors with offerings for everyone on your holiday gift list. The market will offer gift wrapping as well. Capture the family fun in a Grinchy-themed photo booth, discover delicious treats to take home, all while enjoying the vibrant light displays at Pier Park. The event is put on in association with the Wednesday Pier Farmers Market.

SANTA BRUNCH BUFFET

When: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Dec. 13
Where: TPC Sawgrass
Experience a delicious brunch at the beautiful Nineteen restaurant and enjoy a morning of holiday magic. Kids can also meet Santa Claus

and discuss their deepest Christmas wishes. Adult entry to the buffet is \$60, children ages 6-12 are \$30, while little elves under 6 are free.

ZOOLIGHTS

When: 6-9 p.m., Dec. 17-20, Dec. 26-31, Jan. 1-3
Where: Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens
ZOO Lights, presented by Community First Credit Union, is set to return in December for its ninth year, transforming Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens into a fantastical holiday light experience. During this event, the animals settle down for their long winter's nap, while the lights take center stage. The season will come alive with twinkling animal replicas, strolling performers, carolers, hot chocolate, s'mores, and adult beverages. A few themed areas will evoke joy and nostalgia for guests of all ages, such as Polar Village, Charles Dickens Village and Toy Land. A kaleidoscope of color and lights will shine on 8-10 foot flamingos, penguins, fish, dolphins and more. Programmed lighting synchronized to holiday music will bring Palm Plaza to life. Children can also visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, while the live "Jingle Box" musical performance will take place on the Great Lawn. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers and must be purchased online, in advance at JacksonvilleZoo.org/ZOO Lights. Admission includes unlimited rides on the Wildlife Carousel for children ages 12 and under.

ART WALK/SHOP AND DINE THE BEACH

When: 4-8 p.m., Dec. 19
Where: Pope Road to A Street, St. Augustine
Take a stroll down A1A Beach Boulevard and visit local artists in various locations including parkettes as well as outside local businesses. In association with the Art studio of St. Augustine Beach, this event will feature artists and artisans with many diverse items to offer from paintings, photography, prints, pottery, sculpture, jewelry and stained glass. Offering many holiday-themed pieces as well as affordable gift items, all handmade and local.

ART CAMP: IMPRESSIONS OF THE HOLIDAYS

When: 9 a.m.-noon, Dec. 28 through Dec. 30.
Where: 22 Marine St., St. Augustine
The St. Augustine Art Association hosts a three-day winter art camp where students will study the art of 20th Century French artist Marguerite Castaing. They will learn to utilize Impressionist techniques through shading methods, brush strokes and color principles. Students will work in pencils, pen and ink, pastels and paints to create colorful rolling landscapes, seasonal scenes and delicate portraits. Ideal for children ages 6-12. The cost is \$75, which includes supplies. To register, go to www.staaa.org/artcamp. For questions or assistance, call the St. Augustine Art Association at (904) 824-2310.

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K9s For Warriors applauds new service animal bill for airlines

By Paris Moulden

Pet therapy peacocks on commercial flights are going to be a thing of the past.

On Dec. 2, the Department of Transportation ruled in favor of dogs as the only service animals allowed on airplanes. The bill also means no longer can any animal fly as a supposed “emotional support animal,” a decision applauded by Ponte Vedra-based nonprofit K9s for Warriors, who played a big role in the passage of the bill.

“We drafted several proposed rules and gave a lot of ideas to different senators and members of the House,” K9s for Warriors CEO Rory Diamond said. “We did everything we could to build a coalition to help get this passed.”

K9s for Warriors rescues and trains shelter dogs to be paired as service dogs for warriors with service-connected post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma. Diamond said because of the lax rules of the airlines regarding service animals, many warriors



Photo provided by K9s for Warriors

were uncomfortable flying.

“We do everything we can to help our warriors get back out into the world again and travel, and unfortunately, there are so many fake, poorly trained service dogs and emotional-support animals like kangaroos, peacocks, that they stop traveling because of the stress of all that,” Diamond said. “We found that unacceptable.”

Diamond, who also serves as a Jacksonville city councilman, also helped get a similar rule passed in Jacksonville. The Fake Service Dog bill makes it a misdemeanor to lie about a pet and falsely claim it as a service dog. The penalty for breaking the law would be a maximum of 30 hours of community service.

“It’s part of the same effort to get fake and poorly trained service dogs out of the public way so that people with real service dogs and need them can have an easier life,” Diamond said.

BEAM distributes 1,130 Thanksgiving baskets to local families

Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) distributed 1,130 Thanksgiving meal kits to families in need last week during its annual holiday distribution.

With many local residents struggling from the economic effects of COVID-19 disruptions, organizers had set a goal to assist 1,000 families through the Thanksgiving Basket Program. That’s twice the number of basket recipients served in 2019.

But volunteers and staff exceeded this goal.

The effort was conducted in partnership with St. Paul’s Catholic Church at Father Murphy Hall in Jacksonville Beach. Baskets were distributed drive-through style and through deliveries.

The organization encouraged the community to get involved by dropping off Thanksgiving meal kits with nonperishable food items and a grocery store gift card or by sponsoring a basket via their website. The community rallied and brought hundreds of pre-assembled

baskets to Father Murphy Hall and raised more than \$27,000. Monetary donations helped BEAM purchase Thanksgiving food items in bulk and will assist the organization in keeping the food pantry shelves stocked through the holidays.

Thanksgiving meal kit recipients include BEAM food pantry and emergency financial assistance clients, beaches area residents in need, seniors in BEAM’s case management program, Pablo Hamlet and Pablo Towers residents and active military families via the Jacksonville USO.

“For a family living paycheck to paycheck, the holidays can be particularly stressful,” said Patsy Garcia, BEAM’s director of social services.

“As many are still struggling financially due to COVID-19, we are grateful that the community stepped up to help us meet the increased demand. No one was turned away, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make that possible.”

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OBITUARIES

Sybil Smith Register

Sybil Smith Register, age 82, passed away at her home in Jacksonville, Florida on Tuesday, November 24, 2020. Sybil was born in Blountsville, Alabama on January 17, 1938. Sybil was the daughter of Howard Smith and Katie Lee Mead Smith. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Adarene Smith, and brother Carroll Smith. Sybil attended the University of Georgia and graduated from Georgia Baptist Nursing School in Atlanta with a nursing degree in 1960. Sybil was a well-respected Registered Nurse in Recovery and Intensive Care Units throughout her career.

Sybil married Martin Wade Register in Atlanta, Georgia on December 10, 1960.



Sybil Smith Register

They were married for 29 years until Martin's death on June 13, 1990.

Sybil is survived by her three children, Jodi Ann Oehler, 58, of Jacksonville, Martin Wade Register, Jr. (Deanna), 55, of Knoxville, Tennessee, and Joni Lynn Hankinson (Tommy), 53, of Thomaston, Georgia. She has four grandchildren, Marc Oehler (Nicole), Sybil (Sibby) Lynn Voetsch (Robert), Benjamin Register, and Zachary Register. Sybil also has two great-grandchildren, Eleanor Oehler and Tennyson Voetsch. Sybil has beloved cousins throughout Alabama and Arizona, and a dear friend whom she thought of as her sister, Kathryn Jones of Youngstown, Ohio.

Per her wishes, Sybil was cremated at Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home in Jacksonville Beach and a memorial service will be held at a later date. Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home was entrusted with all arrangements, and condolences and remembrances may be expressed at www.dignitymemorial.com. In Sybil's memory, contributions can be made to your local animal shelter. Sybil's genuine smile and

warm heart is greatly missed, and she will forever be loved by her family and friends. Her family is grateful for continued thoughts and prayers.

Natalie Urquhart

Natalie Urquhart of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, passed away on December 3, 2020. Natalie was a beloved wife to her husband, Gary, and mother to her precious children, Andrea and Matthew. Natalie will be forever missed by all who were fortunate enough to experience her radiant smile and giving heart.

Natalie was born to Dominick and Joan Marangi and grew up in Union, New Jersey. She received her undergraduate degree from Drew University and her graduate degree in physical therapy from New York University. Natalie's desire to help and care



Natalie Urquhart

for others would lead her to work for over fifteen years at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison, New Jersey, where she specialized in vestibular rehabilitation. Natalie married Gary Urquhart in 1998, and later they were blessed with twins, Andrea and Matthew. In 2005, the family moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, where she created a life focused on the raising and support of her beloved family. Natalie was strong, capable, and tireless, constantly striving to make everything better, helping without fail, and always encouraging.

Natalie is also survived by her sister, Rosemarie Halady, of Union, New Jersey, as well as numerous aunts, nephews, nieces, and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Donald Marangi.

A funeral Mass will be held for Natalie at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at Natalie's long-time home parish, Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 545 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. On the advice of the church due to COVID-19 precautions, no reception will follow the Mass. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations in Natalie's memory be made to the American Cancer Society: <http://www.cancer.org>.

Please visit our online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
3600 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Phone: 904.249.1100 Fax: 904.241.7554

Leon Bernard Zebroski

Leon Bernard Zebroski, 81, of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL passed away November 29, 2020 of complications caused by the COVID-19 virus. He was born in Stamford, Connecticut to the late Joan Lenczyski Zebroski and Stanley Anthony Zebroski.

He had degrees from the University



Leon Bernard Zebroski

of Dayton and the University of Cincinnati, Ohio. He worked for the Alexander Proudfoot Company from 1966 until 1988 when he resigned as a Partner. He then worked with the Standard Products Company of Cleveland, Ohio as Vice

President of Continuous Improvement. He later joined the De Wolff, Boberg and Associates Management Consulting Company as Vice President of Operations and retired in 2010 as CEO and President of that Company.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Eileen Mayers Zebroski, son David Alexander Zebroski (Karen) of Maryville, Tennessee, daughter Dana Rywelski of Manhattan, New York, six grandchildren, Cory, Connor, Crawford and Kendra Zebroski and Scott and Paul Rywelski, 2 great-grandsons and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by brother, Stanton Zebroski, and leaves behind brother Raymond Zebroski (Barbara) of Jacksonville, Florida.

In retirement, Leon loved fishing in his boat with family and friends and spending time with his grandchildren. He will be missed by the many friends who enjoyed his company and his sense of humor.

A Memorial Service to celebrate his life will be held at a later date.

Contributions in his name may be sent to the Wounded Warriors Project or Beaches Habitat.

Please visit the online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
3600 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Phone: 904.249.1100 Fax: 904.241.7554

Samuel Philip Braud III

Samuel Philip Braud III, 90, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Dec. 2, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Lee "Gus" Hardee

Lee "Gus" Hardee, 63, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died Dec. 2, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 - www.pontevedravalley.com

Thomas E. Harris

Thomas E. Harris, 87, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Dec. 1, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 - www.pontevedravalley.com

Dwayne K. Winters

Dwayne K. Winters, 89, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Dec. 2, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center

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Ponte Vedra Boulevard home is shining star

By Jan Fisher

340 Ponte Vedra Blvd. is a shining star this holiday season. It is located on the third hole of the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club's Ocean Course and one block from the internationally famous Ponte Vedra Inn and Club. This location ... location ... location is on a 140-foot-wide lot with beach access across the street.

The main house was originally built in 1950, the owners added a large addition in 2011 and a 2,128-square-foot two bedroom, two-and-a-half bath

guest house in 2017.

The interior has designer touches that include wood-beamed tongue-and-groove ceilings, onyx countertops, custom cabinets and the best in appliances. The combination kitchen, family and informal dining area are perfect for large gatherings or cozy get-togethers.

The two-story owner's suite encompasses an entire wing of the nearly 6,500-square-foot main house with a second-story family room that opens to a deck with ocean views.

Outdoor living celebrates the sunshine with a mag-

nificent pool with water features, a large covered lanai that spans the entire back of the home, summer kitchen, fireplace, and firepit.

The combined area of the two houses is approximately 8,000 square feet with seven bedrooms, seven full baths, two half baths and two (two-car) garages.

340 Ponte Vedra Blvd. makes a statement about quality, lifestyle and presence.

This home is offered for \$5,175,000 by Kim Martin-Fisher and Jennifer Martin Faulkner of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty.



Photos provided by Jan Fisher



Must-haves to achieve a home holiday wonderland

The end of the year marks a period of heightened festivity. Come the holiday season, homes and businesses are decorated and everyone seems to have an extra spring in their step. The sight of snowflakes, candy canes, evergreen wreaths and Christmas trees can elicit nostalgia for happy holidays of the past, as well as excitement for what is yet to come. When it comes to decorating for the holidays, there are certain items that set the scene.

■ **Christmas trees:** Germany is credited with starting the modern Christmas tree

tradition. It dates back to the 16th century when devout Christians brought trees into their homes and decorated them. German settlers brought Christmas tree traditions to America upon their arrival in Pennsylvania in the 19th century.

■ **Lights:** Lights are commonly seen during the holiday season. The custom of having holiday lights dates back to when Christmas trees were decorated with candles, which symbolized Christ being the light of the world. These traditions evolved from pagan rituals that would celebrate the

return of light of the sun as the days grow longer after the winter solstice.

■ **Yule log:** Many families burn a yule log in the fireplace and watch it burn while listening to Christmas carols. The familiar custom of burning the log dates back to solstice celebrations. The Christmas tradition called for burning a portion of the log each evening until Twelfth Night, also known as the Epiphany, which takes place on Jan. 6.

■ **Poinsettias:** Poinsettias are a tropical plant that originated in Mexico. Joel Roberts Poinsett was the first ambassador from

the U.S. to Mexico. He became enamored with the plants, and brought them back to his native South Carolina. An old Mexican legend suggests a poor girl had nothing to offer baby Jesus at Christmas Eve services, so she picked a handful of weeds and put them at the bottom of the nativity scene.

These weeds burst into bright red flowers and became known as "Flores de Noche Buena," or "Flowers of the Holy Night." Holiday decorations borrow traditions from all over the world to help establish a festive wonderland.



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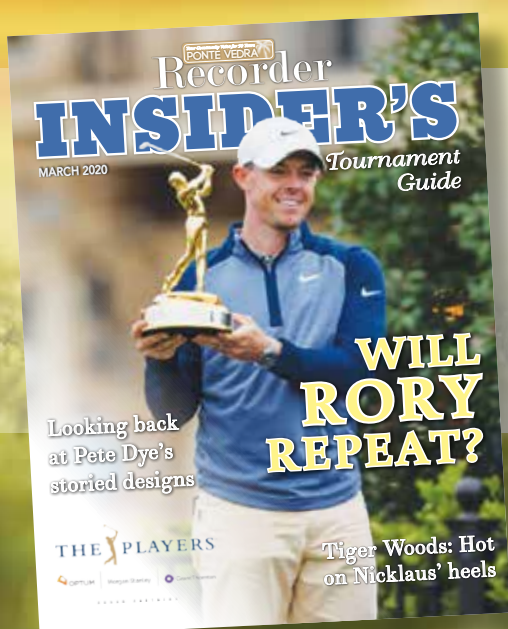
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TOP 25 OUT OF 60 CLOSED RESIDENTIAL SALES IN NOVEMBER

Date sold	Price	Address	Approx. Heated Sq Ft	Year Built	Bedrooms	Bathrooms	Subdivision
11/2/2020	\$2,625,000.00	212 PABLO CT	3370	1964	3	4	Old Ponte Vedra
11/3/2020	\$2,865,000.00	12 LAKE TER	4222	2011	4	5	Ponte Vedra Beach
11/4/2020	\$3,400,000.00	567 CANAL RD	4273	2015	5	6	Palm Valley Shores
11/4/2020	\$1,400,000.00	2959 S PONTE VEDRA BLVD	4422	1973	6	5	Ponte Vedra Beach
11/4/2020	\$5,650,000.00	409 PONTE VEDRA BLD	5518	1956	5	7	Old Ponte Vedra
11/4/2020	\$1,249,000.00	501 RUTILE DR	2981	1961	4	3	Ponte Vedra Beach
11/5/2020	\$1,689,000.00	204 TWELVE OAKS LN	5108	2008	4	5	The Plantation at PV
11/6/2020	\$1,035,000.00	161 SAWBILL PALM DR	4501	2005	5	5	Las Palmas
11/6/2020	\$1,337,500.00	8014 PEBBLE CREEK LN E	5886	1991	4	6	Sawgrass Players Club
11/6/2020	\$2,900,000.00	193 SAN JUAN DR	5243	1998	5	6	Ponte Vedra
11/9/2020	\$1,500,000.00	680 PONTE VEDRA BLVD	3045	1994	4	4	Ponte Vedra Beach
11/9/2020	\$1,125,000.00	2733 S PONTE VEDRA BLVD	3649	1988	4	4	Souh Ponte Vedra Beach
11/9/2020	\$1,505,000.00	119 GRAND PALM CT	3430	2020	5	4	Palms at Old Ponte Vedra
11/12/2020	\$1,010,000.00	220 CANNON CT E	2650	1997	4	4	The Plantation at PV
11/12/2020	\$1,175,000.00	133 RETREAT PL	3347	1996	5	4	The Plantation at PV
11/12/2020	\$1,440,000.00	8007 WHISPER LAKE LN E	4171	1990	5	6	Sawgrass Players Club
11/16/2020	\$1,750,000.00	24604 HARBOUR VIEW DR	5922	1994	6	6	Marsh Landing CC
11/16/2020	\$1,750,000.00	549 RUTILE DR	3750	1973	4	3	Old Ponte Vedra Beach
11/19/2020	\$1,250,000.00	101 LANTERN WICK PL	4093	1997	4	4	Marsh Landing
11/19/2020	\$1,171,000.00	124 RETREAT PL	3803	2007	4	4	The Plantation at PV
11/20/2020	\$1,225,000.00	101 PLANTERS ROW W	3626	2001	4	4	The Plantation at PV
11/20/2020	\$2,000,000.00	7610 FOUNDERS CT	9300	1987	6	8	Marsh Landing
11/25/2020	\$1,050,000.00	201 SETTLERS ROW N	5016	1998	4	4	The Plantation at PV
11/30/2020	\$1,628,000.00	459 ROYAL TERN S RD	5474	2000	5	6	Marsh Landing
11/30/2020	\$1,200,000.00	121 SEA ISLAND DR	4266	1999	4	4	Sawgrass Country Club

All Information provided by Kathleen Floryan, Broker Associate, eXp Realty LLC, is deemed reliable but not guaranteed and has been obtained through the Northeast Florida Multiple Listing Service, Inc. and may not be the listings of Kathleen Floryan.

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Recorder

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eTown prepares to open Recharge amenities center

A much-anticipated, 5-acre amenity center at an innovative master-planned community on Jacksonville's south side is set to open Saturday, Dec. 12.

Recharge at eTown will blend recreation with natural surroundings. Amenities, available exclusively to eTown residents, will include a resort-style pool with an adjoining three-lane lap pool, a high-tech fitness center with an outdoor yoga lawn, a rooftop patio, a kids' playground, an event lawn and a lakeside dog park.

The grand opening for eTown residents will be held from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

In anticipation of the opening, a Realtor preview was conducted Thursday, Dec. 3.

The center is the latest innovation to eTown, which is located off State Road 9B and Interstate 295, three miles from St. Johns Town Center.

eTown is built upon four core principals: community, technology, convenience and sustainability. It features smart-home technology, zero-energy-ready homes, eco-friendly features, community-oriented amenities, pedestrian- and electric car-friendly trails and access to neighborhood services.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Champagne was served to guests during the eTown Realtor Preview Dec. 3.

Half of the property will remain undeveloped to preserve some of the area's longleaf pine habitat.

eTown is being developed by The PARC Group, the multi-award-winning master developer of Nocatee. For further information, go to www.ETOWNJAX.COM.



eTown holds a Realtor preview Dec. 3 for its new 5-acre amenity center at Recharge.



A band performs for guests at the eTown Realtor Preview on Dec. 3.



Guests gather around the pool during the eTown Realtor Preview on Dec. 3

From the publishers of the award-winning Ponte Vedra Recorder and First Coast Register

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2020 BEST OF BEST of Ponte Vedra Recorder
 TOP RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Home-buying tips during the COVID-19 outbreak

Homeowners know that the process of buying a home can be both exciting and nerve-racking. The anxiety associated with buying a home has hit new heights during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Historically low interest rates and limited inventory has made 2020 an especially unique time to buy a home. It's also a competitive and potentially expensive time to buy a home. While the economic consequences of COVID-19 have been severe, the Federal National Mortgage Association, also known as Fannie Mae, forecasted a significant increase in median home prices in March 2020. City dwellers have scrambled to buy homes outside of cities, where social distancing is more difficult and the risk of getting COVID-19 appears greater than it is in suburban or rural settings. That's led to a lot of competition among prospective buyers.

Prospective home buyers willing to enter the hectic fray and shop for a home during the COVID-19 outbreak may benefit from knowing what to expect as they search for their next home.

■ **Get ready for virtual tours.** Buyers might once have scoffed at the notion of buying a home they'd only seen in videos, but virtual tours have become the new normal in the wake of the pandemic.



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

An April survey from the National Association of Realtors found that home tours had declined sharply. While 98% of Realtors reported taking clients on home tours as recently as February, that number

had declined to 63 percent by April. As many regions pause their reopening plans, prospective home buyers should ready themselves for virtual tours as opposed to in-person home tours.

■ **Expect limited inventory.** While home prices are up, many people are holding onto their homes. The NAR reports that total housing inventory at the end of May 2020 was down nearly 19 percent from the end of May 2019. Buyers will have less inventory to choose from, so those intent on buying may need to prioritize what they need in a home and focus on finding properties that can fulfill those needs.

■ **Expect to move quickly.** Realtors have seen homes sell within days of being listed, and that has put pressure on buyers to move quickly. It also highlights the importance of finding a home inspector before your search begins as well as a lender who can handle quick closings. Ask around for recommendations, but make sure you have these two important professionals lined up before beginning your search. Doing so will give you a better chance of buying in an unusual time.

■ **Make the best down payment you can afford.** A high down payment makes buyers look better no matter the state of the economy. An offer with a high down payment looks like a stronger offer, and that can make the difference between winning and losing a potential bidding war.

Buying a home during the COVID-19 outbreak presents some unique challenges to prospective buyers.

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AR HOMES™
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Business Weekly

Santa Paws: Give (and get) the gift of unconditional love this holiday season

Page 22

PAGE 21 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

2021 legislative session subject for EDC

By Shaun Ryan

Two of Florida's leading political journalists gave St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce members a look inside the coming legislative session Friday, Dec. 4.

Peter Schosch, publisher of the Florida Politics blog, and Matt Dixon, bureau chief for Politico Florida, spoke during the Economic Development Council Breakfast virtual broadcast.

Schosch is a political consultant to numerous elected officials, as well as some



Matt Dixon



Peter Schosch

of the state's largest companies. Dixon has covered Florida politics and policy. Prior to that, he covered local govern-

ment for The Villages Daily Sun and the Panama City News-Herald.

Both men agreed that there hasn't been a lot of activity on the part of the Legislature as it prepares for the 2021 session.

"It's been eerily quiet," said Schosch. "I think that is indicative of a session where we're not going to see a lot of movement on things."

Dixon suggested that state lawmakers could be occupied with any COVID-related federal funding issues originating in the Congress.

"The flow of federal money to the state and how that looks is going to be hugely important for setting the stage for the legislative session," he said.

With regards to member projects – those opportunities for legislators to bring funding back home for specific projects – Dixon had a suggestion.

"If you have something that you want to do as a member project, you would be smart to try to figure out a way to tie it to

EDC continues on Page 24



Photo provided by Kyle Sieg

Representatives from Ascension St. Vincent's break ground on the hospital's new location in St. Johns County

Ascension St. Vincent's breaks ground on new St. Johns County hospital

Ascension St. Vincent's broke ground on its new hospital in St. Johns County on Friday, Dec. 4.

The facility will be located in the northeast quadrant of I-95 and County Road 210, part of a mixed-use development known as Fountains North. The hospital, which is expected to be completed in 2022, will be named Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County.

The health system is investing \$115 million and creat-

ing approximately 600 new jobs with the investment in the hospital. It will be 150,000 square feet and have 56 beds initially, including eight ICU beds. The facility will include all of the services a general hospital offers, including, but not limited to, emergency services, hospitalization, cardiovascular care, orthopedics and musculoskeletal care,

HOSPITAL continues on Page 24

Chamber honors volunteer leaders

Awards recognize business leaders who make their mark

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce announced the 2020 Leadership Awards will be presented virtually. Pre-COVID-19, the Chamber held a signature event in the fall to recognize and thank the volunteer leaders for their donation of time and expertise.

The Chamber began its virtual presentation at the Dec. 4 virtual Economic Development Breakfast. Mark Nighbor, the Chamber's 2019-2020 chairman of the board, presented the Chamber Member of the Year to Northrop Grumman and First Coast Technical College for their "outstanding collaboration and efforts in workforce development." He also awarded Joy Andrews, deputy county administrator, St. Johns County, with the Chairman's Award for her outstanding leadership and support of St. Johns County businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mike Koppenhafer, chair, executive committee, Economic Development Council, 2019-2020, presented the Fred Schroeder Economic Development Council Member of the Year award to Firehouse Subs for outstanding corporate stewardship to St. Johns County, the First Coast and the nation through COVID-19.

All 2020 award recipients will be recognized on the Chamber's social media platforms. The other winners are: Small Business of the Year Award, St. Augustine Distillery; President's Award: Skip Marsh, Flagler Health +; Public Policy Member of the Year: Michael Scine,

VOLUNTEERS continues on Page 24



Santa Paws

Give gift of a home to rescue animal, get gift of love for yourself

By Paris Moulden

Rocky was alone, subjected to the cold, heat and rain, wondering where his next meal would come from while tied up to a building, unable to feel freedom, love and comfort.

Recently, Rocky was given a second chance at life, adopted into a home after being rescued by SAFE Pet Rescue and given medical care, food, shelter and affection.

Rocky is just one of SAFE's many success stories. SAFE (Saving Animals from Euthanasia), a nonprofit based in St. Augustine, was founded in September 2008 with the goal of saving adoptable dogs and cats from euthanasia in North-east Florida. It's stories like Rocky's that make the volunteers at SAFE get up and do what they do day after day, despite the heartache and obstacles.

"That's what we live for," said Robin Kantner-Nordan, founder of SAFE said of rescuing animals and seeing them find homes. "Just one dog licking your face is worth it."

Kantner-Nordan started rescuing animals almost 30 years ago, and since SAFE Pet Rescue began 12 years ago, the organization has saved more than 7,000 lives.

"This is what I'm supposed to do," Kantner-Nordan said. "I knew it's what I wanted to do and how I can make a difference."



Photos provided by SAFE Pet Rescue

When considering a unique and special gift this holiday season, think about giving the gift of a home to a rescue dog or cat, and you might end up getting the best present for yourself.

HOLIDAY PET ADOPTION EVENT

SAFE Pet Rescue will hold a holiday adoption event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, in front of the Pet Supermarket, 880 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach. The holiday dog adoption event will have lots of fun activities. Santa will be in attendance for pet photos, from noon to 2 p.m. There will be music and a bake sale hosted by Girl Scout Troop #843, plus several silent auction items. The SAFE mobile adoption van will also be at the Pet Supermarket parking lot. CDC guidelines will be followed.

SAFE is also unique because it focuses on older and sometimes hard-to-adopt dogs. Puppies are always popular, but SAFE depends on people taking a chance on senior dogs and other pets that may have a long and tumultuous life stories that haven't always been filled with happiness.

Because of the animal's past, Kantner-Nordan said building a bond and get-

ting to know the pet is extremely important, and doesn't usually happen right away.

"The most valuable thing to a shelter dog is time," she said. "A lot of people get a dog and want to do things with it right away, but they need time to adjust. The dog just needs to stay home [at first] and know it has a home. They blossom if they have the proper amount of time."

AT SAFE, while many of the dogs come from neglectful or abusive conditions, a lot also find themselves at SAFE after the death of a beloved owner or because a pet owner is no longer able to care for them, The pets also then face confusion and loss surrounding their new circumstance and environment. Because of these sad situations, some animals may be timid, frightened and wary of new people. Many of them are also older or dealing with health issues. But because of these things, they also may be the most appreciative.

They don't deserve what they've gone through, and they're so forgiving," Kantner-Nordan said.

RESCUE continues on Page 23

St. Augustine Humane Society holds 'Mission Pawsible' Pin Up Paws party

Pet calendar released during 10th annual fundraiser

Between 115 and 130 people attended this year's Pin Up Paws party to celebrate the release of the St. Augustine Humane Society's 2021 calendar. As always, the publication features winning pet photos. This year, featured pets are dressed in costume to reflect the theme, "Mission Pawsible." Each pet was fitted with accessories to match the 12 unique personalities.

The 10th annual PUP Party fundraising event was held Nov. 19 at the Humane Society in St. Augustine. Care was taken to provide a safe environment amidst the coronavirus pandemic, including full opportunity for social distancing.

Proceeds from ticket sales, pet photo submissions, sponsorships, silent and online auctions and calendar sales will benefit the programs and services of the Humane Society, the veterinary clinic and the current expansion. The event also supports the nonprofit organization's mission of promoting healthy lifelong pet ownership and reducing the rate of relinquishment to shelters.

Those attending the event were offered an evening of deserts by Crème de la Cocoa, wine and nonalcoholic beverages, a wine pull, a complimentary Pin Up Paws 2021



Photos provided by the St. Augustine Humane Society

St. Augustine Humane Society's annual calendar is unveiled during a fundraising event, the Pin Up Paws party.

CALENDAR continues on Page 23

Calendar

Continued from 22

calendar and musical entertainment. They also had an opportunity to tour the expanded veterinary surgical wing and speak with staff about medical services and new equipment.

The first-place winner this year is Hannah, a Great Pyrenees. She appears on the cover of the calendar. Owner Laurel Tallent campaigned for 2,400 votes to give Hannah the win.

Hannah won a professional photo shoot with photographer Addison Fitzgerald, a \$200 Columbia Restaurant gift certificate, two free copies of the 2021 Pin Up Paws calendar and two free tickets to the PUP Party.

The calendar contest got started in June with donors who submitted photos of their pets in hopes that they would be selected to be featured. Friends voted for the pet of their choice, and the top vote-getters went on to appear in the calendar.

Styling and photography sessions for winning calendar pets were donated by award winning photographer Addison Fitzgerald. Local fine artist and graphic designer Maribel Angel donated her creative talents to designing the spy-themed calendar publication.

Calendars are available for purchase. The price is \$10, and they are available online, by phone and at the Humane Society.



ABOVE: Hannah, a Great Pyrenees, was the winner in this year's Pin Up Paws contest and won the right to appear on the 2021 calendar's cover. The theme this year is "Mission Pawsible."

RIGHT: Bentley, a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, whose owner is Laurie Nagelbush of St. Augustine, is featured in this year's calendar.
Photos provided by the St. Augustine Humane Society



The Humane Society is located at 1665 Old Moultrie Road in St. Augustine. Business hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is open Saturday by appointment.

Rescue

Continued from 22

SAFE employs many programs to try to get dogs into homes. It offers a pet pal program, where people can spend hours or days with the dogs just hanging out, or foster care where dogs can live in a home while waiting for more permanent accommodations.

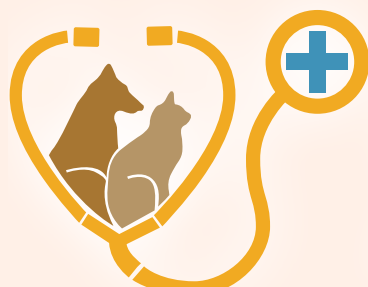
SAFE has also been doing a lot of transport to locations in the North, where stricter rules regarding animals has resulted in fewer animals available for adoption. SAFE has a transport van that is closing in on 100,000 miles to get these dogs anywhere they might be able to find a forever home. SAFE also runs a thrift store, open seven days a week, at its St. Augustine location, to help fund its efforts. The organization is run completely on donations and the efforts of volunteers.

"We couldn't do this without them," Kantner-Norton said of the volunteers who share a passion for rescuing animals. An all-volunteer staff work the thrift shop, transport animals, walk and care for the animals on site and hold fundraisers.

While loving what she does, especially when seeing how far so many of the animals in SAFE's care have come, Kantner-Nordan understands what the best end result would be.

"My long-term goal would be to not be needed," Kantner-Nordan said.

For more information on SAFE Pet Rescue, go to www.safe-pet-rescue-fl.com.



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EDC

Continued from 21

COVID,” he said. “Those are probably the only things the lawmakers are going to listen to.”

One area that could gain attention is anti-protest legislation proposed by Gov. Ron DeSantis. The idea was inspired by protests across the nation last summer, but there isn’t a related bill in either the

House or Senate yet.

“It’s going to be a politically contentious bill that is going to get a lot of protests, a lot of attention, so that’s a politically dicey situation,” predicted Dixon.

One area where both Schorsch and Dixon expected action is COVID liability protections.

Dixon said the Senate is looking at immunity for health care facilities and nursing homes that would make the legal

threshold for proving liability in a civil case related to COVID “gross negligence” – a high benchmark to hit.

“A deal is going to be reached,” he predicted. “Something is going to be passed. The governor is going to sign something. There’s too much pressure not to. But ultimately, what that looks like is going to be very interesting.”

Schorsch predicted that there will be attempts to extend legal liability protections to a growing number of businesses

once people see the bill.

Concerning the passage of Amendment 2, which raises the minimum wage to \$15 an hour in a series of steps and then ties it to inflation, Schorsch speculated that the Legislature may attempt to undermine it.

“I do think there will be an attempt, probably out of the House, to manipulate Amendment 2 or to implement it in a way that puts it off, delays it, makes it go through another vote or something like that,” he said.

Volunteers

Continued from 21

Scine CPA Advisors; Chamber Ambassador of the Year/ Gene Morse Award, David Permenter, N2 Publishing; and Ponte Vedra Beach Division Ambassador of the Year/Grace Hayes Award: Kari Zerrahn, Anderson Agency of NE Florida. Also honored for their significant contributions: Past Chairman of the Board, Mark Nighbor and Past Chair-

man, executive committee, Economic Development Council, Mike Koppenhafer.

Chairman of the board for 2020-2021, Dr. Erika Hamer, commented that the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce is poised to succeed due to the efforts of these awardees.

“We have endured a challenging year,” she said. “Our members are resilient and will continue thriving due to the incredible support shown by these volunteer leaders.”

Hospital

Continued from 21

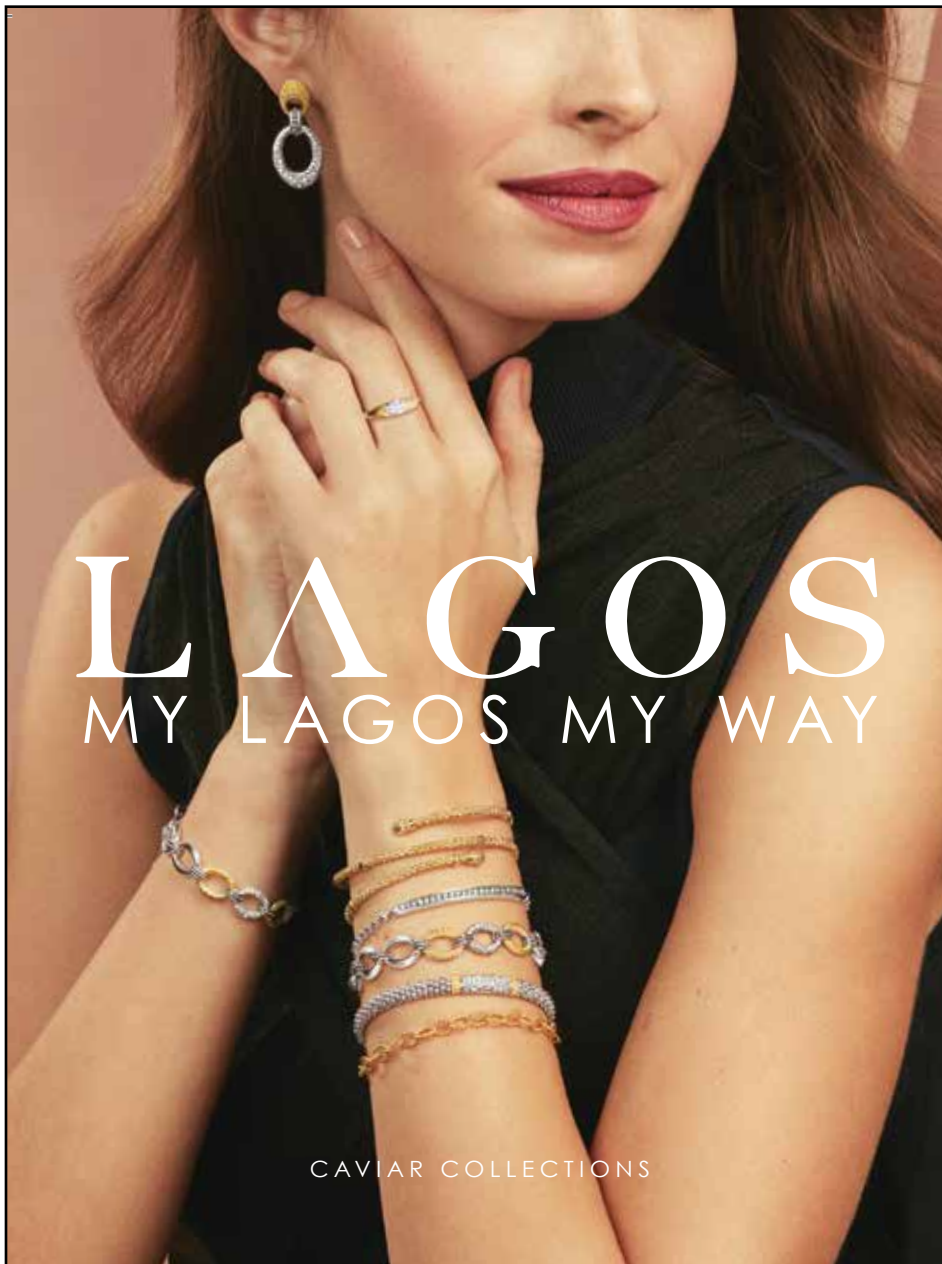
general surgical services, laboratory and imaging services, and it will be built to grow right along with the community.

“We’re excited to begin physical work on Ascension St. Vincent’s St. Johns County, which will be an important addition to the healthcare landscape in the county,” said James Machado, regional president of Ascension St. Vincent’s Southside and the new hospital in St. Johns County. “Our research has shown that there’s a great need for this level of care in the area, and we believe our community deserves to have convenient

options for receiving high-quality, compassionate care close to home.”

The health system based the location for Ascension St. Vincent’s St. Johns County on a data-driven analysis of where hospital services are most needed. According to Claritas Demographics, St. Johns County is the fastest-growing county in Northeast Florida. It is also currently the largest county in Florida with only one acute care hospital. The county also has the second-highest population-to-acute-care-bed ratio in the state, meaning residents are having to leave the county to receive inpatient hospital care too frequently.

To learn more about Ascension St. Vincent’s, go to www.jaxhealth.com.



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THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

- ACROSS**
- Necklace feature
 - *He moved Thanksgiving Day to extend holiday shopping season
 - Hurries or moves fast
 - Swahili, Zulu and other languages
 - Bard's "before"
 - X-ray generator
 - The dish ran away with this
 - Swedish shag rug
 - Second most-populous country
 - *Presidential offering to a turkey
 - *He designated last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day
 - Creme de cassis plus wine
 - Every which way
 - Water tester
 - Relative of a gull
 - Sans clothes, as a social practice
 - Humming noises
 - Gives a helping hand
 - Lecterns
 - Left behind by a mosquito
 - Found under a bowl or dish
 - Done to an iPod
 - It's good, according to Gordon Gekko
 - *Most put this up around Thanksgiving time
 - Kill, as in dragon
 - Paid close attention
 - Possesses
 - Fleur-de-_____
 - Any time now
 - Gymnast's goal
 - *Seafood at first Thanksgiving
 - *It also celebrates Thanksgiving, but on different day than U.S.
 - Plural of #58 Down
 - Dance-around-the-pole month
 - Game outcome
 - Active or lively
 - Proof of age, pl.
 - Bay window
 - Egg yellow
 - Army bed
 - Kidney-related
- DOWN**
- Umbilical connection
 - **Grandma got run _____ by a reindeer...
 - *Santa's "cheeks were like roses, his _____ like a cherry"
 - Request to Geico
 - Carriage on top of elephant
 - Pulitzer winner Bellow
 - *Santa helper
 - Bring to an end
 - Jefferson's Vice President
 - Medicinal succulent
 - Negative contraction
 - Bovine hangout
 - Alfresco meal
 - Novelist Jong
 - Sushi restaurant choice
 - *Have a piece of Christmas Goose, e.g.
 - *"Five golden rings, four calling _____"
 - Dig intensely
 - Cry of the Alps
 - *Time for log
 - Address with apostrophe
 - Stays somewhere
 - About to explode
 - *Vixen follower
 - Table extension
 - Diamond's corner
 - Sign up again
 - Divest one of a gun
 - "Slippery" tree
 - Mark and Shania
 - Twig of a willow tree
 - End of a poem
 - Fortune-teller's residue
 - Iranian coin
 - Suggestive of the supernatural
 - Was aware of
 - Fall asleep, with 'out'
 - Foot part
 - Pirates' affirmatives
 - French vineyard
 - Female gametes

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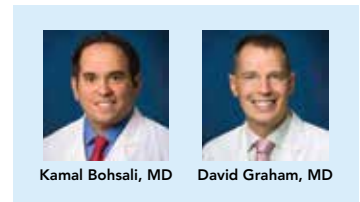


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Symphony delivers holiday cheer throughout December

As one of only a few orchestras in American performing for a live audience, the Jacksonville Symphony continues creating live music through December. Although the concerts may look a little different, the Jacksonville Symphony will continue to be a soundtrack for the holiday season.

The month will bring the Symphony's "First Coast Nutcracker Suite," "Handel's Messiah Suite," "Holiday Pops" and a special New Year's Eve concert featuring the music of The Rat Pack.

Dec. 11-13 – "First Coast Nutcracker Suite"

Sponsored by VyStar Credit Union
Deanna Tham, conductor

Moran Theater

- 8 p.m. Friday
- 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday
- 2 p.m. Sunday

Enter the magical world of childlike imagination and experience Tchaikovsky's ballet in the "First Coast Nutcracker Suite." A family tradition in Northeast Florida for over 40 years, this timeless masterpiece comes to life with the only performance in Jacksonville with a full, live symphony orchestra. This year's production has been redesigned to make sure dancers, musicians and the audience are all able to safely enjoy Tchaikovsky's holiday classic.

Dec. 12-13 – "Handel's Messiah Suite"

Gonzalo Farias, conductor
Emily Birsan, soprano
Amanda Crider, mezzo-soprano
Eric Ferring, tenor
David Kravitz, baritone

Jacoby Symphony Hall

- 7:30 p.m. Saturday
- 3 p.m. Sunday

In a season of social distancing and a pause on choral singing, the Jacksonville Symphony proudly maintains the heart of one of the great holiday traditions: Handel's "Messiah." World-class soloists and the Symphony perform everyone's favorite arias, including "Ev'ry valley shall be exalted," "O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion," "The trumpet shall sound," and many more. This abridged performance of The Greatest Story Ever Told concludes with the uplifting sounds of the "Hallelujah" chorus.

Dec. 17-20 – "Holiday Pops"

Raymond James Coffee Series
Fidelity National Financial Pops Series
Gonzalo Farias, conductor

Moran Theater

- 7:30 p.m. Thursday
- 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Friday
- 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday
- 3 p.m. Sunday

Jacksonville's favorite musical holiday tradition has been reimaged! Join the Jacksonville Symphony, guest singers and Douglas Anderson dancers for a festive celebration that is sure to put you in the holiday spirit. So 'let it snow' at the most wonderful concert of the year!

Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve: The Rat Pack

Gonzalo Farias, conductor
Sal Viviano, vocalist
Nat Chandler, vocalist
Eric Jordan Young, vocalist

Jacoby Symphony Hall

- 7:30 p.m. Thursday
- The Jacksonville Symphony and guest vocalists from Broadway step into the roles of Davis, Sinatra and Martin to celebrate the best of "the Rat Pack" for a very special New Year's Eve concert. Spend an hour with the music that defined an era.

The safety of patrons, musicians and staff remains the symphony's top priority. Based on CDC guidelines, and the results of the survey sent to patrons in June, the symphony has developed a comprehensive list of safety protocols that are in place for the 2020/21 season. These protocols include, but are not limited to, a mask requirement while in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, abbreviated programming and physically distanced seating throughout Jacoby Symphony Hall and the Moran Theater.



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September 30 - October 24

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Sports

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Send your sports news to
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Sharks open season with perfect 4-0 start

By Jim Moyes

Special to the Recorder

What a difference a year makes. After the first four games to begin the 2019-20 season, the Ponte Vedra Sharks were a woeful 1-3; outscored by their opponents by a whopping 71 points in their three losses.

The worm turned after the first five games last season with the call up to the varsity of a pair of sophomores (Luke Pirris and JT Kelly) and a freshman (Nate Bunkosky). That trio, combined with Alex Madson, Jack Polian and Rory Mayer, gave the Sharks their six leading performers from the previous year.

Now a veteran squad, the Sharks have exploded out of the gates by winning their first four contests this season, with all victories achieved by double-figure margins. The first three games to open the campaign were played on the road before the Sharks returned home Friday to make Bartram Trail their fourth victim.

After pounding Stanton Prep 58-30 in their Nov. 24 opener, the Sharks defeated Palm Coast 51-41 on Dec 1, and then followed with a 47-32 victory over Menendez. Coach Kevin Whirity's cagers then made last week a complete success by disposing of rival Bartram Trail 57-47 on their home court.

Although the Sharks, who aver-

aged 44 points per game last season, and have now improved this season's output by 12 points each outing, it is on the defensive side of the ball where the Sharks have been most impressive. The athletic Sharks have slammed the door on their first four opponents by giving up a miniscule 40 points each contest.

Each game seemingly has seen a different player take center stage during the current hot streak. Displaying the added depth of this year's squad, two players came off the bench to spark a Shark victory.

Kelly scored a career high 20 points in the Palm Coast victory, while senior Will Irwin scored 11 of his career-high 13 points in the win over Menendez.

Pirris, a 6-foot-4 junior who is days removed from being selected as a first team All-State performer on the PVHS football team, twice has led the Sharks in scoring, with 17 in the season opener against Stanton Prep. But he saved his best for last. On Friday night, Pirris singed the nets for a career-equaling best of 26 points. He also was a stalwart on defense as he held his 6-foot-10 opposing center scoreless while drawing four charging fouls.

Bunkosky, a sophomore, has been a steady performer in the early going and is one performer Whirity is reluc-



Photo by Sean Kelly

SHARKS continues on Page 29

Junior Luke Pirris (left) goes up for a rebound against Bartram Trail center Alijah Kuehl last Friday.

Jaguars come close, but fall to Vikings in OT, 27-24

By Mike Bonts

Special to the Recorder

MINNEAPOLIS | The Minnesota Vikings overcame a 10-point deficit in a second half for the second consecutive game on the way to a 27-24 victory in overtime over the Jacksonville Jaguars.

It marked the Jaguars' first overtime game since a 20-17 victory against the Chargers in 2017.

On Monday, Jacksonville head coach Doug Marrone named Mike Glennon the starting quarterback for Sunday's home game against the Titans.

"I just think right now in practice Mike is throwing better and gives us the best chance to win," Marrone said. "We're going to look at Mike and we're going to evaluate, and really trying to clean up some things."

Glennon completed 28-of-42 passes for 280 yards against Minnesota.

Last Sunday, the Vikings' Dan Bailey connected on a 23-yard field goal for the win to cap a 41-yard scoring drive with 1:49 left in OT.

Minnesota's winning drive began at the Jaguars' 46-yard line after the 27th career interception by Harrison Smith. Bailey

had a shot at a 51-yarder in the game's final minute or regulation, but it went wide left.

Jaguars rookie running back James Robinson scored on a one-yard run. Glennon then completed two-point conversion pass to Collin Johnson to tie the game. The Jaguars picked up a third-and-6 with a 22-yard completion to DJ Chark, Jr., four plays before Robinson's score.

Robinson turned in 108 scrimmage yards and one TD, becoming the first undrafted rookie in NFL history to total 1,250 scrimmage yards through the first 13 weeks of a season.

Jacksonville's Chase McLaughlin, who spent part of this season on Minnesota's practice squad, was short on a 62-yard attempt as time expired. Both kickers each missed an extra point in the game.

The Jaguars' Laviska Shenault Jr. scored his second TD of the season on a 28-yard pass from Glennon with 12:33 remaining in the first quarter to give the Jaguars a 6-0 lead. Shenault finished with three catches for 38 yards and one score and two rushes for 30 yards.

Jacksonville linebacker Myles Jack

JAGUARS continues on Page 29

TaxSlayer Gator Bowl tickets on sale now

The TaxSlayer Gator Bowl has announced that tickets to its 76th annual game are now on sale. The 2021 TaxSlayer Gator Bowl will take place at noon Jan. 2 and will be televised nationally on ESPN.

The game will be the first in a six-year deal, which will feature a team from the Southeastern Conference that will serve as the anchor team and will face an opponent from the Atlantic Coast Conference, which also includes the University of Notre Dame.

In compliance with city guidelines and following the precedent of the Jackson-

ville Jaguars and the Florida vs. Georgia game, the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl will seat approximately 25% of the stadium capacity for this year's game.

Face coverings that completely cover the mouth and nose will be required at TIAA Bank Field.

Ticket prices for the limited capacity game are \$135 for club seats, \$70 for lower-level sideline seats and \$40 for endzone seats. Limited premium seating packages are also available. To purchase tickets for the 2021 TaxSlayer Gator Bowl, go to www.taxslayergatorbowl.com or call (904) 633-2000.

Sharks

Continued from 28

tant to take off the court. With an average of 10 points a game, Bunkosky is a lockdown defender on defense and leads the team in assists and steals. Adding valuable depth to the Shark attack this season has been a pair of seniors, Rory Mayer and Jack Polian, who have played valuable roles with their rebounding and

tenacious defense. Still waiting in the wings is promising freshman, 6-foot-5 Ethan Reinheimer, who has played well thus far in limited action.

Ponte Vedra will take the short jaunt tomorrow (Friday, Dec. 11) when it tangles with arch-rival Nease. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, seating will be at a premium and very limited. Earlier in the week, and after the Recorder went to press, the Sharks had a pair of games with Fleming Island and St. Joseph.

Jaguars

Continued from 28

made 11 tackles and recovered a fumble in Vikings' territory. Jack has recorded 85 tackles this season and the game marked the third game of his career with 10-plus tackles and a takeaway.

Jaguars' linebacker Joe Schobert returned an interception for 43 yards. Schobert recorded his second consecutive game with a takeaway and scored his first-career TD on a 43-yard pick-six in the third quarter.

Schobert finished with 12 tackles, including a sack.

The Jaguars had leads of 9-0 in the first half and 16-6 one snap into the third quarter. The Vikings totaled 420 yards and allowed 390 net yards by the Jaguars.

Former Florida State star Dalvin Cook rushed 32 times for 120 yards for the Vikings (6-6).

Jacksonville (1-11) dropped its 11th game in a row after winning its season opener.

The Jaguars host AFC South rival Tennessee at 1 p.m. Sunday.

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