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PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

November 25, 2021

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PonteVedraRecorder.com

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

UF Health, Gary Sinise Foundation cut ribbon on new center



Photo provided by UF Health Jacksonville

Representatives of UF Health Jacksonville, the Gary Sinise Foundation and philanthropic partners cut the ribbon on a new facility that brings comprehensive brain health care to Northeast Florida. See page 19.



INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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



First Coast Register

INSIDE



Sports
Paged 20-21



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



Visit our new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

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

ADOPT A PET

Bells

Hi, I'm Bells, like "Jingle Bells," but the fun part! I am a 2-year-old female domestic shorthair that was brought to the Pet Center as a stray. I recently had a litter of kittens, but sadly, they did not end up at the Pet Center with me, so I am feeling a little low and just love it when someone stops by to visit me and give me chin rubs and cuddles. If you have room in your heart, I will fill it with joy this holiday!



Toby

Greetings and salutations! I am a 3-year-old domestic short haired male orange tabby, and boy do I love people. If I just hear someone enter the cattery I am up and ready to receive attention. I was shy when I first arrived, but I am really coming out of my shell with all the love I receive. I may be the perfect fit for your family, so stop in and meet me.

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The Pet Center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. 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, call the **St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

BRIEFS

Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park to open for Thanksgiving holiday

Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park and parking lot will be open from 6 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, through 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, for pedestrian beach access over the Thanksgiving holiday.

After Nov. 28, Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park will return to being closed Monday through Friday to allow crews to resume work on the FEMA Dune Enhancement Project. Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park will remain accessible on Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information about the FEMA Dune Enhancement Project, go to sjcfl.us/coastalprojects/FEMADunes.aspx.

County to repair South Ponte Vedra Beach pavilion after nor'easter

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners is taking steps to address the damage caused by the recent nor'easter. During its Tuesday, Nov. 16, meeting, the board unanimously voted to approve \$120,000 to repair the South Ponte Vedra Beach Park dune walkover and pavilion.

"The nor'easter made the walkover and the pavilion in South Ponte Vedra Beach unusable for public ac-

cess," said Ryan Kane, director of St. Johns County Parks & Recreation. "The funding approved today will help us restore this public amenity for all to enjoy."

Additionally, county commissioners voted to authorize the Emergency Temporary Coastal Armoring Property Owner Permit Application Package under Florida statute. Following a coastal storm event, authorizing this statute allows eligible property owners to apply for temporary emergency structure permits.

Applications need to be submitted within 30 days from the initial coastal event, which was earlier this month. Properties built after March 17, 1985, are not eligible. For a complete list of eligibility requirements, go to bit.ly/30HI5Yd.

Library food for fines program returns

The Food for Fines program has returned this year to St. Johns County libraries and bookmobiles.

An opportunity to eliminate most library fines, Food for Fines will run through Monday, Dec. 20. The food items collected will be used to stock the county's Health and Human Services Food Pantry, providing

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Briefs

Continued from 2

food for county families in need.

A donation of one nonperishable, unexpired food item will remove \$1 of fines from a patron's library record. This fine-reduction program applies only to overdue fines, and patrons may bring in as many items as needed to reduce overdue fines. Fees related to damaged or lost items are not included in the Food for Fines program.

The library also welcomes donations made in the spirit of the holiday season from those who have no fines. Food donations and pet supplies may be dropped off at any of the St. Johns County library branches or bookmobiles.

Last year, county residents provided more than 3,500 nonperishable items through the program.

For more information, go to sjcpls.org.

Holiday dog adoption planned

SAFE Pet Rescue will bring its mobile adoption van to the Ponte Vedra Pet Supermarket store, 880 A1A N., from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18. There will be lots of fun festivities for visitors and their pets to enjoy.

People can take their pets' pictures with Santa, enjoy live holiday music by a local guitarist, sample goodies at the Bake Sale, browse some crafty items, sip hot cocoa and meet and greet rescue dogs who are hoping to become a part of a family this

holiday season.

Library branches host 'Giving Trees'

The St. Johns County Public Library System is once again hosting St. Johns CARES Inc. "Giving Trees" at four branch libraries through Dec. 7. This annual initiative has been held each year since St. Johns CARES Inc. was established in 2007 as an all-volunteer organization committed to assisting local charities in the county.

Patrons are invited to fill "wishes" placed as paper ornaments on seasonal trees. Each ornament contains a client wish from one of 40 local nonprofit organizations serving the elderly, veterans, the homeless, children and animals in St. Johns County.

"Communities come together through the library, and this program is one we look forward to each year," says Heather Sostrom, Anastasia Island Branch Library manager. "We are proud to partner with the volunteers from St. Johns CARES Inc. again to make the holidays a little brighter for community members in need."

Collection boxes and "Giving Trees" are located at the Ponte Vedra Beach, Anastasia Island, Bartram Trail and Southeast branch libraries. Donations will be collected, sorted and boxed for the nonprofit organizations by St. Johns CARES Inc. Monetary donations are accepted and will be used to purchase unfulfilled wishes and needs.

For additional information about St. Johns CARES Inc. or to make a monetary donation, go to stjohnscares.org.

ElderSource experts available to help Medicare beneficiaries

Medicare open enrollment and the opportunity for seniors to reevaluate their coverage is under way. ElderSource offers free help for those trying to navigate the complex process and significant number of changes for 2022.

Open enrollment – Medicare's annual election period – runs through Dec 7. Medicare enrollees, who should have received their annual notice of change from their Medicare plans, face a broad array of choices that make research and preparation the key to making sound choices.

ElderSource's SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Need of Elders) program offers

free, independent and unbiased counseling with the goal of helping people find the best information possible to make important health care decisions.

SHINE counselors are now scheduling in-person consults at the St. Johns County Library (Main Branch), 1960 Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 3.

SHINE volunteers are not insurance brokers but specifically trained guides to help enrollees understand the possible changes they can make to their Medicare plans.

Counseling sessions are being offered in-person and over the phone. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 1-888-242-4464.

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Ponte Vedra Boulevard

An idyllic home in Old Ponte Vedra just steps from the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club across from the ocean on the Boulevard. The 3,300 sq. ft. residence is one of the last originals and sits on .54 acres on hole #3 of The Ocean Course. Huge front and back yards, circular paved driveway, and a separate guest suite. The possibilities are endless! **Main House: 5 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, Guest Suite: 1 Bedroom, 2 Baths. \$4,415,400**



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Ponte Vedra Recorder: Looking back over 52 years

Festival of Trees returns to St. Johns County



In anticipation of newspaper's 50th anniversary, the St. Johns County Commission issued a proclamation declaring Nov. 7, 2019, Ponte Vedra Recorder Day.

The first half-century was important for The Recorder and its readers.

"The Recorder has served the community for 50 years and serves as a trusted source to all of the residents of Ponte Vedra and the Beaches," Vickie Cavey, president of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, wrote in an email to Publisher Susan Griffin. "We appreciate all the fine work the paper does, and you personally have been a steadfast constant for 25 years – we want to thank you for a job well done."



St. Francis House and Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Center will kick off this holiday season with the inaugural "Light the Way Home Festival of Trees" hosted by the Lightner Museum, 75 King St., St Augustine.

A festive wonderland of themed trees and wreaths decorated by local churches, individuals, groups and businesses will be on display in the museum's entrance foyer.

The event will feature visits from Santa, a Letters to Santa mailbox and holiday music.

Each tree and wreath will be available for purchase by way of a silent auction, with a "buy it now" option. Proceeds will support services for individuals, families and youth experiencing homelessness in St. Johns County.

A limited number of exclusive tree ornaments commemorating the 2021 Nights of Lights and Light the Way Home

Festival of Trees will also be available for purchase.

The Festival of Trees will be open to the public 1-5 p.m. Nov. 29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 2.

Admission to the event is free to the public, though it does not include admission to the museum.

Event sponsorships are still available. Call event coordinator Joyce Duffy at 410-688-0883 or email her at joyce.duffy@stfrancisshelter.org.

St. Francis House and Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Center provide the only comprehensive housing-crisis services and shelter in St. Johns County. Housing-focused programs provide support, referrals and assistance to facilitate the return to housing and self-sufficiency for individuals, families and youth.

For further information, go to stfrancisshelter.org/FOT.



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Honor society inducts six St. Johns County students

The following local Jacksonville University students were recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines: Alyssa Clark of Ponte Vedra, Kerry Charles of Ponte Vedra Beach, Lorraine Mai of Ponte Vedra Beach, Nicole Bell of St. Augustine, William Hyde Jr. of St. Augustine and Nayade Sizemore of St. Augustine.

They are among the approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa

Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter.

Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to

create a different kind of honor society, one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines.

Today, the society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some of the organization's notable

members include former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley.

Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards more than \$1 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and dissertation fellowships, undergraduate study abroad grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives.

For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, go to phikappaphi.org.

Holiday gift wrapping returns for the Beaches community



Contributed photo

Volunteers will offer gift-wrapping services once again this year, with proceeds going to help people impacted by multiple sclerosis.

If the holiday season is rapidly approaching, then gift-wrapping services must be close behind.

For the seventh consecutive year, local volunteers will offer gift-wrapping services to Beaches-area shoppers throughout December. One hundred percent of the donations

from the service will provide programs and services for the more-than 18,000 North Floridians impacted by multiple sclerosis.

Wrapping will be provided 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. outside of Five Below and Gretchen's Hallmark in the South Beach Regional Shopping Mall, 3908 3rd St. South, Jacksonville Beach.

The dates are Dec. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19 and 20-24. Volunteers include staff from the North Florida Chapter of the MS Society, local elementary school teachers and members of the Southeast Region's leading fundraising bicycle team, Big Bananas.

The wrapping is available to anyone with packages from local stores or Jacksonville-

area malls or having online purchases.

Drop-off service will also be available, as well as concierge service. Just send a text to 904-982-6510 and volunteers will pick up, wrap and deliver presents.

Since 2010, Big Bananas has raised \$1.4

million for the MS Society through local donations and events. This year, the team hit a record \$173,000 for the recent Bike MS PGA TOUR Cycle to the Shore, a two-day ride from St. Augustine to Daytona Beach and back.



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Jacksonville, Florida 32207

Dylan Lane is a Ponte Vedra High alum that is doing some unique things with his 2005 BMW 330ci, which has become known as the “camera car.” He has always been passionate about cars and looks to capture their speed for others to enjoy as well by filming a variety of high performance makes driving on the open road.

Dylan Lane

As told to Anthony Richards

Can you please tell us a little bit about your background?

I am 19 years old and bought my first camera roughly two years ago.

I started shooting photos for the Ponte Vedra football team in the 2019-20 season and for basketball as well.

While I was paying off my camera shooting sports, my heart was in cars. I went to countless car events shooting photos of whatever I could get in the frame and slowly learned how to shoot in the basic scenarios.

As things progressed and I moved to Orlando for school, I dove headfirst and learned everything I could and put myself in as many scenarios as possible to network and get involved.

After working like crazy this last year or so, it is really cool to see the direction things are heading in.

Have you always had a fascination with cars and speed?

Since day one. My mom could tell you better than I can, but cars were a part of my life from the very beginning.

My grandfather and I were as close as could be and together we covered thousands of miles in his cars, and it was honestly the core behind our relationship.

Without him I wouldn't be doing any of this. I grew up and eventually someone thought it was a good idea to give me legal rights to drive a car, so here we are.

Please talk a little bit about your “camera car” and how it works?

So, the “camera car” that people see today was actually my grandfather's car.

He was the one that introduced me into the automotive world and was honestly my best friend growing up. He gave me the BMW when I turned 16 and immediately after I dove into this world of cars.

About a year ago, he passed away and immediately following his death my entire life changed.

I dedicated everything to growing my skills and eventually all of it led to me building his old car into my film rig.

Three speed rails/poles are put together and mounted in two places on the roof with 9-inch suction cups and then bolted to either the front or rear tow hook depending on how I want to film.

That is the general structure. From there I have the arm which hangs the camera and acts as a suspension to keep the camera steady and away from all the bumps and vibrations of the road.

Everything from the camera is fed into the car to a screen I have mounted on my dash that records the footage and allows me to see what the camera sees from inside the car.

What are some of the projects you have done?

I've been really lucky to have worked on some cool projects since I started in film. I have covered Ferrari events, exotic car rallies, filmed for a large YouTube channel, the list goes on.



Photo by Anthony Richards

The 2005 BMW used for Dylan Lane's “camera car” was passed down by his grandfather, who he credits for developing his passion for cars.

In October I covered a cancer awareness rally from Orlando to Jupiter. My job was to essentially retell the story of the event and highlight the real cause behind what they do. We ended up losing a participant to cancer just weeks before the event, and one of his dying wishes was for his wife and her brother to still come along in his honor. Of course, we had to give a tribute to them in the video and putting that together was just indescribable.

These jobs that I expect to be all about cars and going fast just seem to always work their way into things that are so much bigger than all of that.

What are some of the challenges that you face when during the filming process?

The biggest issues I face are honestly things I must take care of prior to even turning on a camera.

Just like any business there are tons of costs associated with growth, and for me, the hardest part has just been overcoming the first stages of equipment costs and building a network/clientele.

Filming is shockingly the easy part for me. There really is not much I have to plan for other than timing and location, so film days are honestly just days for me to have fun and enjoy the work I have put in to put the cars in front of the camera.

The rest of the details related to filming I like to let work themselves out. When you have cars going down the road mixed in with other traffic you just have to let it play out.

What do you enjoy most about living in the North Florida area?

The people. Plain and simple. I have been blessed beyond description to have grown up in this area.

The support I have received from day one from teachers, friends and everyone else I was around growing up has been pretty incredible and I owe a great majority of my success to the people of North Florida.

My family is here and alongside everyone else it really makes this part of the world home for me.

What do you like to do in your free time?

On top of film, I'm also a full-time student at UCF.

Between school and everything else, I really don't have a ton of free time, but whenever I get a light day or have some time, I just go drive.

Growing up my grandfather and I spent so much time together riding around Colorado in his cars and to this day my favorite way to go relax is just to get a Red Bull or something and go drive around and listen to music.

I don't like to go with anybody or talk on the phone because driving just lets me dig really deep into my thoughts and separate myself from this crazy world, we all live in. The goal is just to get my mind completely removed from all the noises and notifications. It may sound cliché, but that's what I do.

Pink Ribbon Jax Breast Center celebrates new name, renovations

Baptist Medical Center Beaches held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the new name of, and renovations to, its Pink Ribbon Jax Breast Center. The renovations were made possible in part through a donation from Pink Ribbon Jax, a nonprofit that supports local breast cancer research, mammography and patient services at Baptist Health and other area hospitals. Members of the Baptist Medical Center Beaches and Pink Ribbon Jax teams attended. Pictured from left are Jarret Dreicer, vice

president of operations for Baptist Medical Center Beaches and Baptist Medical Center South; Susie Buckey, founder of Pink Ribbon Jax; Pret Chisolm, mammography technologist; Stephanie Smith, lead mammography technologist for Baptist Medical Center Beaches; Toni Brown, customer service representative for Pink Ribbon Jax Breast Center; Marica Pendjer, 2021 Pink Ribbon Jax chair; and Joe Mitrick, president of Baptist Medical Center Beaches.



Photo courtesy of Pink Ribbon Jax

Baptist Medical Center Beaches honored Pink Ribbon Jax by naming its breast center after the nonprofit.

Be there when the lights come on!
LIGHT-UP! NIGHT
SAT. NOV. 20
 Downtown St. Augustine
 Plaza de la Constitución
28TH ANNUAL NIGHTS OF LIGHTS

4:00 PM - Showtime USA
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5:30 PM - The All Star Orchestra
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6:30 PM
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FREE! NIGHTS OF LIGHTS PARK & RIDE SHUTTLE
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Parking Locations:
 SJC Health Dept., 200 San Sebastian View
 The San Marco Lot, 301 San Marco Ave.
 Broudy's lot, Corner of U.S. 1 and West King, 198 & 212 West King Street.

Info at www.CityStAug.com/LightUpNight

The NIGHTS OF LIGHTS and the park and ride shuttle are produced by the City of St. Augustine with funding assistance from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, but the success of the NIGHTS OF LIGHTS would not be possible without the wide participation of the St. Augustine Community.

ST. AUGUSTINE | ST. JOHNS COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL | ST. AUGUSTINE | PONTE VEDRA



Think you're not at risk for lung cancer? Think again.

Unfortunately, if you quit smoking 15 years ago or less, you may be at risk for developing lung cancer. You could also be at risk even if you have no family history and no symptoms.

What can you do to reduce your risk and catch lung cancer early?

Consider a lung cancer screening. Early detection of lung cancer can save your life. If you meet the following criteria, you could be eligible for a low-dose CT lung cancer screening, which is covered by Medicare and many insurance plans.

- ✓ You are between 55 and 77 years old.
- ✓ You have a 30 pack-year history of smoking or more (this means 1 pack a day for 30 years, 2 packs a day for 15 years, etc).
- ✓ You are a current smoker or have quit within the last 15 years.

To see if this screening is right for you, talk with your primary care physician or go to baptistjax.com/lungscreening.

Baptist Health offers lung cancer screenings throughout Northeast Florida, including **Baptist Medical Center Beaches.**



Letters to Santa



We're accepting children's Letters to Santa for publication in The Ponte Vedra Recorder throughout December.

Letters can be hand-written and scanned or sent via email to news@pontevedrarecorder.com. You can also mail an original letter to The Ponte Vedra Recorder office at 1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.

Please send your letters by December 6th for inclusion in our weekly holiday content.

Letters will be edited if necessary for publication. Please include your phone number in case there are questions.

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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Here's a look and some of the events being held this holiday season. Many events are free to attend; for those that are not, fees for admission or registration are noted. For a more complete list, go to pontevedrarecorder.com.

Deck The Chairs

When: 5 p.m.-1 a.m. Nov. 24 through Jan. 1.
Where: Seawalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach
 New this year is the SeaSongs Light & Music Spectacle, a one-of-a-kind, motion-activated holiday sound experience. The 140-foot custom-fabricated exhibit is designed to play a variety of musical chords through visitor interaction and is programmed for nightly light shows during the season. Go to deckthechairs.org.

Lighthouse Illuminations

When: Various times starting at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 26, 27, 28, 29; Dec. 3, 6, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Jan. 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 19, 21.
Where: St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum, 100 Red Cox Road, St. Augustine
Admission: \$19.95 for adults, \$17.95 for children age 12 and younger.
 Discover twenty-one uniquely decorated trees, each with a distinct theme, at this special after-hours event. Explore the Keepers' house and grounds illuminated by lights and garlands, and enjoy a sensational view of the lighthouse's night mark. Go to store.staugustinelighthouse.org/SelectEvent.aspx?eventid=1000137.

The Dance Company's St. Augustine Winter Spectacular

When: 7 p.m. Dec. 4, 2 p.m. Dec. 5
Where: Lewis Auditorium, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine
Admission: \$15-30
 The show features a dance-based storyline that follows a young girl's journey during the holidays with kicklines, ballerinas, tap dancers, acrobats and musical theater numbers. This original production will entertain all ages with its talented cast, dazzling costuming and a wide array of eye-catching scenery and quality live entertainment. Go to staugustinewinterstacular.com

Christmas Parade

When: 9-11 a.m. Dec. 4
Where: The parade starts by the Mission Nombre de Dios off San Marco Avenue and continues through the downtown streets of historic St. Augustine.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Gingerbread Village Reveal

When: 5-8 p.m. Dec. 4
Where: Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, 1000 TPC Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
 Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa kicks off the holiday season with their annual tree lighting ceremony and reveal of this year's gingerbread village, created by the children of Cabana Beach Club.

Palm Valley Boat Parade

When: 6-8 p.m. Dec. 4
Where: Palm Valley Bridge, South Roscoe Boulevard, Ponte Vedra
 Enjoy this annual tradition of lighted boats to celebrate the holiday season in Ponte Vedra Beach. The parade route is seven miles of the Intracoastal and starts one mile south of the Palm Valley Bridge and travels north. Go to palmvalleyboatparade.com

Sandy Claus Full Marathon, Half Marathon and 10K

When: 6:30-11 a.m. Dec. 5
Where: Nocatee Station Field, 400 Nocatee Center Way, Ponte Vedra
Registration: \$15-\$70
 Lace up your sneakers for the 2nd annual Sandy Claus Marathon, Half Marathon and 10K. This time chipped event starts 6:30 a.m. for the full marathon, 7 a.m. for the half marathon and 10K. Go to runsignup.com/Race/FL/PonteVedra/SandyClauseHalfMarathon

Beaches North Pole Express

When: 3-6 p.m. Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 11
Where: Beaches Museum, 381 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach
Admission: Free to museum members, suggested \$5 donation from non-members. Pre-registration is required. Pre-register at interland3.donorperfect.net/webink/webink.aspx?name=E352392&id=49. Meet Santa and the Conductor and celebrate the holiday season. Visitors are invited to write a letter to Santa, take pictures with Santa, make crafts and enjoy other festivities in the History Park. Contact the museum at 904-241-5657 for further information.

Regatta of Lights

When: 6-8 p.m. Dec. 11
Where: St. Augustine Bayfront, Avenida Menendez, St. Augustine
 Gather on the bayfront north of the Bridge of Lions for the annual Regatta of Lights boat parade. Watch the brilliant displays of brightly lit boats pass by, decorated in everything from whimsical to patriotic themes.

Holiday Pops Concert

When: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 15
Where: Lewis Auditorium, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine
Admission: \$55
 Enjoy the Gainesville Symphony Orchestra — Holiday Pops Concert presented by the EMMA Concert Association at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College. Go to emmaconcerts.com.

Christmas at the Cabin

When: 5-8 p.m. Dec. 16
Where: The Beaches Museum's 1873 Oesterreicher-McCormick Cabin, 503 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach
 Admission for museum members is free, a \$5 donation is asked from non-members. Pre-registration is required. Please pre-register at interland3.donorperfect.net/webink/webink.aspx?name=E352392&id=50. Enjoy a festive evening under the twinkling lights as the sound of Christmas carols fills the courtyard. Live entertainment begins at 5:30pm and will include dancers from First Coast Dance, St. Paul's Contemporary Choir, Rhythm Theory Dance Ensemble and Community Presbyterian Bell Choir. To further the fun, guests can roast marshmallows amid the period decor that will adorn the Cabin. Go to beachesmuseum.org or call 904-241-5657 for more information.

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Dantiel W. Moniz
Class of 2007

Dantiel is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize, a MacDowell Fellowship, the Alice Hoffman Prize for Fiction, and has been named a "Writer to Watch" by Publishers Weekly and Apple Books. Her debut collection, *Milk Blood Heat*, is an Indie Next Pick, an inaugural Roxane Gay Audacious Book Club pick, and has been hailed as "must-read" by *TIME*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Buzzfeed*, *Elle*, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*, among others. Her work has appeared in the *Paris Review*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Tin House*, *One Story*, *American Short Fiction*, *Ploughshares*, *The Yale Review*, *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern* and elsewhere. Moniz is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Jacob Skiles
Class of 2016, Instrumental

Since graduating from DA, Jacob has studied piano under 1997 Van Cliburn silver medalist, Yakov Kasman at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). In 2018, Jacob made his orchestral debut performing with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine and gave a recital in the historic house of Romanian composer George Enescu. During college, Jacob participated in and won numerous solo and Concerto competitions in Alabama. In addition to his piano studies, he conducted research on mathematical analyses of rhythm in Baroque dance forms while in the Science and Technology Honors Program at UAB. Since graduating in spring of 2020, Jacob will be continuing his studies at Florida State University, pursuing a Masters in Piano Performance with a graduate assistantship in teaching.

For more information visit DA-arts.org • 2445 San Diego Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32207

Watson leaders discuss real estate market predictions



Mark Rosener



Jeff Fagan

Watson Realty Corp. gathered data from real estate leaders to discuss key changes in the industry for the fall/winter 2021 season. Watson leadership and real estate experts, Regional Vice President of Watson North Central Region and Northeast Florida Association of Realtors President Mark Rosener and Regional

Vice President of Watson Central Region Jeffrey Fagan share their predictions for the region.

Will the market crash in Florida or Watson footprint regions?

“Although there has been significant upward movement in terms of median and average price, we do not see a crash [happening],” said Rosener. “Price increases have been driven by exceptionally limited inventory, [so] there is no indication that will change substantially.”

“I agree with Mark’s assessment,” said Fagan. “While the market in general has stabilized marginally, there is now the beginning of a differentiation within the market. There will not be a crash, and in my opinion, there will be continued slow moderation.”

Predictions for the rest of the season include fewer home sales, overall leading to a much-needed increase in home inventory in many areas of the country.

What does this mean for Florida and South Georgia customers? Will we see an increase in inventory or will it remain low?

“Inventory is beginning to open up slightly in most of our markets,” said Rosener. “We believe there will be incremental increases in terms of active residential homes for sale over the next

six to 12 months that will help to stabilize the market, but most likely, inventory will remain low compared to historic levels.”

“Slow growth in inventory as the market tries to find its equilibrium, while new construction starts have drastically trailed demand for over a decade,” added Fagan. “And with [current] supply chain issues, this segment will take at least 10 years or more to even out in Florida.”

Is this millennial-based trend happening in Watson’s regional markets as well?

“Yes, it is a trend that we are experiencing and it likely will expand, particularly if the number one hinderance of property acquisition – student loan debt – is reduced through government action ... stay tuned,” said Fagan. “We also are seeing a wonderful advancement of female head-of-household property acquisition in the current environment.”

“There is no question that household formations from the millennial generation are fueling a part of the current demand for residential real estate,” answered Rosener. “We see that happening across the board in most markets that Watson Realty Corp. does business. This is a national trend that is definitely happening in our markets, and we anticipate it will continue over the next one to five years.”

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Ponte Vedra Focus accepting submissions for blog-writing scholarships

The Ponte Vedra Focus, a local community blog, is now accepting submissions for its third annual \$1,000 blog-writing scholarship. Sponsored by The Volen Group, Keller Williams Luxury International and Gwinn Volen, creator of the PV Focus blog, the scholarship is open to all high school seniors in Duval or St. Johns counties who plan to continue their education after graduation.

“Over the past six years the blog has given me an outlet to showcase our area’s personality,” Volen said. “And the blog submissions we have run via the scholarship have been a wonderful addition.”

Last year’s winner wrote an article about Northeast Florida’s best mini doughnut shops. The year prior, the winner was about the best run routes in the

area. Before that, the winner showcased area farmer’s markets.

Posts should be well-written, interesting articles about the greater Jacksonville community. Entries can be funny or serious, and the main point is for them to have a local flavor. The top five submissions will be published on the blog.

“I encourage any students with a penchant for writing to submit,” said Volen. “We don’t have restrictions on school choice, GPA or class rank, and the goal is really to add some cushion to what we know will be an expensive four years and hopefully lessen financial anxiety just a hair.”

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 28. Go to pontevedrafocus.com/scholarship to apply or for more information.

Stillwater by Lennar unveils six model homes

Stillwater by Lennar, the 549-home adult and golf community in St. Johns County unveiled six model homes at a model park grand opening event on Oct. 23.

“Stillwater’s world-class amenities set this community apart from many in the area,” said Matt Devereaux, division president for Lennar in North Florida. “With bundled golf club membership, our ‘Everything’s Included’ program and convenient location, we anticipate Stillwater will sell out quickly. More than 70 percent of phase one homesites are already sold.”

Membership to the 18-hole golf course comes included with home purchase. Designed by renowned architect Bobby Weed, the course marks the first 18-hole golf course built in the area since 2004. Stillwater will also be the first adult community with a golf course in Northeast Florida.

Weed’s design features loops of three, six and nine holes returning to the clubhouse, which allows members to play as their time permits.

“Don’t expect a golf course from the past,” said Weed, president and CEO of Bobby Weed Golf Design. “As the area’s first new course in almost two decades, we are providing Lennar with something distinct and different.”

The course comes with a driving range featuring TopTracer technology created by Topgolf Entertainment Group. The technology allows avid golfers and new-

comers alike to enjoy the game of golf by making it a more social experience for the whole family.

Additional Stillwater amenities include a clubhouse with an on-site restaurant and pro shop, resort-style swimming pool, fitness center and pickleball and tennis courts. The community will also cater to active adult residents with regular featured events and activities that promote an active, social lifestyle.

Stillwater offers homebuyers 13 distinct floor plans to choose from. New model homes on display at the grand opening event include the Siena and Toppez floor plans from the villa collection, the Jessica and Alexia plans from the 40s royal collection, and the Charle and Trevi plans from the 50s royal collection.

Homes range in size from approximately 1,500 to 2,300 square feet of living space and include a two-car garage, along with two to four bedrooms and two to three-and-a-half bathrooms, depending on lot size. Prices start in the \$300,000s.

Every new Lennar home comes with high-end features and upgrades at no additional cost, thanks to the homebuilder’s signature “Everything’s Included” program. Many featured floor plans also include an office or “study,” a response to the surge in demand for work-from-home spaces. The plans reflect the desire to stay social with large, open gathering rooms with high ceilings and covered lanais and porches that are meant to entertain.

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Wounded veteran receives mortgage-free home at Del Webb Nocatee

Former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Ellis “Jerry” Majetich received the keys to his new, mortgage-free home on Veterans Day at Del Webb Nocatee in Ponte Vedra.

The home was donated by PulteGroup’s Built to Honor program, which provides mortgage-free homes to veterans injured during their military service and their families. This is the first Built to Honor home donated in a Del Webb community, which is designed for active adults ages 55 and older.

“We launched our Built to Honor program almost a decade ago as our way of saying ‘thank you’ to our nation’s heroes by doing what we do best: building incredible places where people can live their dreams,” said PulteGroup President and Chief Executive Officer Ryan Marshall. “Our teams continue to enthusiastically embrace this program and remain steadfast in supporting its mission to meet the needs of returning military servicemen and women.”

A procession of first responders and Nocatee residents joined Majetich and his wife Mary Ella as they saw their home for the first time during an unveiling ceremony at Del Webb Nocatee. The single-story home was designed specifically to meet all of Majetich’s needs.

“It is an honor for our team, along with the support of Building Homes for

Heroes, and our trade partners and suppliers, to build this home for Sergeant Majetich in recognition of his service to our country,” said Tony Nason, president of PulteGroup’s Northeast Florida Division. “We hope this home will be a source of comfort, joy and a place to create wonderful memories.”

This is the second home dedicated in the greater Jacksonville area through PulteGroup’s Built to Honor program. The home is being awarded in partnership with Building Homes for Heroes, a national nonprofit organization committed to rebuilding lives and supporting men and women who were injured while serving in the armed forces.

“We are proud to partner with PulteGroup and their Built to Honor program to provide a home to Sergeant Majetich and his wife, Mary Ella,” said Building Homes for Heroes President and CEO Andy Pujol. “Sergeant Majetich has sacrificed so much to protect our freedom, and we couldn’t be happier to support them with a gift that will help them lead a better and brighter future that they never imagined. Together, we are making our communities and country a better place.”

For more information about PulteGroup’s Built to Honor program, go to builttohonor.org and follow on Facebook and Twitter.



Contributed photo

Former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Ellis “Jerry” Majetich and wife Mary Ella cut the ribbon on their new home.

Majetich joined the military out of Kennewick, Washington, in 1988 because he wanted to better his life while serving and protecting his country. He served for nearly 20 years, including a stint in the Marine Corps, before being honorably discharged in 2007.

While riding in a vehicle convoy as part of a large battalion, Majetich’s vehicle was struck by an IED, causing severe injuries. In the firefight that ensued, he was shot four times before being airlifted out for emergency care.

He suffered burns on more than one-third of his body, including his face and scalp, the loss of his ears and nose, right hand and fingers on his left hand to amputation, the removal of part of his intestines and stomach, a fractured spine, fractured left foot, and bullet wounds in his right shoulder and right leg. He also suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and a traumatic brain injury.

Since his initial injuries occurred, he has undergone more than 80 surgeries to date.

Luminaria 2021 to support local charities

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty is supporting local charities with Luminaria 2021.

Northeast Florida residents are invited to light up their walkways and driveways for a good cause this holiday season with the warm, welcoming glow of luminarias. Luminaria will be held Dec. 18 in Atlantic Beach neighborhoods surrounding the Beaches office. Luminaria events will also be held in the neighborhoods surrounding the company’s branch offices in Ponte Vedra/Nocatee, St. Augustine/MuraBella and Fleming Island on dates to be announced by local neighborhood associations.

The real estate company sells Luminaria kits assembled by Pine Castle, a Jacksonville charitable organization that empowers adults with intellectual and developmental differences through opportunities to learn, work and connect. Kits are \$12 and contain everything to create 12 luminarias. All of the proceeds from luminaria kit sales will be donated to local charities, including Pine Castle.

Luminaria kits will be available at the

following branch office locations beginning Dec. 5, while supplies last:

- Ponte Vedra/Nocatee, 333 Village Main St., Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach
- Beaches/Intercoastal West/Southside, 375-1 Atlantic Blvd., Atlantic Beach
- Fleming Island/Orange Park, 3535 State Road 17, Suite 10, Fleming Island
- MuraBella at World Golf Village, 196 Capulet Drive, Suite 3, St. Augustine
- St. Augustine, 112 Sea Grove Main St., Suite 210, St. Augustine Beach

“Every penny of our Luminaria kit sales will benefit our local charities,” said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty CEO Kevin Waugaman. “Luminarias are wonderful neighborhood holiday celebrations, bringing friends and neighbors together for holiday fun and cheer. We welcome everyone to help us light the night throughout Northeast Florida and support our local charities.”

For further information, go to FloridaNetworkRealty.com/Luminaria or call 904-296-1906.



Contributed photo

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty presents Luminaria 2021, inviting Northeast Florida residents to light up their walkways and driveways for a good cause this holiday season.

Gifts to excite the family athlete this holiday season

Holiday shoppers know that few things can match the joy of finding the perfect gift for a loved one. Whether that loved one is a tiny tot who can't wait to unwrap this year's must-have toy or an adult hoping to find the latest gadget under the tree on Christmas morning, the thrill of giving a great gift is part of what makes the holiday season so enjoyable.

Friends and family members may fall into certain categories, and that can make holiday shopping a little easier. For example, loved ones who can't wait to sit down with a good book would no doubt appreciate a new e-reader or the latest best-seller. When it comes to gifting the family athlete, the following ideas can provide the

inspiration shoppers need to put a smile on the face of fitness-minded friends and family members.

• **Weighted vest:** Weighted vests have gained popularity in recent years. Available from a variety of manufacturers and for athletes of varying skill levels, weighted vests can be ideal for athletes who want to burn more calories and build strength during their workouts. This can be an especially useful gift for endurance athletes who want their training sessions to mimic the challenges posed by nature or difficult competitive terrains.

• **Noise-canceling headphones or earbuds:** Many athletes relish their workouts not only as opportunities to zero in on their

fitness goals, but also as chances to block out distractions and clear their heads for an hour or two each day. Noise-canceling headphones or earbuds effectively block out external noises, allowing athletes to direct all of their focus on their workouts and training sessions.

• **Energy drinks:** Though it might not seem like the most exciting gift to unwrap on Christmas morning, energy drinks are vital to many fitness enthusiasts' athletic endeavors. For example, endurance athletes may appreciate a tub of Osmo Active Hydration Performance Drink Mix, which contains an optimal ratio of sucrose, glucose and electrolytes, helping athletes improve their endurance and power while reducing

instances of cramping and fatigue. Energy drinks make for a perfect stocking stuffer.

• **Home gym equipment:** Pandemic-related gym closures turned athletes into their own personal trainers, and some may not want to return to local fitness facilities even now that they've safely reopened. Home gym equipment can help athletes continue to build their own private home gyms, making items like kettle bells, dumbbells, weight benches, and resistance bands great items to put under the tree this holiday season.

It's never been easier to shop for the family athlete during the holiday season. A heightened focus on fitness ensures there's something for every type of athlete on your holiday shopping list.

Fall and winter skincare tips

In addition to changing landscapes, men and women may need to adapt their health and wellness habits to ensure that they stay healthy and happy during the transition between fall and winter. Part of that daily regimen includes how to care for skin as the seasons change.

Just as skin requires certain protection from the sun and heat in the summer, skin

has special needs in the fall and winter. Fall and winter are often characterized by cold, dry weather, which can make these times of year particularly challenging for people with dry or sensitive skin. These tips can help people maintain their skin's appearance and health.

• **Don't skip the sunscreen.** Sunscreen is not a summer-only requirement. UV rays

can damage the skin any time of year, even if the rays are not as strong as during the summer. UV radiation accelerates and increases the risk of skin cancer. It also can lead to premature aging. Utilize a sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher every day.

• **Invest in a humidifier.** Dry, cold temperatures can rob the skin of essential moisture, even indoors. Dermatologists suggest using a humidifier at home to boost the amount of moisture in the air. This can make skin more comfortable and can have other health benefits as well.

• **Skip hot showers.** It can be tempting to sit under a hot stream of water to warm up. However, hot water dries out the skin by depleting its stores of natural oils, says Glacier Med Spa. Take warm showers instead and don't stay in for longer than 15 minutes.

• **Limit exfoliation.** While exfoliation can remove dead skin, overdoing it can make already sensitive skin more raw. Increase the time between exfoliation treatments. Consult with a dermatologist for more advice about dealing with flaky skin.

• **Don't forget your lips.** Using a thicker



moisturizer on the body and face can help add and retain moisture. But pay attention to your lips and eyes as well. Something as simple as petroleum jelly on the lips can help prevent chapping. Invest in a quality eye cream to help the delicate skin around the eyes as well.

Modifications must be made to skincare routines in anticipation of seasonal weather changes.



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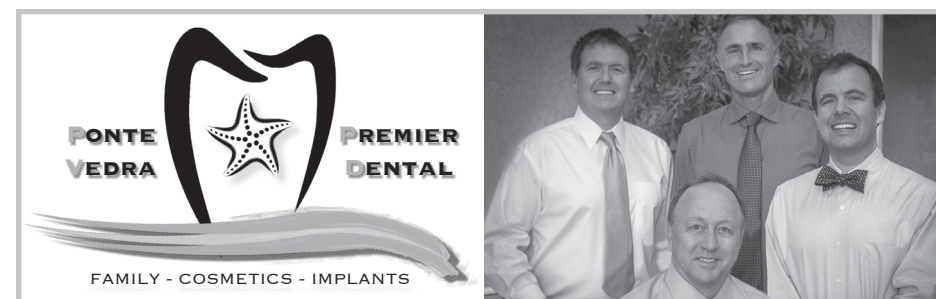
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Make the most of Small Business Saturday

Gifts and gatherings take center stage come the holiday season. The holiday season begins on Thanksgiving and continues until New Year's Day. During that time, families gather to exchange gifts, break bread, celebrate their faith, and toast the year to come.

The good times and gatherings that are such a big part of the holiday season were absent from many celebrations in 2020. Though the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, the successful rollout of various vaccines should make the coming holiday season feel more normal. That means gift exchanges and gatherings are back in play. Savvy celebrants recognize the benefits of shopping early, and Small Business Saturday is a great chance to get back in the holiday swing of things while supporting the local businesses that make communities so unique.

• Plan ahead. Small Business Saturday takes place each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving in the United States. Since its inception in 2010, Small Business Saturday has grown in popularity. American Express estimates that 110 million people participated in Small Business Saturday in 2019, which underscores how shoppers can benefit from planning ahead. Research sales and inventories of local businesses you want to support so you're ready to go come Saturday morning. Doing your home-

work can make it easier to navigate the crowds.

• Reserve a table at your favorite restaurant. A great meal with friends and family can be an ideal way to cap off a day of shopping, and it's a great way to support a local restaurant. It's worth noting that a National Today survey of 1,000 shoppers that focused on Small Business Saturday shopping habits found that food and groceries were the most popular things to buy local. Saturday is traditionally a popular night to dine out, and that popularity is even greater on Small Business Saturday. Shoppers can ensure they aren't waiting for a table by booking a reservation in advance.

• Check your social media feeds. Many small businesses have recognized the value of communicating directly with consumers through their social media feeds. Throughout the day, shoppers can keep an eye on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to learn about special sales or events. In addition, shoppers can share their shopping experiences via their own feeds. Many small businesses rely on word-of-mouth from existing customers, so this can be another way to show your support for the establishments that call your community home.

Small Business Saturday is a great way to begin the holiday shopping season on the right foot.

Unique reasons to shop small

The numbers don't lie. Locally owned businesses may be classified as "small," but they have a big impact on the national economy.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Business Employment Dynamics report, small businesses created 10.5 million net new jobs between 2000 and 2019, accounting for 65.1 percent of net new jobs created since 2000 in the United States. The Government of Canada reports that the number of small businesses in Canada in 2020 was far greater than the number of medium and large businesses, accounting for 97.9 percent of all the businesses in the country.

Supporting locally owned businesses is a great way to support a neighbor, but that's not the only attraction. Here are several reasons to shop small.

The feel-good factor

Doing for others certainly has an impact on the person on the receiving end, but also benefits the do-gooders. A November 2020 survey by Union Bank found that 72 percent of Americans said supporting small businesses was more important than getting the best deals. That may be due to the feeling of helping out a fellow neighbor.



Create job opportunities

Shopping at small businesses keeps those establishments afloat, and it also keeps their employees afloat. Small businesses are the largest employers in the United States. That's

also true in Canada, where 68.8 percent of the total labor force works for a small business. A person may never know when he or she – or a relative – will need a job. Keeping small businesses viable provides a strong job market for locals.

Keep more money in the community

The Small Business Administration says \$48 out of every \$100 spent at a small business stays in the community. Spend the same \$100 at a national retailer and only \$14 stays.

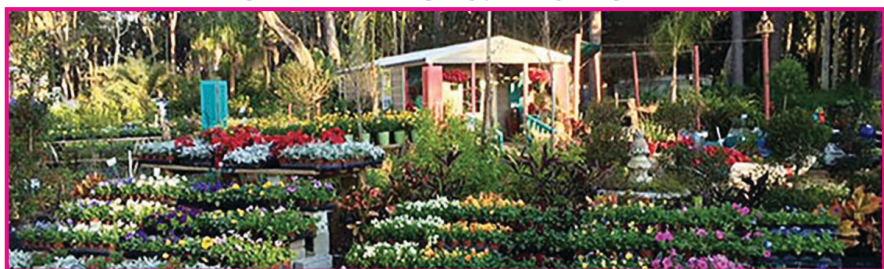
Enjoy a more local flavor

National retailers and other businesses follow a global business model that may not allow for much customization, but small businesses can provide products or services that relate directly to the needs of the communities they serve. These same small businesses also may be more inclined to work with local vendors and start-ups than national companies that have global supply chains.

These are just a few of the many reasons to seek out small businesses when in need of products or services.



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PVR

The Recorder's garden columnist, Kathy Esfahani of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, shares her tips for growing gorgeous gardens in Northeast Florida.

Kathy's Gardening Guide: Fall & winter flowers

"Your mind is a garden, your thoughts are the seeds, you can grow flowers, or you can grow weeds!"

By Kathy Esfahani



Kathy Esfahani

Who else is excited that the weather is getting cooler and a few trees are changing color? Fall and winter can bring a range of weather in Northeast Florida, but there are many plants that do well in these conditions.

Even with a hot day sprinkled in with a freeze, there are some hardier plants and flowers we can plant during this time with a higher chance of survival until spring comes around.

With the frequent rain, fungus is also very common this time of year. Use Daconil Fungicide or an organic spray to help keep plants and flowers healthy.

Popular fall and winter flowers in our zone: dusty miller, dianthus, petunias, supertunias, snapdragons, pansy, crotons, blue daze, sedum, gold mound, pentas, mums, geranium and violas.

FLOWER OF THE WEEK

Geraniums



Photo provided by Kathy Esfahani

Stop by the nursery this week to grab your fall and winter flowers.

Flower of the Week: Geranium

Email Kathy at kcg.pvr@gmail.com for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future. For more information and ideas, visit Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. The phone number is 904-655-7373.

In the Arts



Send your arts news to
pvrecorder@opcfla.com

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The show must go on

New season of performances set for Alhambra



Alhambra theatre and dining will begin its 53rd season Jan. 13, 2022.

By Anthony Richards

Alhambra theatre and dining announced its 2022 season lineup of shows and the theme seems to be the variety of shows featured.

The lineup consists of eight shows beginning with “Guys and Dolls” Jan. 13 to Feb. 13 followed by “The Play That Goes Wrong” Feb. 17 to March 13; “Rock of Ages” March 24 to May 1; “42nd Street” May 12 to June 12; “The Wizard of Oz” June 16 to July 31; “Grumpy Old Men” Aug. 11 to Sept. 18; “Ghost the Musical” Sept. 29 to Nov. 6; and “White Christmas” Nov. 17 to Dec. 24.

“These shows are all upbeat, fun and interesting,” Alhambra owner Craig Smith said.

Although the Alhambra had shows last year during the pandemic, it was still seen as not a “normal” year in terms of what facility staff and its patrons had been used to.

According to Smith, he understands that the pandemic is still relevant, but he also believes that they have learned

so much about what it takes to still put on a theater production amid it all.

“No, the pandemic isn’t behind us, but we’re all learning to live with it and work around it, and at the same time enjoy all that life has to offer,” Smith said.

Many over the years have said variety is the spice of life and that is perhaps the best way to describe this year’s Alhambra shows.

Musicals are common to see over the years at Alhambra and there will be plenty to see once again. However, “The Play That Goes Wrong” is a production that is not a musical, but instead will offer plenty of laughs for patrons.

Some shows, such as “Grumpy Old Men” are designed with several opportunities for comedic relief and use song and dance to convey them.

Many of the shows are productions that were major film hits before being adapted with live stage production in mind, including “Grumpy Old Men,” “Ghost the Musical”

and “The Wizard of Oz,” which will be the theater’s family presentation during the summer months.

Tickets for the performances start at \$48, and a three-course meal is provided that is unique to each showing.



It will mark the theater’s 53rd season as it continues to be the longest running dinner theater in the nation.

“We’re feeling triumphant going into 2022,” Smith said. “The past two seasons have been a challenge to say the least and we made it through.”

Accompanying the show schedule will be the theater’s music series, which will include a New Year’s Eve Gala Dec. 31, 2021, as well as “Country Royalty: A Salute to Hank Williams and Patsy Cline” Jan. 6 to 9 and “TUSK: The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Experience” Jan. 17-19.

The Alhambra is located at 12000 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville.

Tickets and information about the events can be found by going to alhambrajax.com or by calling 904-641-1212.

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Business Weekly

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Starling named Great Place to Work

Starling, a senior-living company, has been recognized with a Great Place to Work certification.

Great Place to Work is the global authority on workplace culture and employee experience. The organization also tracks leadership behaviors proven to deliver market-leading revenue, employee retention and increased innovation.

Employee feedback about experiences is used to determine certification. Eighty-two percent of Starling's employees said it's a great place to work and they feel welcome upon arrival. That's roughly 25 percent higher than the average U.S. company.

"We're thrilled at the distinction of becoming a Great Place to Work-

certified company," said Starling Vice President of Operations Megan Kennedy. "Our top priority is an exceptional employee experience. For anyone looking to grow their career, we invite you to join our stellar team. We're very proud of this recognition."

Starling is a progressive, growing, senior-living organization that believes team members are paramount to success, according to company officials. It works to identify talent



Starling at Nocatee Independent Living

Photos provided by Starling



A Starling team member and resident are seen at the senior living community.

and develop leaders who share Starling's values. Company leaders place the greatest emphasis on finding employees with a sincere passion for each other and those

served by Starling.

The latest career opportunities available at Starling can be found at starlingliving.com/careers.



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UF Health, Gary Sinise Foundation cut ribbon on new center

THE PLAYERS Championship, VyStar Credit Union, Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation join effort to heal veterans

UF Health Jacksonville, the Gary Sinise Foundation and philanthropic partners came together Friday to cut the ribbon on a new facility that brings comprehensive brain health care to Northeast Florida.

The groundbreaking effort will help veterans as they recover from medical issues related to their service.

The new UF Health Jacksonville Leon L. Haley Jr., M.D., Brain Wellness Program will provide transformative care to veterans and first responders experiencing post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injuries, depression, anxiety and substance-use disorder.

The clinic, the first and only one in Florida, is a collaboration between UF Health and the Gary Sinise Foundation Avalon Network, in partnership with the Marcus Foundation and Arthur M. Blank Foundation, and is receiving crucial support from THE PLAYERS Championship, which announced a donation of \$1

million Friday. VyStar Credit Union and the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation also made philanthropic contributions to help construct the new space and create a fund to support veterans' care.

"The ability to help veterans and the military, which are part of the fabric of Northeast Florida, is an honor for UF Health and the UF College of Medicine – Jacksonville," said Russ Armistead, CEO of UF Health Jacksonville.

The Gary Sinise Foundation Avalon Network is the first comprehensive traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress network available free-of-charge to veterans, service members and first responders nationwide.

"Since before the creation of the Gary Sinise Foundation, it has been Gary's life mission to support and uplift our nation's veterans, service members, first responders and their families," said Mike Thirtle, CEO of the Gary Sinise Foundation.

Gary Sinise joins the co-founders of The Home Depot and philanthropists Bernie Marcus and Arthur M. Blank, who each invested \$20 million from their personal foundations to lay the groundwork for the Gary Sinise Foundation Avalon Network.

The program will serve military veterans suffering from invisible wounds of war, specifically mild-to-moderate traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress and substance abuse. It will also serve non-veterans, helping subsidize the cost of care for veterans.

The new collaboration is made possible through several donations, including a \$12.5 million grant to UF Health Jacksonville from the Gary Sinise Foundation Avalon Network.

Other community partners say they are also pleased to be part of a groundbreaking initiative.

"We are honored to support the UF Health Jacksonville Leon L. Haley Jr.,

M.D., Brain Wellness Program and its efforts to bring this network of care to our community's heroes," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. "As part of our longstanding passion for supporting our Northeast Florida military and veteran community, we are proud to make this donation, which is made possible because of our Proud Partners, sponsors, volunteers and fans."

"VyStar is proud to come together with UF Health Jacksonville and other distinguished community partners to support veterans and first responders," said VyStar President/CEO Brian Wolfburg.

The program is on UF Health Jacksonville's campus in the Professional Office Building at 1833 Boulevard Street. Call 904-244-3289 for more information.

NOTE: This is an abridged version of the article. To read the full version, go to pontevedrarecorder.com.

Airport begins commercial flights in time for holidays

By Anthony Richards

The Northeast Florida Regional Airport in St. Augustine welcomed in commercial flights for the first time a little more than two years Nov. 19.

"It's exciting for Elite Airways and the City of St. Augustine, because you've got non-stop service to a place that is highly desirable in New York and New Jersey," Elite Airways CEO John Pearsall said. "I believe there are so many people here from the northeast that will take advantage of it."

A ceremony was held to commemorate the landing of the first scheduled commercial flight into the airport since 2018, and the timing could not have been better as it came just in time for the holiday season.

The catalyst behind introducing commercial flights once again is a partnership between the airport, Elite Airways and the Transportation Security Administration.

According to Pearsall, it is a partnership that has been years in the making.

"We had started talking to Ed (Wuellner,

Northeast Florida Regional Airport executive director) and his group before the pandemic, but of course the pandemic hit and everything got put on hold," Pearsall said. "We saw the opportunity that there wasn't anyone here or planning to return for the time being."

Wuellner does not see there being any major issues with the logistics of operation by adding commercial flights, especially since much of the airport staff has experienced having handled such flights at the airport in the past.

"The good part is we've done this before, so our guys are pretty seasoned and know the procedures in place what has to be done," Wuellner said.

Working with a trusted business partner

that shares a similar philosophy is vital to the success of any operation. Pearsall believes that is what makes the relationship between Elite Airways and the airport a perfect fit.

"It's a great feeling," Pearsall said. "Ed and the airport staff have been so enthusiastic. We think it is going to be a long relationship and we look forward to eventually adding some additional destinations."

The flights will run to and from the airport and Newark, New Jersey. The plan is to have flights scheduled Mondays and Fridays with an ideal arrival time of 12:45 p.m. and departure at 1:15 p.m.

"For us it's super exciting to welcome commercial service back," Wuellner said. "It is by far and away the largest market

that is of interest to this area. We look forward to great things to come."

The fact that there are a lot of transplants from the northeast that have come to Florida over the years was a factor that weighed heavily when making the decision of which destination would be best suited.

"It's an ideal route to start with," Pearsall said.

The plane used will be a 90-seat jet with two-by-two seating, which means no middle seats.

Tickets will start at \$129 each way and will include bag checking, carry-on, seat selection and no change fee.

"We think that our pricing is nice, in that everything is included in the price," Pearsall said.

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Sports



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Legacy cemented despite title game defeat

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Sharks did something in the 6A State Championship that they rarely do, they lost, falling in three straight sets to Hialeah Gardens Mater Academy, 25-22, 26-24, 25-20.

However, by no means does the loss define how they will ultimately be remembered as a team.

Instead, what will be remembered is the fact that they won the last two 5A state titles and had the rare opportunity at a third straight title.

“They’ve given up homecoming dances or getting ready to get their nails done ahead of time for volleyball,” head coach Robin Mignerey said. “I’m fortunate as a coach, because they eat, live and breathe volleyball. That is what hard work looks like, and they reap the rewards from it.”

The group finished the season 29-2 and did not miss a beat despite moving up a class prior to the year.

“It speaks to the strength of this team

and the strength of the program,” senior Rachel Johnson said.

The group has defined what it means to be part of the Sharks’ volleyball program and will enter next season riding a 51-match winning streak at home, with their last loss in the Shark Tank coming on Oct. 11, 2016.

The Sharks’ last five-set loss was on Oct. 30, 2018, which demonstrates once again the dominant run they have been on for some time.

Losing in the championship was only the eighth defeat the Sharks have endured over the past three seasons.

“We started playing volleyball together at an early age, so we’re friends on and off the court, which really helps,” Johnson said. “I spend so much time with them that it really builds those bonds. It’s just a loving family atmosphere.”

Johnson continued her excellent play of late with a team-high 13 kills to go with 11 digs, while fellow senior Kendall



Photo courtesy of Ponte Vedra High Athletics

The Sharks finished runner-up in Class 6A after losing to Hialeah Gardens Mater Academy in the state championship Nov. 17.

Mignerey had 12 digs and had seven kills on the night.

Zeta Washington continued to have success with her service game with five

aces to go with nine kills and a block.

Jessica Shattles led the way with 26 assists and Ava Witt topped the team with 17 digs from her libero position.

What a ride!

The following photos are of the action and the emotions captured during the Sharks run through the playoffs to the Class 6A volleyball state title game.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Jessica Shattles (middle) gets the team ready prior to a serve while Zeta Washington and Rachel Johnson anxiously await.



Rachel Johnson attempts an off-speed shot at the net.



The Sharks huddle up before a match.



The student section helped provide the Sharks with a home court advantage.



The bench erupts following a point.

Sharks win first girls swim team title in school history

By Anthony Richards

It turns out that after all the records the Ponte Vedra High girls swim team set during the season, they ended up saving the best result for last, as the team won the first state title in school history.

The Sharks finished atop the Class 3A state competition with 245 points, 42 ahead of runner-up Tallahassee Chiles and 80 of third place Saint Petersburg.

The highest finishes en route to the team title came by both the 200-yard medley and 200 free relay teams, who won their respective categories.

Annie Wohlgemuth, Annabelle MacAdams, Mary Agnes Smith and Penny Zarczynski made up the winning 200 medley relay team, while the 200 free relay champions were Zarczynski, Wohlgemuth, senior Holly Cox and Liv Copland.

Both teams broke their school records they set earlier in the year by roughly two seconds in the process of bringing back home a state title.

The 200 medley relay posted a time 1:46.05 and the 200 free relay set a blister-

ing pace with a time of 1:36.27.

However, it was the strength of the squad's depth that made the ultimate difference in the winning the team overall title.

The Sharks racked up points on a consistent basis with several swimmers coming through with impressive performances on the biggest of stages.

Runner-up finishes at state included Wohlgemuth in the 100 backstroke and the 400 free relay of Smith, Cox, Copland and Sydney Straub.

Despite the 400 free relay coming up short of another state title, they made a statement run of 3:35.66 that smashed the former school record by a nearly three-second margin.

The Sharks left the championship meet having set seven new school records.

The following individual records were broken:

- Copland with 2:09.75 in the 200 individual medley
- Zarczynski with 23.96 in the 50 free
- Wohlgemuth with 53.85 in the 100 back
- MacAdams with 105.92 in the 100 breast

Road warriors

Panthers pile up playoff road wins, Buchholz up next

By Anthony Richards

Going on the road is tough to do, especially when playing the top teams in the state, but Nease football continues to not let that stand in their way.

The Panthers earned a 24-19 second round victory against Class 7A Region 1 No. 3 seed Niceville Nov. 19, for their second straight road playoff win in as many weeks.

They defeated No. 2-seeded Port Orange Spruce Creek the week prior.

Despite Niceville (10-2) being a lower seed, the win is arguably even more impressive than their first round triumph because of the mileage they had to travel.

The Panthers (9-3) had to take the five-plus hour bus trip to Niceville, which also included losing an hour of time due to going from the eastern to central time zone.

All this before football could even be played, but none of it seemed to have an affect on the Panthers, who continue to show their moxie and prove to everyone that they belong in the conversation with the best in the state.

Just like the week before, the Panthers found themselves in a close game and needed a late score to help secure the deal



Photo by Anthony Richards

The Panthers defense forced three turnovers in the game, including an interception by Donovan Wilson.

and got it from the legs of Marcus Stokes who ran for a touchdown to give Nease a 24-17 lead with about five minutes to play.

The defense, which recovered a fumble to set up Stokes' late score, took over from there and forced a turnover on downs to halt a Niceville drive that was beginning to sniff the red zone at the Panther 28-yard line.

Fourteen points were scored off turnovers by the Panthers, including the first points of the contest when

Stokes hit Dom Henry from eight yards out following a Donovan Wilson interception early in the second quarter.

Three turnovers were forced by the defense on the night.

Last week's hero Cannon Kimball buried a 35-yard field goal, and the game was tied at 10-all at halftime.

The Panthers trailed 17-10 heading into the fourth quarter, but that Eagles' lead was short lived as Taliek Golphin punched in a four-yard rushing score to knot the game back up early in the final quarter.

With the win, the Panthers move on to the third round of the 7A playoffs and will face top seed Gainesville Buchholz (11-1), once again on the road.

CROSSWORD

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- **The _____, MTV's trailblazing reality show
- Affirm with confidence
- I to Greeks, pl.
- ____ Baba
- Powerball and such
- Swaggering show of courage
- Spermatozoa counterparts
- Based on two
- Has a mortgage
- ____ dog, gin and grapefruit juice cocktail
- DNA transmitter
- **"The Real Housewives" is full of this type of conflict
- Write on a tombstone
- Unwholesome atmosphere
- Hairpiece, slangily
- Stitched again
- Unit of electric current flow
- Solemn pledge
- Like nose during hayfever
- Uncouth one
- **Who _____ a Millionaire?"
- Front of cuirass
- Sixth month of civil year
- "Jack and the Beanstalk" instrument
- Travesty
- Italian money
- **"Vanilla Ice Goes Amish" and "Cleveland Hustles" state
- ** _____ house Masters" on Animal Planet
- *Not Khloé or Kourtney

64. Common allergens

DOWN

- Gelatin substitute
- Gospel writer
- "Tosca" song, e.g.
- Like sunroom, hopefully
- Balance in the sky
- **"Pop _____" and "American _____," pl.
- Gave the once-over
- **"Outwit, Outplay, Outlast" show
- Not active
- Point of entry
- Sixth sense
- Foot, to a child
- Aussie bear
- Buzz Lightyear's buddy
- Brow shape
- **"The Biggest _____"
- Egg-shaped
- Same as talcums
- Civil rights concern
- In the know

- Raise objections
- Missouri River tributary
- Like a desert
- Crime scene evidence
- *Singing competition (2 words)
- Curses
- Feline sound
- "I think I can, I think I can...," e.g.
- "For better or for _____"
- "Monty _____'s Flying Circus"
- r in a circle, pl.
- Deprive of weapons
- *Star of wilderness reality shows, _____ Grylls
- Fairytale beast
- Street-crossing word
- Hawaiian island
- Londoner, e.g.
- Narrative poem
- Back of a boat

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