

Ponte Vedra *Merry Christmas*

December 21, 2017
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75 cents

Recorder holiday hours
The Ponte Vedra Recorder will close its office Friday, Dec. 22 and Monday, Dec. 25. The Recorder will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, Dec. 26.

Recorder

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PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Nocatee families visited the Splash Waterpark earlier this month for "Breakfast with Santa" to take photos with Saint Nick and Mrs. Claus and enjoy breakfast and various kids activities. Pictured in the front row with Santa and Mrs. Claus are Natalie McDaniel and Brooke Beakley. Seen in the back row are Paul and Kim McDaniel and Jennifer and Wendell Beakley.

Read page 15 for more on holiday happenings in Nocatee.

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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening.

E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com

or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

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

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

Five readers correctly identified last week's photo as the North Guana Outpost sign. Good job, everyone! The winner of the random drawing was **Judy Reed**. Congratulations, Judy – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Archie, and I am a 1-year-old male cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray, which means there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #40553



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Boo, and I am a 3-year-old male dog who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center because my owners could no longer care for me. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #40968



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 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 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.**

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

C	O	L	A	S	B	A	M	S	W	A	P
E	P	O	C	H	A	G	O	C	H	I	L
D	E	L	T	A	D	E	C	A	I	S	L
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4	2	6	7	9	3	5	8	1
3	8	7	1	6	5	4	9	2
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7	5	8	3	1	6	2	4	9
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9	1	4	6	5	8	7	2	3
6	3	5	4	2	7	9	1	8
8	7	2	9	3	1	6	5	4

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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Patti Atwill | 904.705.1350
PattiAtwill@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



SCOTT MILL BLUFF
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Barbara Maple | 904.280.2829
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DAYBREAK WOODS
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Diana Kelly | 904.859.4368
DianaKelly@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



happy holidays from the Watson Ponte Vedra Family!



Ponte Vedra Corporation proceeding with litigation over Outpost property dispute

By Benjamin Naim

Last week, Ponte Vedra Corporation (PVC) filed a “motion to lift abatement” concerning its Vista Tranquila development application on the Outpost property, which ultimately means the company is proceeding with litigation over the property dispute with St. Johns County.

According to PVC attorney Amy Boulris, the Gate subsidiary is suing St. Johns County because she said the county has refused to offer PVC an administrative interpretation on the organization’s proposed residential development — a 66-home subdivision planned to be built on the 99-acre conservation property known as the Outpost. PVC, Boulris said, wants to know if its proposal aligns with the county’s current comprehensive plan before taking the matter to the Planning and Zoning Agency (PZA) and Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

Boulris explained that the county tried to alter its comprehensive plan last spring before providing PVC with an administrative interpretation. Now, she said the county believes it doesn’t owe PVC a formal interpretation at all, which is why PVC is proceeding with litigation. Boulris said going to court is a necessary step because the county is refusing to make a fundamental decision that will enable PVC to intelligently plan its property.

“It’s normal and customary to go in first

and ask the county commission to make a decision on where the outer boundaries of development can be,” she explained. “A land owner can then intelligently plan a site plan proposal and then have that decided.”

Save Guana Now, a group that opposes PVC’s planned development, is working to protect The Outpost (located at the end of Neck Road and adjacent to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve) from being rezoned into a residential area.

According to Boulris, Save Guana Now is arguing that PVC’s proposed residential zone sits on conservation land that cannot be developed for environmental reasons. However, Boulris suggested that Save Guana Now members are predominantly immediate neighbors to the Outpost who are using environmentalism as a pretext to prevent PVC from building homes near their neighborhood.

“Now that they have their homes with the views they like,” she asserted, “all of a sudden they read the comp. plan very differently, and they travel on an oversimplification that is not accurate.”

Boulris also said it’s “just objectively true” that Save Guana Now members who live near the Outpost are violating their own principles.

“If they feel that strongly [about the environment], they should all demolish their homes, restore their land to the natural condition it was in and move out,” she said.

“To put the mantle of ‘environmentalist’ over them is a little obnoxious.”

Nicole Crosby, co-founder of Save Guana Now and a Neck Road resident, said the claim her group wants to use the Outpost as its own private greenway is “fallacious,” “insane” and an “ad hominem attack.”

“I’d be happy to show an entire list of 565 names of people who have written us and said, ‘Please put me on your list, I’m interested, I want to fight this,’” said Crosby. “When you have a mailing list, by law the person has to contact you and give you permission. That’s 565 people, when you consider there are 130 houses on that grove on the development. There’s just no way, the numbers just don’t add up that it can only be immediate neighbors.”

Crosby said this is a Northeast Florida issue and the idea that Save Guana Now members are primarily concerned with preserving a nice view in front of their homes is “wishful thinking” on the part of Boulris.

Arguing that the conservation label establishes a complete ban on development is a “gross oversimplification,” Boulris insisted, because the word “conservation” is a conditional term under the county’s current comp. plan. Boulris contended that the boundaries of conservation on the Outpost are approximate and “are to be refined later based on actual field studies.”

After a field study, Boulris said experts can determine the boundary of the “conservation” designation by creating a detailed

map showing the specific areas that are subject to environmental protection laws. Next, PVC can design a site plan for the property based on regulations that would be approved at a public hearing, but Boulris said St. Johns County isn’t responding to their inquiries, so litigation is her client’s best course of action.

“They want to deny that we even have the right to ask,” she said. “The code says the county administrator shall answer this kind of question and so the county’s ironic position is, ‘We don’t owe you an answer because we might have to refer to the comp plan.’”

PVC attorney suggests county officials sympathize with Save Guana Now

Boulris speculated that the county isn’t being fair to her client because some members of its planning staff might be sympathetic toward Save Guana Now. Some government officials, she added, “have their personal view of things,” and they don’t always execute their duties because they “can’t help their personal bias.”

Additionally, the PVC attorney referred to Save Guana Now as a “special interest group” that is promoting falsehoods to serve their special interest of stymying the proposed Outpost development.

“The county can’t change the rules on

OUTPOST continues on Page 5

St. Johns County residents lobby for multi-use trail along A1A

By Samantha Logue

A group of St. Johns County residents is citing widespread safety and accessibility concerns as the driving factors behind their push for the addition of a 10-foot, multi-use trail along the west side of SR-A1A, from Vilano Beach Town Center to Mickler Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.

“The traffic situation on A1A has been getting denser over the years,” said Al Aldrich, a Vilano Beach resident and president of the North Shores Improvement Association. “Families along Ponte Vedra South—some of them say they’re trapped in their neighborhood unless they have an automobile to get out. It’s a painted line 4 to 6 inches wide that separates the bike path from the traffic, and little kids and a lot of people – with all those cars going by at 60 to 70 miles per hour – they just don’t feel comfortable.”

Aldrich believes that the most practical solution to these concerns would be the proposed trail, which would be designated for use by pedestrians and nonmotorized vehicles, such as bicycles, wheelchairs and

baby carriages.

“With the multi-use path, we’ll have a 3-foot grass buffer, then the 10-foot path, and then another grass buffer that goes to the end of the right of way,” he explained.

If approved, funding for the project would come from the Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Network through the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). An official request for funding was submitted last week, but according to Aldrich, this isn’t the first time such a trail has been proposed.

“It was a core priority [for the state] back in 2006,” he said. “It never got accomplished, and one of the reasons was they never had anyone champion the project. It just fizzled away. North Shores Improvement Association is going to be the champion of this project, and we’re going to push, and push and push until we get our trail.”

Given the amount of support the proposal has already garnered, their efforts seem to be working. Among the trail’s backers are Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway, East Coast Greenway, the

North Florida Bicycle Club and several homeowners’ associations, among others.

For Mark Atkins, president of the North Florida Bicycle Club, a multi-use trail would mean increased safety for cyclists on a dangerous road.

“As you go up and down A1A, the bike lanes are sometimes obstructed by people who park in the bike lanes – even though that’s not legal – or they’ve got their trash pail or recycling bin sitting in the bike lane,” he said. “[Cyclists] have to keep popping out of the bike lane into the traffic lane to get around those obstructions.

“I think what we’re seeing from our petition is that there’s a lot of interest in having a safe corridor up and down A1A, and I think that it will be well-used by people along this entire corridor,” Atkins added.

To date, the group’s online petition has been signed by more than 400 people, and not all of them are locals. People from all over the United States have weighed in on the proposal, and even some from other countries.

“As a visitor to the area each year, it

would be a boost to have a safe place to walk and cycle,” wrote Liz Paterson, of the United Kingdom. “These exercises have become particularly stressful in the last few years with the increase in traffic.”

According to Aldrich, the support of visitors and tourists can be just as influential in the approval process as that of St. Johns County residents.

“I talked to FDOT, and they said that it’s wonderful to hear what the visitors want,” he said. “All those comments make a difference.”

As he continues to focus on raising support, Aldrich said he is optimistic about the proposal’s odds of approval.

“I think things will work out,” he said. “A person that abuts up on the road might have some objections, but the people that live behind them in the subdivisions want the trail to be able to get their families on their bicycles, go out of the subdivision and onto a trail.”

Those looking to sign the petition or learn more about the proposal can do so at www.gopetition.com/petitions/a1a-multi-use-trail-vilano-to-mickler.html.

Lawsuit between Nease transgender student and St. Johns County School Board continues with three-day trial

Attorney representing 16-year-old says court is treating his client fairly

By Benjamin Naim

The ongoing lawsuit between a transgender student at Allen D. Nease High School and the St. Johns County School Board continued last week with a three-day federal trial in Jacksonville that wrapped up Dec. 13.

Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, a staff attorney for the LGBT legal advocacy group Lambda Legal, said he is grateful for the opportunity to present evidence and arguments supporting the claim that his client – Drew Adams – should be treated like every other boy at Nease High School.

Adams is a 16-year-old transgender Nease student who is asking the court to force the high school to allow him to use the restroom that coincides with his gender identity. After a three-day trial, Gonzalez-Pagan told the Recorder that his client was treated fairly by the court.

“We are grateful to have had the opportunity to present our evidence and arguments,” he said. “We’re thankful for the hearing that we got, we’re thankful that Drew had his say in court and now we



Drew Adams (second from left) and his mother Erica Kasper (third from left) gather with the Lambda Legal attorneys during last week’s federal trial in Jacksonville.

Photo courtesy of Lambda Legal

look forward to continuing on with the case and see a resolution in due time.”

Gonzalez-Pagan said his team and the school district each had an opportunity to present their case before the court, and that’s all he can ask for.

“Drew is an honors student and part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Nease High School in St. Johns County,” he said. “All that he seeks is to be able to be treated like every other boy at Nease High School, and that includes

access to facilities.”

Adams’ lawsuit claims the school violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments Act by prohibiting him from using the boys restroom. According to Lambda Legal, a federal judge plans to visit Nease on Jan. 3, 2018, to examine the school before closing arguments take place in court Feb. 16. Afterward, the judge will issue his final decision.

Outpost

Continued from 4

the fly just because a special interest group comes along and doesn’t want a particular piece of property next to them developed because now they like the neighborhood the way it is,” she said. “That’s not how it works.”

Meanwhile, Crosby claimed Gate Petroleum is peddling several false statements.

One, Crosby said, was a written statement alleging the entire 99-acre Outpost property has never been in conservation – which conflicts with St. Johns County’s determination. Another false statement, she said, was that the Outpost harbors no significant animal species or habitats.

“The habitat and species survey that Gate provided the county was not independent,” Crosby claimed. “It was commissioned by Gate who bought and paid for the survey’s conclusions. And in fact, interestingly, the slogan of the company who prepared the report is ‘our science, your success.’ It’s not an independent environmental firm, it was a bought-and-paid-for firm.”

Regarding PVC’s lawsuit, Save Guana Now attorney Jane West said in a released statement that the company is trying to circumvent the law and avoid a public hearing by filing its recent motion and going to court.

“This is a strongly-worded motion that reflects the desperation of a party that isn’t getting its way,” West said in the statement. “Obviously, they are not pleased with the county’s position on the matter and instead of accepting the common-sense rules that apply to everyone else and going to a public hearing, they are digging in their heels over a footnote that hardly provides the free-wheeling escape from the comprehensive plan that they are seeking.”

Boulris, however, believes Save Guana Now is misrepresenting her client.

“That’s what the Save Guana people are trying to peddle,” she said. “We’re not trying to avoid a public hearing process, we’re not trying to do an end run around the county commission, we’ve only come to court at all because we’re being blocked.”

According to West, the judge is allowing both parties to pursue a hearing under the current comprehensive plan, but PVC has been trying unsuccessfully to force a determination that the county “did not feel was appropriate or warranted.” As a result, West believes PVC is running back to the court instead of engaging the public.

“The notion that St. Johns County staff is somehow acting defiantly in pursuit of some hidden agenda is nonsensical,” she said. “Ponte Vedra Corporation has never had an issue obtaining variances or land use changes in the past – but here, they simply refuse to accept that they have to play by the same rules that every other property owner in the county is subject to.”

According to St. Johns County, a hearing is scheduled for Jan. 18 that will allow all parties to explain their position to the court.

SJCSD appoints Cantwell as new OPES principal

The St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) has appointed Webster School Assistant Principal Tiffany Cantwell as the new principal of Ocean Palms Elementary School (OPES).

Cantwell will replace Jessica Richardson, who was approved by the school board earlier this month as the new principal of K-8 school “KK” currently being constructed in Nocatee. Cantwell’s nomination will be presented to the school board at its Jan. 9 meeting.

Cantwell is currently serving the district as its Outstanding Assistant Principal for the 2017-2018 school year. She has over 16 years of educational experience, joining the SJCSD in 2001 as a fourth-grade teacher at Cunningham Creek Elementary. She went on to teach at PVPV-Rawlins Elementary School and became the curriculum resource coordinator there. In 2013, she was appointed as assistant principal at The Webster School.

“Tiffany is extremely dedicated to her staff and students, and I have no doubt this will transfer to her new OPES family,” said SJCSD superintendent Tim Forson.



Tiffany Cantwell

“She knows the community and already has many established relationships with families and students.”

Cantwell holds a bachelor’s degree from St. Thomas University in Miami and a master’s degree from the University of North Florida.

“OPES has an outstanding reputation, and I am proud to join such a devoted staff and committed community,” said Cantwell. “Along with the exceptional teachers and staff, I will strive to continue the legacy of success established at OPES by building strong relationships with parents, students and community partners.”

SJCSD appoints Goodrich as new PES principal

SJCSD has also appointed Catherine (Peralta) Goodrich as the new principal of Palencia Elementary School.

Goodrich currently is the assistant



Catherine Goodrich

principal at PES and is replacing Allen Anderson, who was approved earlier this month as the new principal of K-8 school “LL” currently being constructed in St. Johns. Goodrich’s nomination will also

be presented to the school board Jan. 9. Goodrich started her educational teaching career over 25 years ago. She joined the SJCSD in 2005 as a second-grade teacher at Timberlin Creek Elementary School. She served as the instructional literacy coach there before becoming its assistant principal in 2010. In 2013, she was named the assistant principal at Osceola Elementary School and served there for two years before joining the SJCSD human resources department as the employee evaluation coordinator. In 2016, she became the assistant principal at PES.

A long-time Ponte Vedra resident, Corky Heft is the manager of the thrift store at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) in Jacksonville Beach.

Corky Heft

By Jon Blauvelt

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I am originally a California girl. I was raised in Los Angeles, graduated from Stanford University and worked in San Francisco before my marriage. Jim was a naval aviator stationed in Hawaii when we met. Forty-one years and four sons later, we settled in Ponte Vedra. Jim's tours of duty took us to some very interesting locations, like Midway Island, Japan, Italy, Washington, D.C., and NAS Jax.

What's the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a group of neighbors helping neighbors. We assist with basic necessities such as food, clothing, rent, utilities, furniture, prescriptions and medical. The Society distributes nearly \$250,000 annually within the Beaches community. However, it is the one-on-one contact we have with our clients that makes our mission so successful. We visit with the clients in their homes where we determine the root cause of their problem.

How long have you been involved in the organization, and why is it so important to you?

I have been a member for over 18 years. I had the honor to be president for six-and-a-half years and then was selected to open the thrift store four years ago. I was a strong advocate for the store as a continuing source of income for our mission. SVDP is very important to me as we are not bound by the rigid rules of other agencies; we raise our own funds and distribute them where needed. When we visit the client's home, we try to determine what the Society can do to turn the situation around. We often combine our efforts with other local agencies. Sometimes a check is not the only answer.

Are there any upcoming projects that prospective volunteers can get involved in?

We have outgrown our present location, and our building is due to be razed with the erection of a new church. We would like to remain close to our supporters at St. Paul's and Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church (OLSS). So, we need help relocating. We always need help with picking up and delivering goods and furniture. And we always need help in the store and donor center. Our parishioners and friends are very good to us, and we always need assistance in sorting, tagging and readying merchandise for sale. We also need volunteers with web and advertising experience. Our store is a mutual effort with the volunteers lending their talents in display, sales, organization and maintaining our friendly, neighborhood atmosphere.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

What do you enjoy most about living in Ponte Vedra?

Ponte Vedra is very much like the beach community where I was raised. We had a home on the beach about 14 miles north of the present Malibu Colony. I fell in love with the ocean and beach as a child. When

it was time to retire, we fell in love with Ponte Vedra. One of our sons lives here also, and two more are within driving distance. Our fourth son lives in San Antonio. Our six grandchildren love to visit Nana at the beach. I hope Ponte Vedra never loses the small community ambiance.

How do you like spending your free time?

I love traveling, walking the beach and reading. I am a voracious reader and love the library. We spent so much time overseas that we missed much of our country. I am trying to catch up.

To watch a video portion of the interview, visit pontevedrarecorder.com and click One of Us.

Check out the Weekly Wrap-up

The Ponte Vedra Recorder's Weekly Wrap-up is a quick podcast-like review of the week's most important stories. Hosted by Benjamin Naim, the wrap-up is the best way to stay connected with the latest news in less than 10 minutes. New episodes appear Fridays on www.PonteVedraRecorder.com. Click the "Weekly Wrap-up" tab on the top menu to access the archive.



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Costa Del Sol - Jacksonville Beach \$475,000

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Marsh Landing Country Club \$665,000

Tucked into a quiet cul-de-sac, this single story 4BR/3.5BA plus bonus room home enjoys long lagoon views. Quality craftsmanship throughout with wood floors, high ceilings, deep crown moldings and walls of windows to bring in the views. Exquisitely remodeled kitchen with Woodsman made cabinetry, granite and gas cook top. MLS 888061



Seawalk at Ponte Vedra \$825,000

Stunning 5BR/4.5BA pool home in beachside community with deeded beach access. Saturnia and hardwood floors, Plantation shutters and deep moldings. Kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances opens to family room with fireplace and overlooks private yard, pool with spa and covered lanai. Large 1st floor master suite with office/sitting room. MLS 900311



Old Ponte Vedra Beach \$899,000

Beautifully renovated 3BR/2.5BA home on corner lot with pretty water views, bulkheaded and fenced. Travertine floors, Plantation shutters and high ceilings. Gorgeous kitchen with Bosch stainless steel appliances and marble counters. Walk to beach, Lodge and PV Club. Plenty of room for a pool or addition. MLS 856000



South Jax Beach \$2,895,000

Fabulous 5BR/5.5BA oceanfront home with gated entrance and plenty of room for everyone. Wide open floor plan with elegantly appointed kitchen, dining area with stained glass and great room with fireplace opens to huge deck with hot tub and summer kitchen. Media room, elevator and 2 master suites each with ocean facing balcony. MLS 886414

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Thursday, Dec. 21	Friday, Dec. 22	Saturday, Dec. 23	Sunday, Dec. 24
<p>Grief support group St. Paul's Catholic Church will host a grief support group in room 102 of the Family Life Center Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. The group is for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. For more information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665. The church is located at 578 1st Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Jax Beach Pier Dance Rock Solid Law will raise money for toys and food to be distributed by Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) by combining its holiday party with the Jax Beach Pier Dance at Casa Marina Hotel Dec. 21. The event will feature live music by BayStreet, dancing and more from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Admission is free with one new unwrapped toy and one non-perishable food item; cash donations to BEAM will be accepted. The Casa Marina Hotel is located at 691 1st St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Nocatee light show The Nocatee light show will take place through the month of December at the Nocatee Splash Waterpark. Nocatee's Variety Spectacular starts at 6, 7:30 and 9 p.m. The Christmas Traditional starts at 6:30, 8 and 9:30 p.m., and the Contemporary Christmas Celebration will take place at 7, 8:30 and 10 p.m.</p> <p>'Coney Island Christmas' This play, to be held Dec. 1-23 at the Limelight Theatre in St. Augustine, will showcase what it means to be an American during the holiday season. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Visit www.limelight-theatre.org for more information and to purchase tickets. Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave.</p> <p>North Beach Artwalk Artwalk is a free monthly event held on the third Thursday of the month from 5 to 9 p.m. The event is held where Atlantic Boulevard meets the ocean at the Atlantic Beach and Neptune Beach Town Centers; it features local visual artists and live performers. For more information, visit www.nbaw.org or email info@nbaw.org.</p>	<p>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Cannon Firing Demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Light of Christmas Join Turning Point at Calvary for its yearly Light of Christmas event. Experience a Christmas light display nightly through Dec. 25 at 3500 S.R. 16 in St. Augustine. Visitors can also take a stroll through the nativity tent and winter wonderland. The Light of Christmas takes place from 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>Small works holiday show Cutter & Cutter Fine Art of St. Augustine & Ponte Vedra Beach will host its Small Works Holiday Show through Dec. 31 at 25 King St. in St. Augustine. The exhibition features more than 200 original paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolor and pastel including works by local artists Lyn Asselta, Matthew Cutter and Estella Fransbergen. The gallery is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; admission is free and all the art is for sale.</p>	<p>Operation Kidsafe safety event at O'Steen Volkswagen Children will be able to get a digital fingerprint and photo at The Operation Kidsafe Regional Child Safety event taking place Dec. 18-23 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The digital fingerprint and photo safety program will utilize specialized software to capture photos and fingerprints of participating children. Parents will then be given the information, which they can provide to law enforcement anywhere in the world to aid in an investigation. This event will take place at O'Steen Volkswagen, located at 11401 Phillips Highway in Jacksonville.</p> <p>'Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi' at IMAX Theater Having taken her first steps into a larger world in 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens,' Rey continues her epic journey with Finn, Poe and Luke Skywalker in the next chapter of the Star Wars saga. This blockbuster is showing at the World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater Dec. 23 at 12:30, 3:45, 7 and 10:15 p.m. Visit www.worldgolfimax.com for tickets and more information.</p> <p>St. Augustine Amphitheatre farmers market The St. Augustine Amphitheatre farmers market, which takes place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., features fresh produce, baked goods, seafood, handcrafted items and plants along with live entertainment. This event will be held at 1340 A1A S. in St. Augustine. Admission is free.</p> <p>Enchanted Christmas Village Enjoy Christmas with Santa and his elves at the Enchanted Christmas Village. This event, which runs on weekends through Dec. 23, features holiday musical performances, bounce houses, wagon rides through the enchanted trail, pictures with Santa, yard games, photo ops, food and more. The Village is open from 5 to 10 p.m.; admission costs \$19 for adults, \$10 for youth ages 17 and under, free for kids 2 and under and \$50 for a family-of-four pack. Visit www.jacksonvillechristmas.com for more information and to purchase tickets. This event takes place at 899 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra.</p>	<p>St. Paul's by-the-Sea Christmas Eve services and activities St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is holding lessons and carols at 9 a.m.; a family service with pageant at 5 p.m.; a choral presentation at 9:30 p.m.; and a festival eucharist at 10 p.m. The church is located at 465 11th Avenue North in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Santa Claus at the Pirate Ship Black Raven Every weekend through Dec. 24, Santa Claus will appear on the Black Raven pirate ship, which departs on treasure hunt trips at 2:15 p.m. from the St. Augustine Municipal Marina. Visit www.blackravenadventures.com for more information.</p> <p>St. Paul AME Church holiday services The community is invited to worship in prayer and song with St. Paul AME Church on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The Christmas Celebration will take place Dec. 24 at 10:45 a.m., and the New Year's Eve worship will take place Dec. 31 at 10:45 a.m. with an evening service at 10 p.m. St. Paul AME Church is located at 85 Martin Luther King Ave. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>'It's a Wonderful Life' at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe An angel is sent from heaven to help a desperately frustrated businessman by showing him what life would have been like if he had never existed. This film is showing Dec. 24 at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe at 4 p.m. Admission costs \$6. The Corazon Cinema and Cafe is located at 36 Granada St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>St. Johns Town Center Holiday Spectacular The St. Johns Town Center's Holiday Spectacular, running through Dec. 24, will feature a 32-foot Christmas tree, photo opportunities with Santa and more. Additionally, visitors can shop local and national brands at the St. Johns Town Center, located at 4663 River City Drive in Jacksonville.</p>

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Monday, Dec. 25	Tuesday, Dec. 26	Wednesday, Dec. 27	Thursday, Dec. 28
<p>Nights of Lights Selected by National Geographic in 2011 and 2012 as one of the 10 best holiday lighting displays in the world, St. Augustine's Nights of Lights features millions of white lights that create a magical atmosphere in the nation's oldest city. Tracing its origins to the Spanish tradition of displaying a white candle in the window during the Christmas holidays, the lighting reflects the city's history and illuminates the setting for lasting holiday memories. Nights of Lights will run through Jan. 31, 2018 at Plaza de la Constitucion on King Street.</p> <p>Drive thru Christmas lights Jax Illuminations' Drive Thru Holiday Light Show is a 1-mile drive thru featuring two mega trees, a 300-foot tunnel of lights, custom Christmas scenes and more. Shows take place nightly through Dec. 31 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Morocco Shrine Center, located at 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road S. in Jacksonville. Email info@jaxilluminations.com, call (904) 361-6257 or visit www.jaxilluminations.com for more information.</p> <p>Deck the Chairs Starting Nov. 24 at 7 p.m., Jacksonville Beach will welcome visitors to celebrate the holidays in true Floridian fashion - at the beach! The public is invited to the Seawalk Pavilion through Jan. 1, 2018 to see 40 lifeguard chairs - sponsored by local businesses - decorated with Christmas spirit for the Jacksonville Beach Deck the Chairs exhibition. The light display is free to view and will be open to the public throughout the month of December. Visit www.deckthechairs.org for more information.</p> <p>Christmas Day Brunch Join One Ocean Resort & Spa for a Christmas Day brunch served at the Azurea Restaurant from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dinner will be served from 2:30 to 8 p.m. The brunch menu includes crisp melted waffles, shrimp tacos, scallops, omelets and more. The One Ocean Resort & Spa is located at 1 Ocean Blvd. in Atlantic Beach.</p>	<p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully-inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p>Fantastic Florida exhibition This St. Augustine Art Association exhibition, which is free and open to the public, is all about Florida's history, people and places. The exhibition is located at 22 Marine St. in St. Augustine. The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.</p> <p>High Tea at Cafe Alcazar Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the full experience of the Dressing Downton exhibition with a special tea at Cafe Alcazar, located in the pool area of the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine. Teas will take place at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday until Jan. 7</p> <p>WinterFEST 2017 Adventure Landing in Jacksonville Beach will transform its Shipwreck Island Water Park into a winter wonderland for the annual WinterFEST celebration. This year's festival runs from Nov. 18 through Jan. 8, 2018. The event will feature outdoor ice skating, an alpine ice slide, visits and pictures with Santa, s'more roasting and other attractions. Additionally, visitors can wind through a snowy village and enjoy window displays, hologram lights and decorations. Adventure Landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd. Call (904) 516-9739 or visit jacksonville-beach.adventurelanding.com for more information.</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Yoga at church Join St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal for Yoga every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a mat to this yoga class, which is suitable for all skill levels and ages. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Wednesday Market Each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., approximately 60 to 80 vendors participate in the Wednesday Market in St. Augustine Beach. Vendors and artists display produce, prepared foods, local seafood, art, crafts and more, placing an emphasis on home-grown and home-made items. The Market is held at the St. Johns County Pier Park at 350 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach.</p> <p>Winter Discovery Camps Jacksonville's Museum of Science & History (MOSH) will host Winter Discovery Camps Dec. 27-29 and Jan. 3-5, 2018. Camp topics will include Galactic Encounters and Super Spies for K through second grade, and Galactic Encounters, Ciphers, Code-makers and Code-breakers for third through fifth grade. Campers will also get to explore museum exhibits such as "Ancient Rome: Epic Innovators and Engineers." MOSH Winter Discovery Camps take place at the museum from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information and to register, visit www.themosh.org. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Throwback Thursday at Corazon Cinema and Cafe "Scent of a Woman," a film about a prep school student needing money who agrees to "babysit" a blind man, is showing at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe as part of Throwback Thursday at noon. Admission costs \$10, which includes a lunch package. Call (904) 679-5736 for more information. The Corazon Cinema and Cafe is located at 36 Granada St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Villa Zorayda candlelight tour Join Villa Zorayda this holiday season for its 8th annual Candlelight Tour, which is offered on select evenings during St. Augustine's Nights of Lights. The museum is decorated for the holidays with a Christmas tree in the colors of the Zorayda red and gold. The tour starts at 6 p.m. and will take place at 83 King St. in St. Augustine. For more information, visit www.villazorayda.com/</p> <p>Weathering life's challenges explored at Lifetree Café The general public is invited to learn about practical solutions for coping with unexpected hardship at Lifetree Café at Hope Lutheran Church Dec. 28 at 6:45 p.m. The program, entitled "Overcoming Hardship: A Father and Son Beat the Odds," features a film by Patrick Henry Hughes and his father. Admission is free. This event will take place at 8570 Philips Hwy #104.</p> <p>Karaoke at Magnolia's Pub Join Magnolia's Pub for Karaoke with DJ Covert Thursday, Dec. 28 from 10:30 to 11:30 p.m. Magnolia's Pub is located at 1190 Edgewood Ave S. in Jacksonville. For more information, visit www.magnoliaspub.com.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to recorderintern@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrerecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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Message in bottle bridges gap between worlds for PVHS German Club



Photo courtesy of David Richards



Photo by Samantha Logue

Ponte Vedra High Media Specialist David Richards (far right) stands with (pictured from left) Ponte Vedra High German Club Secretary Robert Grady, Vice President Jennifer Balestra, Treasurer Jonathan Sutherland, President Sydney Vitti and sponsor Christina Waugh.

By Samantha Logue

More than 4,500 miles separate Ponte Vedra High School and Germany, but that distance has all but evaporated for the school's German Club since a bottle that was dropped in the Rhine River fell into their hands.

Following Hurricane Irma, Ponte Vedra High Media Specialist David Richards was walking along the beach with his father when he discovered a glass bottle lying in the sand. Upon further inspection, Richards realized that the barnacle-covered bottle contained a message written in German. Unable to translate the message himself, Richards had an idea.

"I decided to take it to school and give it to the German Club, and they jumped

right on it," he said.

Taking care to leave the bottle intact, the Ponte Vedra High German Club went to work translating the message.

"It just says, 'Hey, we're a kindergarten from Germany,'" German Club President Sydney Vitti said. "We read a book about a message in a bottle, and we wanted to try it ourselves, so we dropped this in the Rhine River and we hope someone gets it."

Dated Aug. 13, 2014, the message also specified that the kindergartners attended the Traumland ("Dreamland") school in Altenkirchen, Germany. After further research, the club gained permission to call the school long-distance to speak with Birgitt Bay, Traumland's kindergarten manager.

"She was dumbfounded that we found

it, and that it was still together," said club sponsor Christina Waugh, who helped translate the call for the students. "They threw 10 bottles in on that day. One was found in the Netherlands, and none of the others were found until this one."

Bay advised the club that, although the 2014 kindergarten class had since moved onto primary school, Traumland still had contact with them and would try to gather pictures to send via email. Now, having established a method of communication with the school, members of the German Club are hoping to foster a continuing relationship with its students.

"It's terrific," said Principal Fred Oberkehr, weighing in on the idea. "And I think that if [the students] can make this connection, it'd be really great."

Christ Episcopal Church preschoolers perform in annual Christmas program

Christ Episcopal Church Preschool held its annual Christmas program Friday, Dec. 15.

Titled "Jump for Joy, It's Christmas," the program featured 2½-year-olds, 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds and kindergartners performing for parents and preschool staff.

Christ Episcopal Church Preschool is located at 400 San Juan Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach. Visit christepiscopalpreschool.com for more information.



Photos courtesy of Christ Episcopal Church Preschool
Hadley Grace Kelly enjoys Christ Episcopal Church Preschool's Christmas program.



Payton Conroy, Lincoln Polidoro and Nolan Sproull get into the Christmas spirit.

OPES STUDENTS HOLD HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

Students from Ocean Palms Elementary School (OPES) recently collected unwrapped gifts for the local Foster Family Toy Drive. Fifth graders led this school-wide endeavor to bring smiles to foster children in St. Johns County during the holiday season.

Photo courtesy of Pam Riley



Principals

Continued from 5

"Catherine is an exceptional leader and will provide a seamless transition for the Palencia Pirates," said Forson. "She has already garnered the unwavering commitment and support from parents and the community, and I know this will continue in her new role."

Goodrich holds a bachelor's degree from

Florida State University and a master's degree from the University of North Florida.

"I am beyond humbled to be chosen as Palencia Elementary School's educational leader," said Goodrich. "Our school is overflowing with a brilliant combination of individuals: bright-eyed children and dynamic staff willing to do whatever it takes to ensure our students are safe, well cared for and are achieving at high levels."

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Photo by Stacey Bonner/www.staceybonnerphotography.com

Cherish God's Children committee members Suzanne Trammell, Ann Dutch, Pam Keegan, Judi Penn, Jayne Doherty, Shari Crisman and Beverly Norman gather at the organization's second annual fundraising event on Dec. 1.

Cherish God's Children holds fundraiser for Florida Baptist Children's Homes

By Jon Blauvelt

Cherish God's Children, a grassroots organization recently formed in Ponte Vedra to support Florida Baptist Children's Homes, held its second annual fundraising event Dec. 1 at the residence of Alex and Suzanne Trammell located off Palm Valley Road.

Ponte Vedra resident Jayne Doherty, chair of Cherish God's Children, said 40 people attended the event, which featured numerous vendors from Ponte Vedra as well as a silent auction. She explained that the fundraiser was a multi-generational effort, with help coming from children ranging in age from 6 to teens. Doherty noted that the boys of the Clark family were especially helpful. The fundraiser also received support from donors all over the United States "who have a passion for children," said Doherty, who was joined by Beverly Norman as co-chair.

Florida Baptist Children's Homes provides safe, stable, Christian homes and services to children and families in need across the state and globe. The Jacksonville campus located at 2300 Bartram Road has 38 beds for children ranging in ages 5-17 and provides

residential care, foster care, adoption services and maternity services.

The Jacksonville campus' roots derive from the efforts of Solomon J. Highsmith, a member of the Main Street Baptist Church who founded the Jacksonville Baptist Homes for Children in 1926. The Baptist Home for Children later joined the Florida Baptist Children's Home organization in January 1999. Doherty said it is a Christian home but no longer affiliated with the Baptist Church.

After visiting the Jacksonville campus' McGowan house in 2015, Doherty realized the organization didn't have a presence in Ponte Vedra, so she founded Cherish God's Children, which donates 100 percent of its proceeds to Florida Baptist Children's Homes. Doherty held the organization's first fundraiser in 2016.

"Very few people in Ponte Vedra were aware of the fact that we have an orphanage, a campus in Jacksonville," said Doherty. "I did this not only for the money but for the awareness."

Visit www.fbchomes.org for more information on Florida Baptist Children's Homes.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida partners with Daymaker.com to benefit students in need

During the nationwide 2017 #GivingTuesday campaign, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida (BBBSNEFL) partnered with Daymaker to benefit students in need.

A global giving movement that began in 2012, #GivingTuesday encourages supporters to donate to their favorite charity following the two biggest shopping days of



Photo courtesy of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida

A Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida student receives gifts provided by community supporters.

the year: Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year, Daymaker – an online giving platform that aims to help parents share the good of giving with their children – has made it possible for more than 100 BBBSNEFL students to receive holiday gifts through its website, which shares each student's wish list, complete with photos and prices.

During the holiday season, donors can visit the Daymaker website and read about students being served by BBBSNEFL. With just a few clicks, donors can choose a student they would like to help and purchase items from personalized wish lists. Items are trackable every step of the way, until they are delivered to each child in time for the holidays.

To learn more about Daymaker and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida, visit www.bbbsnefl.org.

BOLLES PVB PRE-K STUDENTS COLLECT DIAPERS FOR SULZBACHER CENTER



Photo courtesy of The Bolles School

Pre-kindergarten students from the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach campus recently collected diapers and wipes for babies living at the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless to reach out to those who are younger and more in need than they are. Baby products collected by students in Catherine Stupski and Lynne Wilkinson's Pre-K classes were subsequently delivered to the downtown center.

JACKSONVILLE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL CELEBRATES 'GRANDPARENTS DAY'



Students' grandparents and other special guests were invited to Jacksonville Country Day School last month to celebrate "Grandparents Day." Grandparents joined their grandchildren in various activities including gardening, arts and crafts and more during the school's event. Pictured left are Ponte Vedra Beach residents Sam and Donna Heffner, who joined their grandson Will Misner for the event.

Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Country Day School

Nocatee residents enjoy 'Breakfast with Santa'

By Jon Blauvelt

Nocatee residents visited the Splash Waterpark on Dec. 9 for "Breakfast with Santa."

The annual holiday tradition provided families the opportunity to meet and take photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy breakfast provided by Nocatee staff and kids activities at the waterpark.

Nocatee Light Show

In other holiday news, the Nocatee Light Show is continuing throughout the month of December.

Starting at 6 p.m. at the Splash Waterpark, the show runs every 30 minutes, features three different shows (traditional, contemporary and variety) and is open to the public. The last show is at 10 p.m.

Family Movie Night: 'A Christmas Story'

On Dec. 22 from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Nocatee residents are invited to enjoy the Christmas comedy, "A Christmas Story," at Nocatee's Splash Waterpark. Complimentary popcorn will be available for attendees to enjoy. Beverages and candy will also be available for purchase at the bar. Some seating is provided for families, but bringing chairs is suggested. RSVP by emailing fun@nocatee.com.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Kendall Mcallister sits with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Nocatee's "Breakfast with Santa" on Dec. 9. Pictured behind them are Kendall's parents David and Amy and brother Jackson.

Noon Year's Eve Party

Kids get a chance to join in on New Year's Eve celebrations at the Nocatee Noon Year's Eve Party Saturday, Dec. 30 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Swim Club Green. The event will feature games and activities, a DJ, a comedy and magic show and more. Be sure to RSVP to fun@nocatee.com.

New Year's Eve Gala at Crosswater Hall

On Sunday, Dec. 31, Nocatee residents

are invited to ring in the new year at Nocatee's New Year's Eve party. Specialty cocktails will be available at the bar, and DJ Jonathan will be on site spinning everyone's favorite hits. Residents can capture memories from the night at the photo booth while enjoying light hors d'oeuvres, dancing and a champagne toast at midnight. Child watch will be available in the fitness studio for \$10 per child (potty-trained children only; space is limited).

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Nocatee 'Turkey Trot' raises more than \$2,000 for St. Johns CARES

The annual Psych Ed Connections Turkey Trot & Parade took to Nocatee for a second helping this Thanksgiving, raising more than \$2,000 to benefit St. Johns CARES.

This year, more than 450 racers registered for the 5K, 10K and Fun Run and participated in a decorated golf cart parade. The race's turkey mascot, "Nockey McTrotter," also made his debut.

Despite soggy and chilly conditions, more than 100 participants walked, ran or waded their way to the finish line. All received a congratulatory medal, and top finishers received additional prizes.

Local businesses also came together to support the event, including Fun4First-

CoastKids.com, which sponsored the Fun Run. CrosswaterConnect.com led the parade portion, during which kids waved yellow pompoms, courtesy of Bright Smiles Pediatric Dentistry. Other local business sponsors included Trader Joe's, Woolsey & Morcom Attorneys, Anytime Fitness, Ponte Vedra Golf Carts and Ponte Vedra Pediatric Dentistry.

St. Johns CARES is a nonprofit organization committed to helping St. Johns County charities and those in need. Proceeds of the event went toward the nonprofit's annual Giving Tree initiative, which collects donations throughout the holiday season for more than 40 local charities.

Timberland Ridge at Nocatee to hold grand opening Jan. 13

Nocatee's new neighborhood, Timberland Ridge at Nocatee, will hold a grand opening celebration Saturday, Jan. 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To be held at 142 Pine Manor Drive in Ponte Vedra, the event will feature free food trucks (Chunky Tomato, Mama's

Food and Son of a Butcher), a mobile game truck and tours of five model homes by David Weekley Homes, ICI Homes and Providence Homes.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/NocateeHomes or call (904) 924-6863.

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OBITUARIES

Barbara Kinkade

Barbara Mills Kinkade, age 63, died at her home in Ponte Vedra, surrounded by her family on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017. She was born Jan. 22, 1954, in Daytona Beach, Florida, to Perry and Louise (Warren) Mills Jr.

Barbara was a loving mother, wife and



Barbara Kinkade

grandmother. One of her favorite pastimes was spending time with her family, including her many grandchildren, who knew her simply as "Mimi." Barbara also enjoyed

vacationing in the Blue Ridge Mountains with her loving husband, Roy.

To her, life was all about experiences and making memories; she cherished every moment. From a simple family cookout to great vacations, life was full of fond memories.

She is predeceased by her parents, Perry and Louise Mills. She is survived by her husband, Roy; her three children, Brian (Amanda), Becky (Steve) and Mark

(Danielle); sister and brother, four step children, 18 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

There will be a Celebration of her Life, followed by a reception on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 10 a.m. at Crosswater Community Church in Nocatee. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made in her name to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida or the American Cancer Society.



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OBITUARIES continues on Page 17

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Obituaries

Continued from 16

George Joseph

George M. Joseph, M.D., of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Dec. 10, 2017, with his loving wife of 53 years, Mary Friedlin Joseph, and their children by his side. He is survived by his wife; children, George Jr. (Nicole), Matthew (Nancy), Marisa (Shealan d.) and Mary (Brad); eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

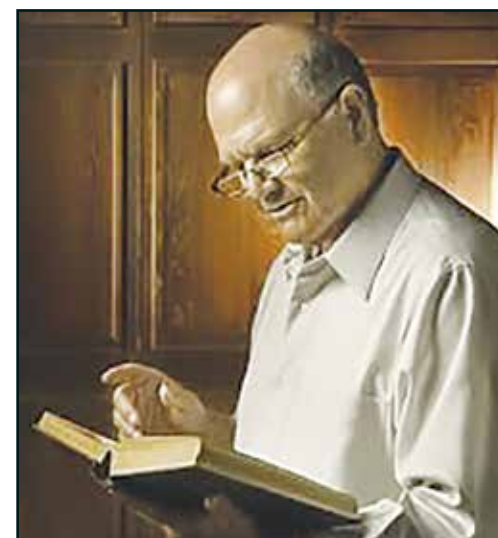
A Jacksonville native, Dr. Joseph was the beloved first son of the late Joseph and Frances Joseph, and brother to Richard, Michael, Gary (d.) and Raymond.

He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School and Emory University School of Medicine. He served honorably in the U.S. Army during Vietnam at Walter Reed National Military Hospital.

Dr. Joseph was a practicing psychiatrist in the Jacksonville area for more than 40 years. He was devoted to his patients and served God and his community with dedication, passion and commitment. A true gentleman and scholar, Dr. Joseph was a connoisseur of the fine arts, opera and literature. He was beloved by all who knew and worked with him, and never met a stranger. He was also an avid golfer and spent many hours with his golf buddies chasing that elusive white ball across the beautiful greens of Ponte

Vedra Inn & Club.

Services will be held at St. John's Cathedral on Monday, Dec. 18, 2017, at 2 p.m. Interment to follow at Ponte Vedra Valley. Donations in Dr. Joseph's memory may be made to www.samaritanspurse.org. Please sign the online guestbook at www.pontevedravally.com.



George Joseph



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- 9:30 P.M. - CHORAL PRESENTATION
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SEASON OF GIVING

Guide to local nonprofits

A look at some of the area nonprofits needing help during the holiday season (and beyond):

Daniel Kids

Established in 1884, the Jacksonville-based nonprofit is Florida's oldest child-service agency, offering abused and emotionally troubled children refuge and counseling, connecting kids with foster and adoptive homes and helping homeless teenagers find housing and jobs and more. The organization can use volunteers to serve as mentors or to organize fundraisers and other special events. Monetary donations are also accepted to help provide for residential services, foster care, delinquency intervention and more. Upcoming events in 2018 are: The Annual Golf Classic on March 19, 2018 and the 8th Backyard BBQ Championships on April 14, 2018. For more information on how you can help, go to www.danielkids.org.

Mission House

The Jacksonville Beach-based nonprofit provides food, clothing, medical care and support services with an avenue to self-sufficiency for the homeless in the Beaches community. Those interested can help the organization through monetary donations, or by donating clothing and supplies. The Mission House also seeks volunteers to assist with its daily operations. For more information on how you can help, go to www.missionhousejax.org.

Betty Griffin Center

The nonprofit offers protection and services for victims of domestic violence

and their minor children and/or victims of sexual assault and their families in St. Johns County. You can help by donating items or purchasing items from the center's two thrift shops, located in Anastasia Island and Julington Square, or by making monetary donations that will support the operation of a shelter, counseling and transitional support. For more information on how you can help, go to www.bettygriffinhouse.org.

Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue

The St. Augustine-based nonprofit supports the adoption, spay and neuter and responsible care of animals through education, outreach, adoption and fostering programs. Ayla's Acres also maintains a 45-acre sanctuary where "unadoptable" animals may live out their lives with peace, love and dignity. The nonprofit relies on private donations of money, supplies and items that are sold through Ayla's Acres' Thrift Shop. For more information on how you can help, go to www.aylasacres.org.

S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue

The goal of S.A.F.E., with two locations in St. Augustine, is saving adoptable dogs and cats from euthanasia in Northeast Florida. You can help S.A.F.E. save animals' lives through adoption or fostering an animal from the program. S.A.F.E. also seeks volunteers to help with fundraisers and adoption events, as well as monetary

donations to help pay for necessary medical treatment, vaccinations, spaying/neutering, along with food and supplies. For more information on how you can help, go to www.safe-pet-rescue-fl.com.

MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation

The Jacksonville-based nonprofit promotes academic achievement and positive life skills for Jacksonville youth through tennis. The organization can use volunteers for its mentor program, as well as assisting with fundraisers and other events. Donations of tennis balls, tennis racquets, school supplies and education software are also needed. Monetary donations are also accepted, and can be designated for a specific program or scholarship. For more information on how you can help, go to malwashington.com.

L'Arche Jacksonville

The Jacksonville-based nonprofit is a family-style community that aims to create an environment where people with intellectual and physical disabilities can share their gifts in a loving and supportive setting. The organization accepts monetary donations to help with the maintenance of the community and its residents. You can also help by volunteering to become a "buddy" of a core member, bring meals to the residents, assist with yard work or help with fundraisers. For more information, go to www.larchejacksonville.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Johns County

The nonprofit aims to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships through mentoring. The organization seeks volunteers to act as mentors through its community-based mentoring or site-based mentoring programs, as well as monetary donations to help support making matches of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, including background checks, recruiting and providing social activities. For more information on how you can help, go to www.bbbsstjohns.org.

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council

The organization serves approximately 13,000 girls in grades K-12 and adults in Northeast/Central Florida. The service area includes Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Levy, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee and Union counties. Girl Scouts of Gateway Council provides a wide variety of opportunities for girls of all ages, for outdoor activities, camping, group activities and a host of other types. The organization seeks volunteers to help mentor girls in the community and to assist with events and activities. A monetary donation can also be made to help fund programs and provide memberships. For more information, go to www.girlscouts-gateway.org.

Hugs from Hunter Foundation hosts holiday party in Marsh Landing



Photo by Anna Carrano

Event organizers participate in a \$50,000 check presentation from the Hugs from Hunter Foundation to Nemours Children's Specialty Care.

The Hugs from Hunter Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in memory of Hunter Hodges, held its first holiday party Dec. 2 at The Fowler Estate in Marsh Landing.

Festivities included beer, wine and cocktails, live music, a silent auction and a special message from a guest speaker. The nonprofit ultimately sold 150 tickets and presented Nemours Children's Specialty Care with a \$50,000 check to support its Patient Family Support Fund and Mental Health Fund.

Hugs from Hunter started after three boys, Matthew, Michael and Hunter Hodges, were each diagnosed with the same rare disorder known as Dyskerato-

sis – a genetic form of bone marrow failure. There have been less than 30 known cases in the world, said the nonprofit.

While recovering from a bone marrow transplant donated from a baby girl at age 14, Hunter began to raise money for causes that mattered to him. At 15, Hunter Jay Hodges passed away, but his legacy continued with the Hugs from Hunter Foundation. The nonprofit's goal is to finish what Hunter started: alleviate the financial burden for those who struggle with paying for medical necessities and donate to charitable causes in the community.

For more information on Hugs from Hunter, visit www.facebook.com/hugsfromhunter2017.

CancerKare Fund to hold second annual 'Night of Wine & Roses'

By Jon Blauvelt

The CancerKare Fund — a local charity established by Ponte Vedra residents Bill and Linda Adams to support breast cancer patients with treatment costs — is holding its second annual “Night of Wine & Roses” fundraising event Thursday, Jan. 25.

To be held from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Nocatee Welcome Center, the event will once again benefit The DONNA Foundation and be attended by Donna Deegan. Last year, the event raised \$5,000 for the foundation. The Adamses created the CancerKare Fund following Linda’s own battle with breast cancer to help other women and men affected by the disease.

“Bill and I have always believed that life’s lemons should be made into lemonade,” said Linda Adams. “This event is our lemonade.”

With tickets costing \$25 before Jan. 1 and \$30 after, the fundraiser this year will most prominently feature a lottery for a \$100,000 Jaguar F-Type British limited-edition car courtesy of Fields Auto Group. According to Bill Adams, only ticket holders get a chance to win the car, and they must be there in person. To enter the lottery, each ticket holder will enter a five-digit number of his/her choice into a laptop. A cloud-based software program will then run the lottery and provide immediate feedback if a ticket holder wins or loses. Bill will hold onto the winning number and reveal it to the audience at the end of the night if no one wins.

In addition to the lottery, the event will



This year’s fundraising event will feature the lottery of this \$100,000 Jaguar F-Type British limited-edition car courtesy of Fields Auto Group.

Photo courtesy of Fields Auto Group



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Bill Adams, Donna Deegan and Linda Adams gather at the inaugural “Night of Wine & Roses” last year.

feature a football signing by a Jacksonville Jaguars player who will also speak at the event, as well as food from Chef Tony of Publix Aprons Cooking School, Dick’s Wings and Grill, Dunkin’ Donuts, Claude’s Chocolate and wine from Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room. Flowers from Kuhn Flowers will also adorn the venue.

For the second consecutive year, the CancerKare Fund will present two awards: the “Breasty” award, which acknowledges individuals who contribute to the fight against breast cancer, and the

“Fight for Life” award for a breast cancer warrior. Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery’s Dr. Brett Snyder — who performed Linda’s reconstructive surgery following her mastectomy and guided her through aftercare, surgery and recovery — will once again present the “Breasty” award. Zettie Beverly — the recipient of last year’s “Fight for Life” award and a two-time survivor of breast cancer who also has rheumatoid arthritis — will present this year’s award to this year’s recipient.

“As important as the event is, the most glaring experience I’ve had is the amount

of people who have been affected by breast cancer,” said Bill Adams. “And hearing their stories ... it’s been eye-opening.”

Also at the event, an auctioneer will auction off a \$1,500 package from Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery, a four-person trip to a winery in Tuscany, a four-person golf trip to St. Andrews and a Jaguars signed football. Bill Adams, a local artist, will raffle off one of his paintings. In addition, the event will include a silent auction, with participants including Ponte Vedra Wellness Center, Daily’s, Napoli’s Pastaria, Hair Cuttery, Pieology, Beach Diner, The Loop and Mainstream Boutique.

Other sponsors include Tijuana Flats, NasCarts, Glenn Layton Homes, Pineapple Corporation and VyStar Credit Union. A platinum level sponsorship (\$2,500) and a diamond level sponsorship (\$5,000) are still available. All vendor sponsorships have been taken by Nocatee businesses. Contact Bill Adams at (973) 714-9228 with interest regarding those remaining sponsorships.

Tickets are limited to the first 200 people and can be purchased at 904tix.com/events/2nd-annual-a-night-of-wine-roses or cancerkarefund.org. All proceeds support the fight against breast cancer. The event is open to all people who have been affected by the disease or want to support the CancerKare Fund’s cause. Independent donations are welcome.

“The amount of information I learned since being diagnosed is staggering,” said Linda Adams. “The number of survivors is amazing, but we can’t give up the fight.”



Photo courtesy of Hugs Across the County

Ponte Vedra’s girls soccer team helps Hugs Across the County during the nonprofit’s “No Hungry Holidays” food drive, which resulted in the packing of over 700 bags of breakfast and lunch items for 630 St. Johns County kids in need this holiday break.

Hugs Across the County packs more than 700 bags of food for local kids

Local nonprofit Hugs Across the County wrapped up its “No Hungry Holidays” food drive last week, packing more than 700 bags of breakfast and lunch items for 630 St. Johns County kids (K-12) in need this holiday break.

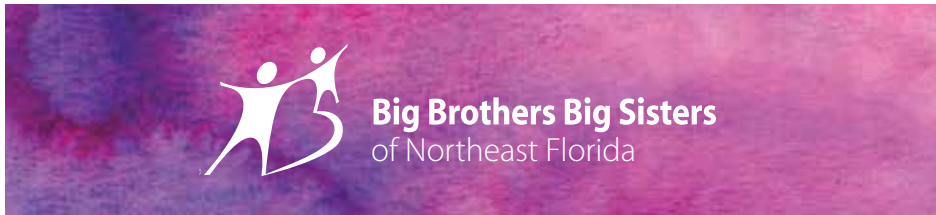
The organization delivered the food to counselors at 32 St. Johns County School District (SJCS) schools, with recipients including more than 100 children in the Ponte Vedra area (Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee and Nease). The food will help replace school-based meals that children depend on and don’t

have access to during the holiday break.

Hugs Across the County packed the food at Ponte Vedra High School and Creekside High School, with assistance from PVHS girls soccer, PVHS cheer, PVHS astronomy club and the Creekside High School Hugs student chapter.

Nease IB students also collected food throughout November, and Valley Ridge Academy students collected in December. Advanced Disposal provided bins.

For more information on Hugs Across the County, visit www.stjohnshugs.org.



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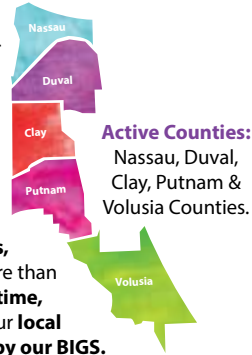
Our Mission: To provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

Accountability: By partnering with parents/guardians, volunteers and others in the community we are accountable for each child in our program achieving:

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95% Youth had no behavior referrals or suspensions	95% Youth maintained or improved school attendance	96% Youth were promoted on time to the next grade
--	--	---

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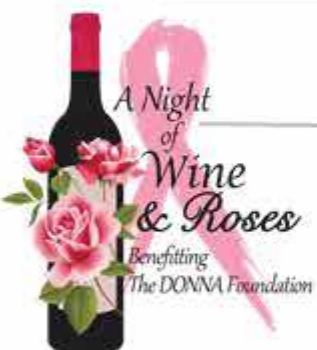
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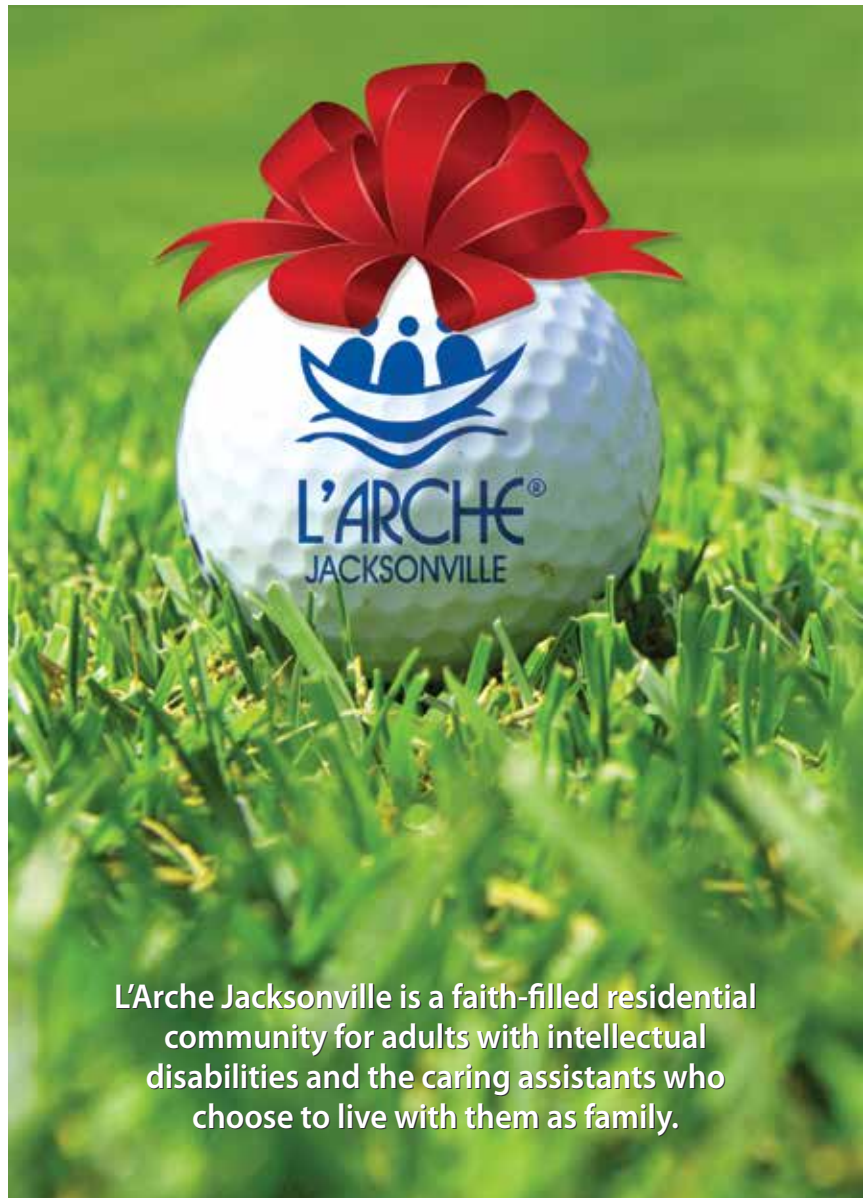
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28TH ANNUAL
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Classic

THE PLAYERS Championship, PGA Tour and Furyks help make the holidays special at Hubbard House

By Paris Moulden

Thanks to THE PLAYERS Championship and the PGA Tour, many families receiving support from the Hubbard House will have a Merry Christmas, and possibly much more.

Last Friday, staff from the Ponte Vedra-based organizations delivered dozens of gifts for the nonprofit's Adopt-A-Family program, which helps survivors of domestic violence provide a Christmas for their family when they would otherwise not be able to. The Hubbard House, which first opened its doors in 1975, provides services to survivors of domestic abuse and their families in Duval and Baker counties. The Jacksonville-based nonprofit offers counseling, a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter and assistance with getting out and starting over.

THE PLAYERS Championship and the PGA Tour adopted 10 families from the Hubbard House's program, and PGA Tour golfer and Ponte Vedra resident Jim Furyk and wife Tabitha helped deliver the gifts to the organization. Those at the event also spent time listening to a domestic violence survivor named Angela who shared how Hubbard House helped her, and her family, get out of an unsafe environment.

"We didn't know where Christmas was coming from," Angela said of trying to provide for two grandchildren in her care after escaping a violent relationship. "I didn't think they would have a Christmas like the one Adopt-A-Family gave them."

THE PLAYERS Championship also surprised Hubbard House CEO Gail Patin with a \$50,000 donation.

"To watch all those presents come in the door for all those families, it was absolutely wonderful, because we know these families would not have a



Tabitha Furyk and Jim Furyk share a laugh with domestic abuse survivor Angela (center) during a gift exchange at the Hubbard House last Friday.

Photos by Paris Moulden



Hubbard House CEO Gail Patin is surprised by a \$50,000 gift from THE PLAYERS Championship as 2018 Tournament Chairman Damon Olinto applauds.



Representatives of THE PLAYERS Championship and PGA Tour deliver Christmas gifts to the Hubbard House for the Adopt-A-Family program.

Christmas without this generosity," Patin said. "Then to open that \$50,000 gift, which was totally unexpected, it is something that will help us to continue to do this life-saving work."

Angela called the donation a blessing because she knows it will be used to help others.

"It touched my heart, and I know other people in my situation, maybe even worse, they're going to get help," she said.

Angela also said she never had the opportunity to meet anyone famous, so she was particularly

excited to meet Jim and Tabitha Furyk. But the Furyks were even more affected by meeting Angela.

Tabitha noted that violence in the home is a difficult subject matter to discuss and applauded Angela for opening up about her situation.

"I'm so proud of you for escaping and for being here to be an advocate for other women," Tabitha told Angela.

Jim Furyk said he was also grateful to the PGA Tour and THE PLAYERS Championship for allowing them to be a part of An-

gela's and other survivors' stories through the contributions made to the Hubbard House.

"I wish more folks could hear that story," Jim Furyk said. "It makes you want to be a better person. I love it when they include us and allow us to be a part of the surprise."

Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS Championship, said contributing to area causes is key to their organization.

"Giving back to the community is essential to our mission," Rice said. "To be able to put on a great

sporting event that showcases our region in May and because of the support of the community, we're therefore able to contribute back to charities like this. It's a very amazing and rewarding position to be in, and we couldn't do it with the support of our community and volunteers."

Patin also lauded the local community for helping Hubbard House assist so many families over the past 41 years.

"Hubbard House could not exist without the community," she said. "Without the community, we wouldn't be able to save lives. We wouldn't be able to heal hearts, we wouldn't be able to help people live violence-free lives."

And Patin had high praise for the women and mothers like Angela who seek out organizations like Hubbard House for help.

"You will never find stronger people than survivors of domestic violence," Patin said. "What I learned from them is that tomorrow will always come, that there is hope, and that if you just reach out for help that you can find it. I look at them and think about that amazing strength, that amazing ability to have hope in situations that sometimes are hopeless."

The Furyks, who have been residents of Northeast Florida for 20 years, said being able to make an impact on the local community through their own charity (jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com) and being able to contribute to area organizations along with the Tour and THE PLAYERS is truly special.

"It definitely warms your heart, and we're so proud to be a part of the PGA Tour family, especially on days like this," Tabitha Furyk said.

For more information on the Hubbard House, go to hubbardhouse.org. For more information on THE PLAYERS Championship, visit THEPLAYERS.com.

Rethreaded partners with Southwest Airlines to launch Luv Seat collection

Southwest Airlines and the Jacksonville-based nonprofit Rethreaded came together last month to celebrate the airlines' latest initiative, "Repurpose with Purpose."

Southwest Airlines donated leather from seat covers so Rethreaded could create a line of leather jewelry and accessories,

known as the Luv Seat collection, that is currently sold at the Rethreaded retail store, located at Barnett Street in Jacksonville, and online at rethreaded.com.

With the upcycled Southwest leather from seat covers, Rethreaded employees, who are survivors of sex trafficking, work on product

development, design, marketing the accessories and tracking sales in finance.

The mission of Rethreaded is to break the cycle of the sex trade by offering viable and creative work to those affected by the sex trade (i.e. prostitution, drug addiction and human trafficking).



Kristin Keen (left), founder of Rethreaded, and Laurie Barnett, managing director of communications and outreach for Southwest Airlines

Photo by Jesse and Lex Wedding Co.

Business Weekly

Mattamy Homes
breaks ground on two
Beacon Lake models

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Local biopharma company aims to challenge Coumadin's position in market

By Jon Blauvelt

A Ponte Vedra Beach-based biopharmaceutical company is testing an oral anticoagulant (OAC) that it says is potentially a newer, safer and more effective version of warfarin, the standard of care for blood thinning in the United States over the last 60 years that is more commonly known as Coumadin.

With offices in the Veranda building on A1A, Espero BioPharma announced last week that the company will initiate the next trial of testing for its drug called tecarfarin in the second quarter of 2018. Known as the Tecarfarin for Anticoagulation Trial (TACT), the global study being conducted in the U.S., Canada and Eastern Europe will evaluate time-in-therapeutic range (TTR) as the primary endpoint for approval in 1,000 patients randomized to receive tecarfarin or warfarin.

"Our job is making sure the trial is successfully conducted, and we prove tecarfarin is safer and more effective than warfarin," said Quang Pham, the chairman and chief executive officer of Espero and a Ponte Vedra resident. "The trial is head-to-head between warfarin and tecarfarin."

Pham explained that drugs like warfarin and tecarfarin protect against secondary strokes and heart attacks. With potentially one out of every 10 Americans taking a blood thinner and cardiovascular disease ranking as the No. 1 killer in the world, Pham said this is a big and important market (\$8.5 billion) to penetrate.

The Espero CEO noted that warfarin was first brought to the market in the 1950s as rat poison, while it also happened to possess some anti-coagulant blood thinning characteristics. He said

the drug slowly but surely became the standard of care even though it's highly toxic, interacts with 120 other drugs and is regarded as one of the five most dangerous drugs in the world. The introduction of Xarelto and Eliquis have chipped away at warfarin, but it still accounts for 56 percent of U.S. OAC prescriptions as of March 2017, said Pham.

He noted that tecarfarin does not interact with any other drugs because "it's not processed through the P450 in the liver." He explained that cardiovascular pharmaceutical trials typically test a population of around 15,000 people; therefore, the TACT study of 1,000 people shows that the product is safe.

"We're very excited about the FDA giving us a protocol of only 1,000 patients in the trial versus an average of 15,000 patients in the other blood thinner trials like Xarelto and Eliquis in the last eight years," he said.

Espero announced that two renowned cardiovascular specialists are leading what is known as the phase 3 trial for tecarfarin (TACT): Christopher Granger, MD, professor of medicine at Duke University and director of Duke Health's Cardiac Intensive Care Unit and Richard Whitlock, MD, principal investigator, The Perioperative and Surgery Program at the Population Health Research Institute at McMaster University. Phase 1 of tests for tecarfarin took place in 2005, and phase 2 was completed in 2009.

When TACT concludes, Pham said the data will be studied and then brought to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Anticipated timing for filing with the FDA is 2020. Pham added that the FDA has agreed to look at it under a "special protocol assessment."



Espero BioPharma Chairman and CEO and Ponte Vedra resident Quang Pham

"The FDA assigned a special protocol assessment and said, 'If you do this, this and this and hit these parameters, you will get approved,'" explained Pham. "This is what most drug companies want. It's very clear."

Because Espero BioPharma filed a \$2.4 million filing fee, Pham said the FDA must make a decision on tecarfarin within six months. If it's approved by the FDA, it will also be approved in Europe due to an agreement between the American agency and EU Medical Agency, said Pham, who added that rights in China have also been licensed. As a result, the Ponte Vedra native said approval of the drug would be a huge accomplishment for his company.

"It would be a billion-dollar product," said Pham. "In pharmaceuticals, they call that a blockbuster when you hit the billion-dollar market."

Phase 2 for budiodarone

In other Espero news, the local company also announced that it expects to initiate its second Phase 2 clinical trial of budiodarone in the second half of 2018.

Budiodarone is being evaluated as an anti-arrhythmic agent for the treatment of refractory atrial fibrillation. The product is challenging Multaq; Pham said his company's budiodarone is a cleaner version with no drug interactions.

Tecarfarin and budiodarone were added to Espero's product pipeline through the company's merger with Armethoon, Inc. earlier this year.

Always be prepared



Ric Schilling
Columnist

By Ric Schilling
Special to the Recorder

I read an article the other day that focused on how unprepared our country is for the next recession.

Many people reading that same article may have

a reaction of surprise at the implication that a recession was on the horizon, given that all the economic indicators are positive now and trending higher, suggesting that the threat of a recession is quite low.

That said, given that the last recession began close to 10 years ago, it is not inconceivable that the next one is a couple of years off versus a decade away. While our government at all levels may not be prepared, we, as individuals, should be taking actions regularly to position us for whatever downturn comes to pass. We may not be able to convince the government to prepare, but we can prepare ourselves. Let me review some of the steps you may want to consider taking now while economic times are favorable:

- 1. Establish an emergency fund if you don't already have one. The fund should equal at least three months' expenses – six months is preferable, and more is recommended if your income is commission-dependent. Invest the fund in fairly liquid assets so you can tap the fund if needed without incurring penalties or losses.

- 2. Pay down/off debt. Start with short-term debt such as credit cards and installment loans and move to lines of credit and automobile loans and, ultimately, mortgage debt if it makes sense economically. Reducing monthly payments provides you greater flexibility if your income takes a hit.

- 3. Don't refinance debt if you are

SCHILLING continues on Page 24

LOCAL PET BUSINESS HOLDS HOLIDAY PARTY AT TWENTY MILE PARK

Dogs Days & Cat Naps, which serves the Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine and Jacksonville area, held its holiday party with plenty of furry friends at the Twenty Mile dog park in Nocatee last Sunday. For more information on Dog Days & Cat Naps, go to dogdayscatnaps.com.

Photo courtesy of Olivia Hale/OhaleO.com



Schilling

Continued from 23

close to retiring it. Many lenders will offer attractive terms to refinance debt with reduced payments in return for extending the term of the loan. If you have years to go before the debt is satisfied, then refinancing may make sense. However, if you can retire the debt in the next two years, don't refinance – just pay it off.

■ 4. After you've fully funded your emergency fund and paid off as much debt as makes sense, save more money. Under present tax rules, you can increase your contributions to a 401(k) plan to \$18,500 per year (\$26,500 if you are 50 or older) beginning in 2018. You may be able to contribute to an IRA as well where the limits are \$5,500 for those under 50 and \$6,500 per year for those 50 and older. And, you can always fund an after-tax savings or investment account where there are no limits.

■ 5. Lastly, consider placing savings or IRA funds in a mutual fund that is tactically managed, rules algorithm that will trigger into a cash position to avoid large draw-downs.

Predicting recessions is part science, part insight and part luck. There are some who constantly predict downturns because they want to be right when one happens. Remember the old adage that even a broken clock is right twice a day. The reality is that no one knows, with any certainty, when the next recession will occur. But, with the proper planning, you don't need to worry about it – you have followed the old Boy Scout motto of always being prepared.

Frederic "Ric" Schilling is a Florida native, born in Jacksonville, FL. Ric is President of Senior Guardians of America, a local North Florida firm specializing in tax reduction, long term illness planning, asset protection, probate avoidance and life income planning. Ric is a National Speaker and Advocate on Senior Issues and has been featured by the Florida Times Union and WJXT, TV-4 in Jacksonville as an authority on Estate Planning and Retirement Issues. Senior Guardians has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and is a member in excellent standing with the National Ethics Association. Contact Frederic: 904-371-3302 or 888-891-3381 Please visit: www.seniorguardian.com

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Dear loyal readers,

As 2017 draws to a close, we'd like to thank you for your readership and continued support this year and every year since we became Ponte Vedra's hometown paper of record in 1969.

Being a community's source of local news and information is a great responsibility. Our staff works tirelessly to bring to you thoughtful, in-depth articles on important issues that matter to you and your neighbors. Along the way, we try to spotlight some of the inspiring and uplifting people, events and happenings that make Ponte Vedra and the Beaches such a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

But we couldn't do it without you. We thank you for your news tips, your readership, your advertisements and most of all, your commitment to our community. It is our privilege to serve you.



Ponte Vedra Recorder

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Chris Hill, Jason Beard, Andrea Knight, Chuck Bolen, Cliff Nelson, Stacey Reed, Jason Sessions, Mark Roberts, Ashley Caruso, DJ Smith, Mandy Johnson and Jacob O'Keefe celebrate the groundbreaking of two new model homes at Beacon Lake. Photo courtesy of Mattamy Homes



Mattamy Homes announces groundbreaking of two new model homes at Beacon Lake

Mattamy Homes recently broke ground and started construction on two new model homes at Beacon Lake, a new community in St. Johns County offering resort-style neighborhood amenities and a convenient location east of Interstate 95 on County Road 210.

“We anticipate high demand for our home designs at Beacon Lake as the community offers a wonderful environment for families to live, play, grow and create lasting memories together,” said Cliff Nelson, the Jacksonville division president of Mattamy Homes and a Ponte Vedra resident. “Homeowners will enjoy an ideal location, beautiful surroundings, spacious home sites and exceptional amenities. We look forward to welcoming future homeowners to Beacon Lake.”

The first model — Mattamy Homes’ popular Tradewind design — has 2,710 square feet of living space with three bedrooms and two-and-a-half baths, plus a formal dining room, a flex space, loft and den. The second model — the Cannon II plan — has 2,730 square feet of living space with four bedrooms and a study, three-and-a-half baths and a three-car garage. The model homes will open in 2018.

Overall, Mattamy Homes at Beacon Lake is offering designs ranging in size from 1,760 square feet to more than 3,500 square feet that are priced from the high \$200,000s.

Beacon Lake residents of all ages will enjoy numerous opportunities for indoor

and outdoor recreation and relaxation. The centerpiece of the community is a paddle friendly 43-acre lake and an expansive community clubhouse overlooking Beacon Lake with spacious entertainment and dining areas inside, as well as covered porches and a fire pit outside for relaxing and socializing.

For more information, visit www.MattamyHomes.com/jacksonville.

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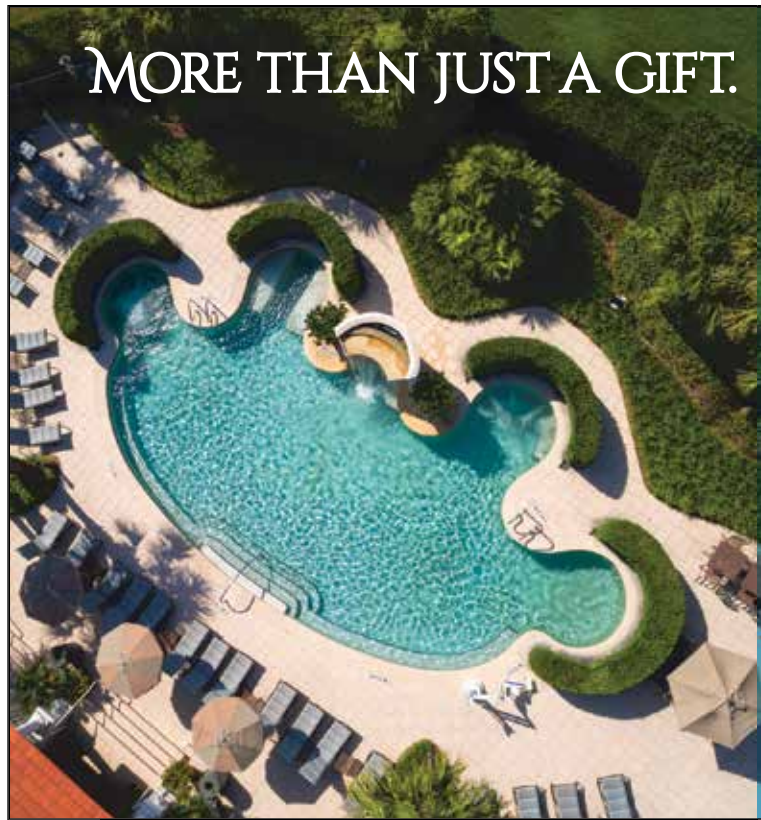
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Broadway singer, actor and dancer Todrick Hall coming to Ponte Vedra Concert Hall May 4



Photo courtesy of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will present Broadway actor, singer, dancer and Streamy Award winner Todrick Hall and his Todrick Hall American: “The Forbidden” Tour at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 4.

The tour will feature a brand-new storyline with new songs, costumes and production, and will travel throughout North America, Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. The 50-plus-city tour will kick off March 29 in Ventura, California, at the Majestic Theatre, and includes stops in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Dallas, London, Paris, Tokyo and Sydney.

Hall is a singer, songwriter, dancer, actor, choreographer, costume designer, playwright and director. In 2010, Hall

rose to fame as a semifinalist on the ninth season of “American Idol.” He focused his talent on creating his own content on YouTube. His videos of flash mobs to songs by Ariana Grande and Beyonce became viral video sensations. Hall has amassed nearly 3 million YouTube subscribers and an astounding 513 million YouTube views. He has since choreographed for Beyonce, and won the 2016 Streamy Award for Breakthrough Artist of the Year.

In 2014, Hall was named one of Forbes’ “30 Under 30” to watch in Hollywood and entertainment. He also starred in his self-titled MTV show, “TODRICK,” which he wrote and directed. The docuseries showed fans a behind-the-scenes look

at Hall and his creative team as they choreographed and staged elaborate performance videos. He has written and directed commercials for Fiat, and theme songs for “Sesame Street.” He wrote and performed in the Virgin Airlines safety video, and has been a judge and choreographer for RuPaul’s “Drag Race.”

Hall was on Broadway starring in the Grammy and Tony Award-winning musical “Kinky Boots.” He was also part of the Tony Award-winning musical “Memphis,” and prior to that, he took the stage alongside American Idol winner Fantasia Barrino in “The Color Purple.” Hall returned to Broadway this winter and is currently starring in the Grammy and Tony Award-winning musical “Chicago.” He also just released his film “Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall,” a documentary that shows the hard work and creative power of the multi-talented artist.

Tickets and VIP packages for Todrick Hall American: “The Forbidden” Tour are available for purchase at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices, ticketmaster.com and by phone at (800) 745-3000. Ticket prices are \$33 (advance purchase), \$38.50 (day of show) and \$53 (VIP meet-and-greet).

For more information, go to www.pvconcerthall.com or www.todrick-hall.com.

Jacksonville Symphony to present ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’

The Jacksonville Symphony will show Frank Capra’s classic film “It’s a Wonderful Life” with the score played live to picture on Friday, Dec. 22 at the Times-Union Center’s Jacoby Symphony Hall.

Conductor Jeffrey Schindler will lead the symphony. Schindler has enjoyed an international career that took him from concert podiums around the world to the scoring stages of Hollywood, to the recording studios of London. Whether leading symphonic works of the Masters, multi-million-dollar film scores or contemporary and commercial music, Schindler’s musical storytelling is a hallmark of every performance, according to the Jacksonville Symphony.

Roger Ebert once referred to “It’s a Wonderful Life” as a film that can be “viewed an indefinite number of times.” The movie celebrated its 70th anniversary last year.

The Jacksonville Symphony is a non-profit organization offering live performances at Jacoby Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, located at 300 Water St. in Jacksonville. For more information on the symphony, visit JaxSymphony.org, like the group on Facebook at Facebook.com/JaxSymphony, follow on Twitter and Instagram @JaxSymphony and on YouTube at JacksonvilleSymphony.

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SJCC now accepting applications for Junior ROWITA Fellowships

The St. Johns Cultural Council (SJCC) is now accepting applications for its Junior Recognizing Outstanding Women in the Arts (ROWITA) Fellowships.

Started in 2011, the Junior ROWITA Fellowship helps graduating St. Johns County high school women who are entering arts-based programs of higher education to advance their creative development and careers. Recipients receive a monetary award of up to \$1,000.

Awards are given in three categories: performing, visual and literary arts. To be considered, candidates must have both a 3.0 GPA and acceptance into a college-



Photo courtesy of Cutter & Cutter

Visitors enjoy Cutter & Cutter's Small Works Holiday Show in St. Augustine.

Small Works Holiday Show on display at Cutter & Cutter Fine Art

Cutter & Cutter Fine Art of St. Augustine & Ponte Vedra Beach opened its 2017 Small Works Holiday Show during December's First Friday Art Walk in Downtown St. Augustine.

More than 200 original paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolor and pastel, including works by well-known local artists Lyn Asselta, Matthew Cutter and Estella Fransbergen, are currently on display at the Downtown St. Augustine Art Gallery located at 25 King St., directly on the plaza.

"This exhibition has brought us great pleasure and pride in the bringing of fine art to fit any budget and any space, while remaining true to our commitment to of-

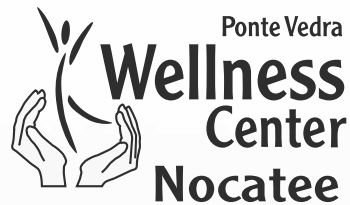
fer only the best art from the best artists around the world," said Cutter & Cutter Fine Art President Len Cutter.

The exhibition will remain on gallery walls throughout the holiday season. Both Cutter & Cutter Galleries are open seven days a week and conveniently located just footsteps away from some of the top hotels and restaurants that Florida's historic First Coast has to offer.

"The beauty and history along with our wonderful beaches and culture find us ever-more dedicated and committed to our little corner within the world of fine art," added Cutter. "Patrons will see and enjoy that commitment on their first and all future visits to our galleries."

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ROWITA

Continued from 26

level arts program or summer institute. Applicants must also submit a letter describing their relationship with their art, a letter of recommendation from their arts teacher and a DVD sampling of their work. All applications are reviewed by a panel of past recipients of the Dr. Gail Pflaster ROWITA Award, an honor that recognizes the contributions women have

made to the artistic environment in St. Johns County.

The Jr. ROWITA Fellowship application is available online at www.stjohnsculture.com. The deadline for applications is midnight Feb. 28, and applications must be emailed to hala@stjohnsculture.com, mailed or delivered to the St. Johns Cultural Council office located at 15 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32084.

For more information, contact the St. Johns Cultural Council at hala@stjohnsculture.com or call (904) 808-7330.

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photo courtesy of Amy Harris

Mark Harris (85) celebrates UWF's national semifinal victory over No. 1-ranked Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) with teammates and head coach Pete Shinnick.

Ponte Vedra native enjoys improbable run with University of West Florida football team

When Mark Harris signed to play football at the University of West Florida (UWF) in 2015 and joined the program's first recruiting class, he had no idea where the program would stand in 2017, and he sure wasn't expecting to play in a national championship any time soon. Fortunately for Harris, he was wrong.

"I would have said, 'You're crazy,'" laughed the 2015 Ponte Vedra High School graduate and former Sharks football player. "We've gone from a nobody to a national championship contender in two years."

In just their second season of NCAA

Division II play, the UWF Argonauts (11-4) embarked on a storybook season that concluded with four consecutive playoff wins, including a national semifinal victory over No. 1-ranked Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and a trip to the national title in Kansas City this past Saturday, Dec. 16.

The Argos, who finished the season with a No. 2 national ranking, ultimately lost to Texas A&M-Commerce 37-27 at Children's Mercy Park, the home of the Sporting Kansas City soccer team. But Harris, who plays tight end and long snapper, said he felt fortunate to even be

there given the program's very recent and humble beginnings.

Just two years before in 2015, the UWF football team completed a full season of playing nobody but themselves, Harris explained. No games. All practice. The previous year in 2014, the Pensacola-based university hired Pete Shinnick to become its first head football coach.

"It was pretty difficult to see a vision of a national championship, especially with a bunch of young freshmen," said Harris, who is now a redshirt sophomore/junior in

HARRIS continues on Page 33

Marsh Landing WGA plays Christmas Tournament

The Marsh Landing Women's Golf Association (WGA) held its Christmas Tournament on Dec. 12. The format was one best ball of the foursome.

Pat Tancredi, Ginny Dunn, Gail Casey and Helen Short were the winners of the event with a net score of 58.

In second place with a net of 59 were Tina Shupe, Lorry McCamey, Pat Hickerson and Sach Price.

Karen Wehle, Leigh LeMoynne, Isobel Spink and Elana Dietz finished third with a net of 61.



Photo courtesy of Isobel Spink

Ginny Dunn (from left), Pat Tancredi, Gail Casey and Helen Short win the Marsh Landing WGA's Christmas Tournament.

Sharks wrestlers find success at Fletcher Duals

Ponte Vedra High School wrestlers scored some significant victories at the recent Sgt. Marcus Preudhomme Duals at Fletcher High School. The tournament, in addition to Ponte Vedra, included Creekside, Englewood, St. Augustine, Atlantic Coast and Fletcher.

Ponte Vedra went 3-2 during the tournament, scoring

team wins against Englewood (46-24), Atlantic Coast (52-24) and a nip-and-tuck victory over St. Augustine with a criteria win. The match was tied 30-30 in regulation time and was finally decided by criteria No. 6 (most near-fall points).

Wrestlers with key contributions on the day included

Preston Turner, Ethan Baur and Troy Maritato. First-year wrestlers Alex DeAlmeida, Katherine BiJi, Max Ordenes and Rett Maritato also had important wins. Junior Gavin Riccobono lost a heartbreaker against Luke Davis of Creekside, 2-1, in a preview of what will be an important rematch in the season-ending district tournament.

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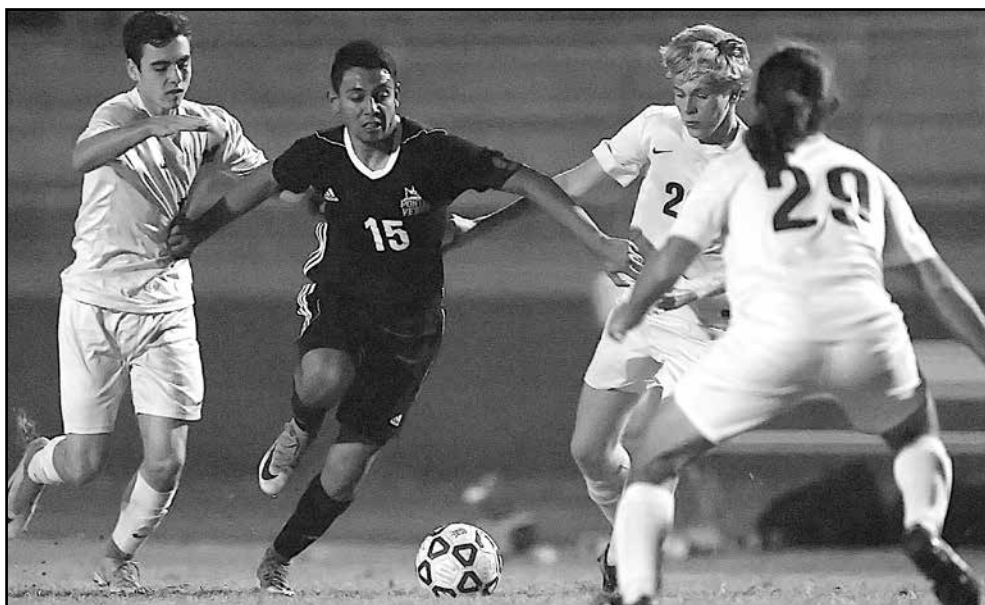
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BOYS SOCCER

SENIORS
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TOP: Ponte Vedra's Steven Sifontes (15) splits the Nease defense on the way to the goal during the Sharks' 5-0 win over the Panthers on Dec. 15.

LEFT: The Sharks' James Rossi (23) controls the ball in Ponte Vedra's 5-1 win over Palatka on Dec. 18. The Sharks lost to Bartram Trail 4-1 on Tuesday, Dec. 19. Ponte Vedra is now 8-3-1.

Photos by Jerry and Chris Norton

SHUTOUT FOR LADY SHARKS

GIRLS
SOCCER

Ponte Vedra's Jaiden Thomas (7) heads the ball toward the goal during a 3-0 win over Lake Mary on Dec. 15. The Lady Sharks are 9-4-2.

Photo by Jerry and Chris Norton

Ponte Vedra's boys
basketball heads
into holiday break
with 4-4 record

By Jim Moyes

Special to the Recorder

After a dubious start to the Ponte Vedra boys basketball season with the team dropping four games against top-notch competition, the Sharks have stormed back with three straight victories to even their season record at 4-4 as they head into the holiday break.

How strong were those four opponents who dealt defeats to the Sharks? Providence, Bishop Kenny, Creekside and Palatka boast a combined record of 25 wins against only three defeats through Dec. 16.

Only in the Creekside game on Dec. 1, in which frigid third quarter shooting doomed the Sharks, was Ponte Vedra outclassed by an opponent. The Sharks can only lament that with a couple of breaks, their record could easily stand at an impressive 6-2.

Trailing PVHS by three points with just two seconds showing on the clock, Bishop Kenny scored on a desperation shot from near midcourt to send the game into overtime, a Dec. 5 game the stunned Sharks would eventually lose 64-61. Early foul trouble, and some contentious officiating calls that sent Ponte Vedra's senior stand-out Jack Johnson to the sidelines, may have been the difference in a slim 63-61 loss to Palatka on Dec. 6.

The Sharks even hung tough on Nov. 30 against Providence, a state finalist from last season. The Sharks pulled to as close as four points in the final quarter before the perennial power pulled away late to secure a 56-47 victory.

Before beginning their four-game skid, the Sharks hosted a very strong Oakleaf team in the season opener on Nov. 28, winning a thrilling 46-45 contest against the visitors from Clay County. Since their loss to the Sharks, Oakleaf has won five of their next six games, with their only loss coming at the hands of Creekside, arguably the area's top team.

The Sharks began their very productive week Dec. 11 with a 50-44 win over a well-coached Bartram Trail squad. The visiting Bears had no answer for the Sharks' 6-foot-8-inch Jack Johnson, as the senior center

poured in 23 points and pulled down 9 rebounds to help snap the four-game skid.

Playing without three of their starters, the Sharks defeated an athletic Matanzas team the following night 52-46, with Johnson's 20 points, eight rebounds and seven blocked shots leading the way in the district contest.

The Sharks concluded their busy but productive last week of action by saving their best effort for last. In front of a near capacity crowd at the Shark tank on Dec. 15, the Sharks won a decisive 56-31 game over their neighbors from Nease.

It marked the 20th meeting between the two local schools over the past decade. Although Nease won the first seven contests between the archrivals, the Sharks have now won seven of the last nine meetings, with Friday's convincing win the widest margin of victory by either team in the series.

Nine Sharks dented the well-balanced scoring column with freshman Caden Fordham leading the way with 11 points and five steals. The Sharks came out on fire to begin the third quarter by racing out to a 17-0 run to remove any hopes of a Nease comeback.

Reese Russi recovered from the flu to play his best game of the season. The 6-foot-2-inch junior chipped in with 10 points by making four of his five shots from the field and assisted Johnson on the boards with six rebounds.

A vastly improved Jack Johnson has certainly been the catalyst for the recent Shark upsurge. Now in his third season on the Sharks' roster, Johnson leads the Sharks in most of the statistical departments, with his 15 points and 9 rebounds per outing putting him on a near double-double pace. However, it is his defensive prowess that clearly stands out.

Boasting a wing-span of an oversized albatross, Johnson has been a rim protector that has rarely been seen in Shark country since the senior season of Beau Beech. Johnson has already rejected 50 of his opponents' attempted shots, a stunning average of better than six blocks per game.

SHARKS continues on Page 33

Sharks

Continued from 32

The Sharks have endured this current winning streak despite the absence of three players who were in the starting lineup to begin the season. After playing in three games, senior Will Mons has been forced to his rest his ailing knees, while juniors Ben Houser (broken finger) and Reese Russi (flu) have also been sidelined of late.

In their absence, veteran coach Bud Beech has received some solid play from a pair of underclassmen, Kyle Barker and Caden Fordham. Barker, after being held scoreless in a couple of brief appearances, came off the bench against Palatka and recorded 18 points in the Sharks' near come from behind contest with that team.

With the recent onslaught of injuries, Fordham has become the first Shark to start a game as a freshman since Jackson Johnson, currently playing at Tulane, moved into the starting lineup during the 2010-11 sea-

son. Showing no fear, Fordham, a two-sport star and the son of former NFL standout Todd Fordham, has been clutch down the stretch in Ponte Vedra's two most recent wins.

Yet another player from last year's 19-3 JV team has shown remarkable improvement over the offseason. Logan Conway has settled in as a steady performer. The junior swingman has averaged a consistent eight points and leads the Sharks in steals with 19.

Beech has seen the emergence of three football players get their basketball legs in shape this past week, helping solidify the defense. Fordham, Barker and junior Nick Pirris have teamed up with junior guard Johnny Corlazzoli to create havoc over their opponents with their quick hands and swiftness.

The Sharks resume action tonight (Thursday, Dec. 21) when they begin play in the Providence Christmas Tournament. Tip-off for the first of three guaranteed games in the tourney is set for an 8:30 p.m. start at the Providence gymnasium against the First Academy of Orlando.



Photo courtesy of Amy Harris
Mark Harris laughs with his UWF teammates as they travel to play for the national title.

Harris

Continued from 29

the classroom studying supply chain logistics.

In 2016, the Argos defied expectations and finished 5-6 in their inaugural season, playing in the Gulf South Conference, which Harris called the "SEC of Division II."

This year, Harris said the team entered the season with high expectations and a vision of contending for the national championship. As seen on ESPN 2 this past weekend, that vision became a reality.

The Ponte Vedra native said Texas A&M-Commerce proved to be a tough opponent led by a quarterback who won the Division II equivalent of the Heisman Trophy. The Argos went into halftime down six points, said Harris, but that didn't scare UWF, since the team came from behind in several of its playoff games to ultimately win and advance to the next round. Unfortunately for the Argos, that didn't prove to be the case this time around. But according to Harris, the team is confident about its chances next year.

"I think the foundation that we've laid is perfect for us to return next year," he said. "It's going to be a long offseason knowing that we could have finished the job, but I think that from here on out, we're definitely going to play with a lot of confidence. Don't be surprised if you see us there next year."

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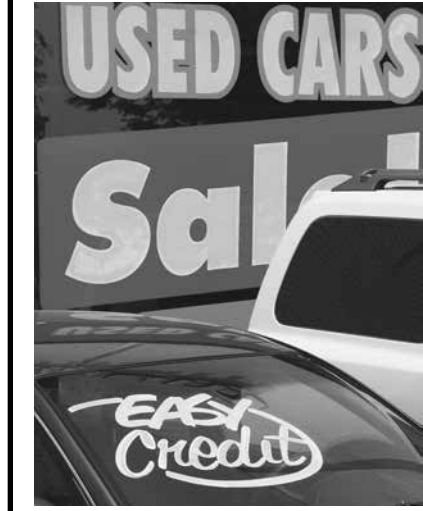
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