

# Recorder

January 19, 2017  
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PonteVedraRecorder.com



**U.S. marshals arrest home invasion suspect**

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**Get organized**

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## Sharks show **NO MERCY**

The Ponte Vedra boys' soccer team celebrated Senior Night last Thursday with an impressive 8-0 mercy rule shutout of the Clay High School Blue Devils. Read more on page 22.

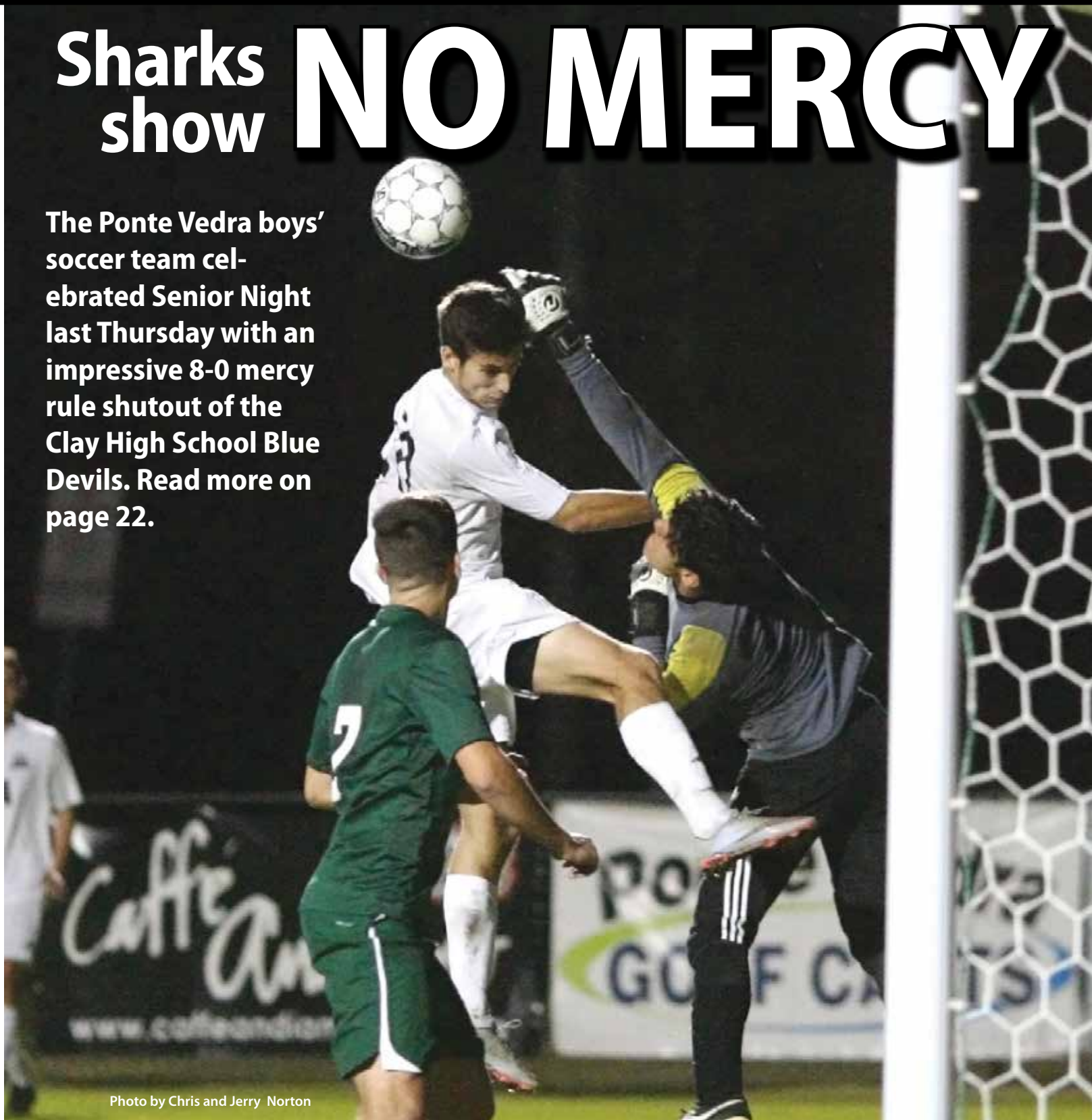


Photo by Chris and Jerry Norton

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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](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



Visit our website at [www.pontevedrarecorder.com](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com)

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder](http://www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	W	A	I	T	W	A	S	S	H	E	S			
M	A	N	N	A	H	I	P	S	N	O	R	E		
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5	9	4	6	2	8	3	1	7						
8	1	2	7	9	3	6	5	4						
7	6	3	4	1	5	9	8	2						
1	3	8	9	4	6	7	2	5						
9	5	6	2	8	7	4	3	1						
2	4	7	3	5	1	8	6	9						
6	8	9	1	7	2	5	4	3						
3	7	1	5	6	4	2	9	8						
4	2	5	8	3	9	1	7	6						

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

## WHAT'S THIS?

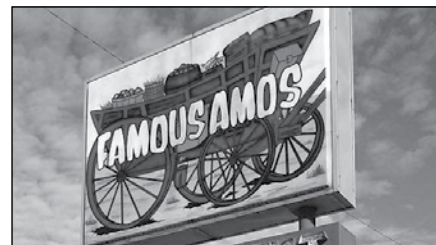


Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to [jennifer@opcfla.com](mailto:jennifer@opcfla.com) by Monday at 5 p.m.

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

Eight readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Famous Amos restaurant in Mandarin. Winner of the random drawing was **Paul Coronato** – congratulations, Paul! You may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during regular business hours.

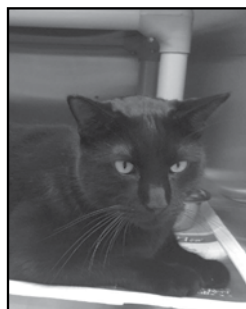


Don't forget — incorrect but entertaining guesses might also be rewarded with a trip to the zoo.

## ADOPT A PET

### CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi there! My name is Fred and I am a 4-year-old male cat who is looking for a new home to call my own. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. I love people and love being petted. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #36096



### DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi there! My name is Smiley Fitzgerald and I am a 2-year-old male Labrador mix. I came to the pet center as a stray. I am affectionate and energetic and would be a great pal! I hope you will visit me today here at the pet center! #36109



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

## St. Johns County Pet Center

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



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## Nature Connects®

Art with LEGO® bricks

Art by Sean Kenney

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# New St. Johns County property appraiser identifies growth as office's greatest challenge

By Jon Blauvelt

New St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer said the biggest challenge for his office is meeting the demands of growth and increased residential development.

"There are 3,700 new houses that were built last year in St. Johns County," said Creamer. "Another 3,700 will be built this year. Another 5,000-6,000 lots have been permitted, and new roads are being built."

Since the county is primarily funded by property taxes, which start with assessed values on property, Creamer said the buck stops with his office. He said his team's ability to maintain inspections of new and existing homes and permits in an area that's growing as fast as St. Johns County is critical.

"The challenge in the office will be leveraging technology and people to keep up with the growth of our county and making sure we meet our constitutional mandate and are ahead of the curve in doing that," said Creamer.

The new property appraiser will work to address this challenge after 35 years of private sector experience in the banking industry. The former CEO of Prosperity Bank and regional president of Ameris



Photo courtesy of Eddie Creamer

**Eddie Creamer was sworn into office as St. Johns County property appraiser Jan. 3.**

Bank takes over for Sharon Outland, who retired from the property appraiser's office at the end of her term.

"I think I bring to the office the ability

to supervise large staffs and grow those staffs and provide leadership and motivation to the people who are actually doing the jobs," he said.

Creamer ran unopposed for the position and was sworn into office Jan. 3. He jokingly said the job is going great so far since nobody has quit or thrown anything at him.

"I'm absolutely loving every minute of it," Creamer said. "This is a fantastic staff within the office: a lot of people with a long tenure that understand what we do, and they do it well. It's been an honor to join them."

Hurricane Matthew has also presented his office with challenges, Creamer added, noting that his office typically begins its normal property assessment process now. But due to Matthew, his assessors are conducting damage inspections and reassessing homes, which have pushed the timeline for the start of normal assessments into February.

"Any time there's a large natural disaster like that, it will put a strain on the office," he said.

For residents who are unsure whether the damage to their homes from Matthew qualifies for reassessment, Creamer stressed that they contact his office so his

team can help them determine what to do.

Creamer's other primary responsibility in office is to manage homestead exemptions. He said residents who need to apply for homestead exemptions or change them need to do so by March 1. He said this is especially important in Florida.

"It lowers your immediate taxes, but it also puts a cap on how much your property can go up as we go forward," said Creamer. "In this county with the growth, getting that cap on your homestead is going to be very important."

Originally from Port St. Joe in the Florida panhandle, Creamer and his wife have lived and worked in St. Augustine for 25 years. The new property appraiser has been actively involved in the community as a member of the Rotary Club, Florida Highway Patrol Advisory Council, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office promotion board, and as a trustee at Flagler College. He's also served on the Betty Griffin House board of directors and as an active volunteer at Catholic Charities.

"Public service has always been really important to me," said Creamer. "I've always believed it's important that people get involved in every level to try and improve both government and the charitable sector."

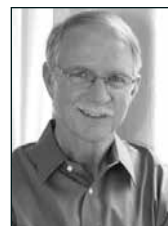
## Congressman John Rutherford recovering from medical episode in hospital

Northeast Florida Congressman John Rutherford is recovering after experiencing a medical emergency in the U.S. Capitol Jan. 11.

According to a statement from Rutherford's Chief of Staff Kelly Simpson, the Republican from Florida's 4th Congressional District experienced an acute digestive flare up, and not a heart attack as widely reported.

"Doctors are happy to report that all of his vitals look great," said Simpson in the statement released Jan. 12.

"While he will briefly remain in the hospital to treat the inflammation, the congressman's care providers expect



**RUTHERFORD**

that he will be back to full strength in little time."

Rutherford experienced significant discomfort while outside the House chamber the evening of Jan.

11, said Simpson, and received medical care in the Capitol before being evacuated to a local hospital.

Rutherford, the former Duval County Sheriff, was elected to the U.S. Congress in November and sworn into office in early January.

## Winter White Ball to benefit St. Augustine Youth Services

The royal family of St. Augustine will hold court at the Fountain of Youth Feb. 11, when The Krewe of the Black Heart presents the "Winter White Ball."

The event – which takes the place of the traditional Noche de Gala marking Pedro Menendez's birthday – will benefit St. Augustine Youth Services.

The festivities will begin at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10 at OC White's in the historic district with a free meet and greet followed by a scavenger hunt.

On Saturday, Feb. 11, the event will begin at 5 p.m. with a "Jollification Hour" followed by the ball from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Guests are invited to join the royal family in dressing in cream and white, period dress from 1513 to 1812

or cocktail attire.

All proceeds from the ball will benefit St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS), a therapeutic residential group home for boys ages 6-17 who have been victims of severe abuse and/or neglect.

SAYS also coordinates the county-wide Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) to address the dramatic increase of St. Johns County children who are involuntarily hospitalized.

Tickets for the Winter White Ball are \$90 per person and include appetizers, a buffet dinner and music by Cottonmouth.

A cash bar will be available. To purchase tickets, visit [www.winterwhiteball.org](http://www.winterwhiteball.org).



# U.S. Marshals arrest suspect in Ponte Vedra Beach home invasion

## Car stolen from victims recovered in Jacksonville

By Jennifer Logue

The U.S. Marshals Service arrested a suspect in last week's home invasion and robbery in Ponte Vedra Beach, and St. Johns County detectives are now seeking two additional suspects believed to be associates of the man in custody.

Kyle Andre-Justin Byrd of Baldwin, Florida was taken into custody Jan. 13 for violating probation in Duval County. Following his arrest, St. Johns County detectives interviewed him regarding the events surrounding the Jan. 9 home



BYRD

invasion on Great Harbor Way in Ponte Vedra Beach. Byrd was subsequently charged with kidnapping, false imprisonment, home invasion and grand theft of a motor vehicle. That car – a 2009 grey Subaru Legacy belonging to the victims of the home invasion – has since been recovered in Jacksonville and is being forensically examined by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

Following his arrest, Byrd was transported and booked into the Duval County Jail. Detectives continue to seek two additional suspects who are believed to have participated in the Jan. 9 home invasion, when two black males armed with handguns reportedly forced their way into a couple's residence on Great Harbor Way and began taking property. According to the couple, a third black male arrived later holding another person – later identified as Marcus Anthony Hatch, 16, of Jacksonville – at gunpoint. The couple's roommate then arrived home and was also held

at gunpoint. The suspects then tied up the three victims before leaving with Hatch in the couple's Subaru.

An Amber Alert was issued Jan. 10 for the stolen car and Hatch, who was found in good health later that day in Jacksonville. Investigators were working with him to gather more information on the alleged home invasion and robbery.

Sheriff's deputies are asking anyone who may have information regarding Byrd's activities or his known associates to contact the Major Crimes Unit or Crime Stoppers.

# SJCSD organizes meeting to collect input on Nease's next principal

By Jon Blauvelt

St. Johns County School District administrators recently assembled a group of teachers and parents at Nease High School to gather input on the desired characteristics and profile of Nease's next principal.

Kyle Dresback, Nease's current principal, has been selected to become associate superintendent of student support services for the district. Dresback will replace Cathy Mittelstadt, who has been selected to serve as the deputy superintendent for operations.

Brennan Asplen, deputy superintendent for academic and student services, and Cathy Hutchins, associate superintendent of human resources, moderated the discussion regarding the ideal qualities for Dresback's replacement.

"You are the folks that know what's happening at Nease more than anybody," said Asplen at the meeting Jan. 11. "You know where the school is going. You know where you want it to go, and you know the characteristics you want to see in your principal. That's really why we're here, and we do take that information seriously."

In general, the meeting attendees said their ideal principal is family friendly, passionate, caring, forward thinking, positive, inspiring, creative and flexible, among many other traits.

Kelly Barrera, St. Johns County School District School Board member representing District 4, specifically said that the community is looking for a principal that is broad ranging.

"He/she has both the ability to run the operational side of the house and the academic side of the house," said Bar-

rrera. "And yet he/she has a heart for the community, with the students and for the teachers. He/she is willing to go to bat for the students and the teachers."

Parent Lyn Wolfe added that Nease needs someone who is open to working with multiple constituencies.

"Someone that looks around and makes measured decisions after trying to understand why things are the way they are and makes decisions in due course," she said.

In addition, Asplen and Hutchins gathered input on the challenges and goals that the new principal will need to address at Nease. Mittelstadt, who also attended the meeting, said the community members hit the nail on the head with their feedback.

"It's about managing the growth and all the pressures that apply to Nease High School," said Mittelstadt. "The teachers' voice, the parents' voice... sharing those concerns is really critical and viable for (Supt.) Forson to make an informed decision moving forward."

The teachers and parents also identified issues such as construction, the quality and maintenance of advanced programs and resources for mental health as challenges.

According to the meeting attendees, some of the school's primary goals include maintaining high performance while keeping high performing teachers, creating more opportunities for professional development for teachers, and maintaining school spirit and pride among students and staff.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Asplen said they would send notes from the session to Superintendent Tim Forson, who is leading the search committee. Forson is reviewing both internal and external



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Nease teachers and parents recently gathered to provide their input on the ideal characteristics for the high school's next principal.

candidates for Dresback's replacement, said Asplen. The exact timeline for the selection of the new principal is unknown.

"I can't tell you that he's going to make a decision this week or next week," said Asplen. "He'll take a lot of time to look at it to make sure he has the right person coming in."

In the interim, Asplen reiterated that the district is not going to move Dresback into his new role until a new principal is selected for Nease.

"Nease is an awesome school," he said. "We want to make sure it stays an awesome school. I know all of you as teachers and parents really make it a great school as it is. We want to make sure we get the right fit in here."

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*Terri Mashour is the co-founder of Fun4FirstCoastKids.com, a website offering thousands of activities for local kids and families. With her sister and co-founder, Susie Mashour Rawlins, she shares her deep knowledge of the Jacksonville area and its native habitats with parents and kids looking for fun things to do.*

## Terri Mashour

By Jennifer Logue

### What sort of content and information will visitors find at Fun4FirstCoastKids.com?

Fun4FirstCoastKids.com is the #1 free local website for Northeast Florida families. It lists almost 4,000 resources for families like gymnastics gyms, sports programs, cooking schools, special needs programs, preschools and childcare centers. It lists places to have fun around town from hot air balloon rides, indoor places to jump and nature adventures to water fun for summer. Starting March 1 we will have more than 1,000 summer camps so families can research prices, dates, early registration discounts, free camps, and area of town in one click.

We also have a calendar page that lists hundreds of events for families. If you have the kids home on a Monday, just check that date and you'll see all the library programs, free fun places to jump and special events. Families will love following our social media pages where we do multiple fun giveaways weekly and share ideas for free fun! We receive over 200,000 page views a month, all from families in Northeast Florida looking for things to do with their children. Essentially we are a one stop shop for kids in Jacksonville.

### You have an extensive background in forestry and conservation. How did you come to found a website focused on family activities?

I grew up on the beaches of Jacksonville, but through my dad's extensive gardening at home, I developed a love for nature and caring for the environment. That led me to The College of Charleston to pursue a Biology degree. Following an internship with the USDA Forest Service, I came back to Florida to complete a master's degree in Forest Resources and Conservation at The University of Florida. Growing up in the city within Jax, you can imagine how surprised I was to find myself working for almost a decade alongside mostly cowboys and men in Florida's forests. I am a Florida Certified Prescribed Burner, qualified to lead prescribed burns and respond to forest fires. I've conducted close to 100 burns in Florida's forests.

When my first baby was born, I decided I couldn't sleep on wildfires for weeks without her. I stayed home and started my own environmental consulting business while I finished my second master's degree. For two years with my daughter at home, I used the Fun4GatorKids.com website to find tons of activities around town. When they started expanding, I decided to team up with my sister and start our own Fun4FirstCoastKids.com website in Jacksonville!

### As a Jacksonville native, what do you think visitors or newcomers may find surprising to learn about the First Coast and the things to do here?

Many people think of beaches when they think of Florida, but many would be surprised to know that Jacksonville has the largest urban park system in the entire United States. We have hundreds of City of Jax parks, thousands of acres of St. Johns River Water Management District backcountry lands, and national parks lands. You can get lost in our forests yet be right in the middle of big city Jacksonville! This is a great place to immerse

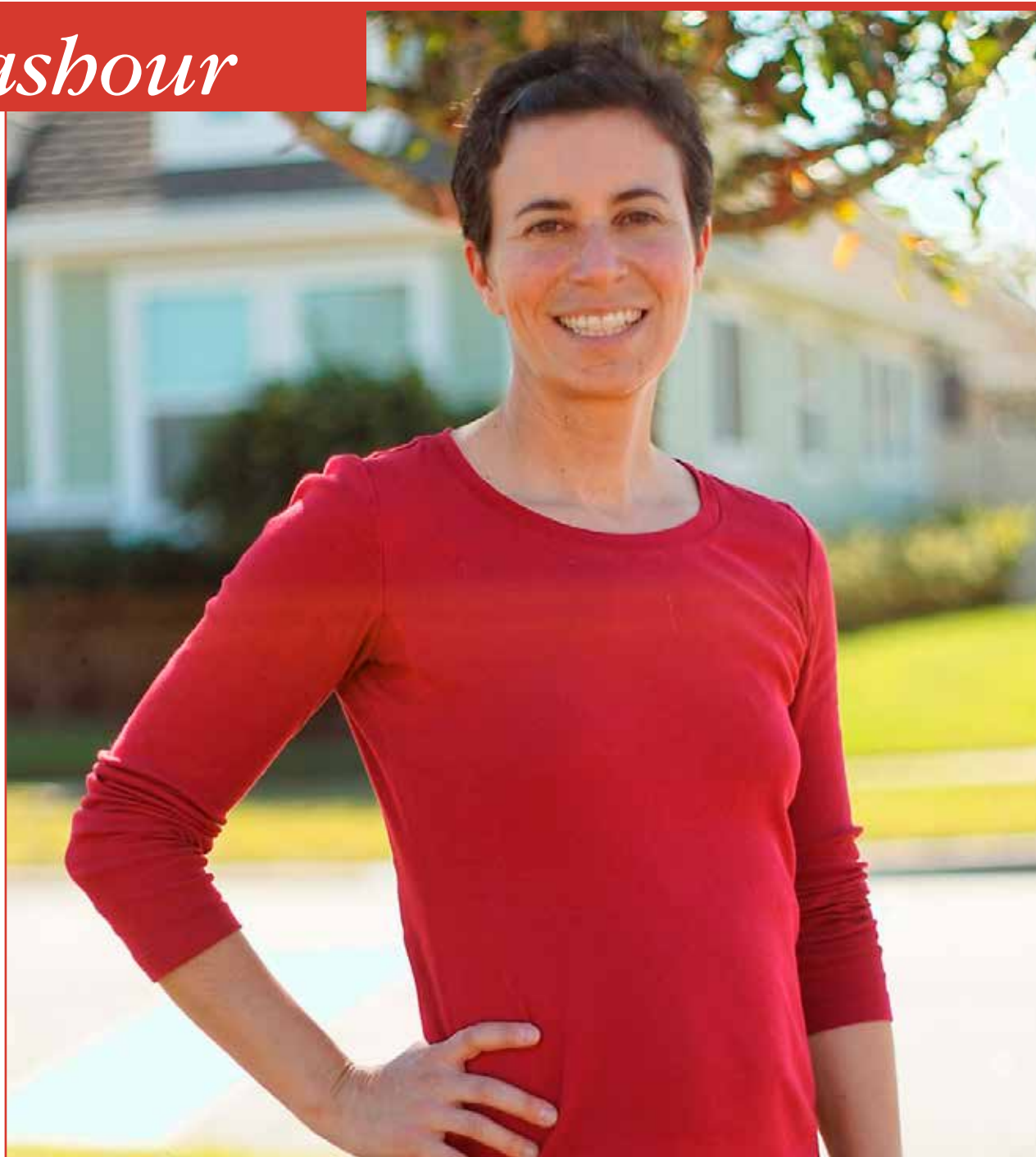


Photo by Jasmine Marshall

children in nature and start them on a path towards loving and protecting our environment.

### With your background in nature and conservation, what are some of your personal favorite First Coast outdoor activities?

My sister and I started playing beach volleyball at age 16 at our Jacksonville Beach pier so we love being active at the beach. Even though we fought growing up, we were actually beach doubles partners and toured Florida regionally, playing in beach volleyball tournaments. We were a great team, then and now! We also like hiking at Julington Durbin Preserve in Bartram Park so we can get our kids out in nature and show them where I used to work with prescribed fire.

### While your website is focused on local activities, you have traveled quite a bit. What were some of your favorite destinations and experiences?

I love learning new languages and experiencing life in different cultures to learn about other perspectives. That led me to travel to Europe in 2006 and experience the food, languages and ancient architecture of many of the western European countries. In 2008 I was invited to

experience a Rotary International Group Study Exchange to study water management in the Netherlands for a month. I have volunteered with kids in Guatemala, where I hiked a volcano to within arm's reach of flowing lava; I've hiked many trails throughout Alaska; I've hiked the four-day Incan Trail to Machu Picchu with my husband while pregnant; and I've hiked on almost every trail in Northeast Florida. In fact, my book, "100 Backcountry Hikes: Hiking the Trails of Florida's Water Management Districts," comes out this year!

### What is your favorite part of living on the First Coast?

My favorite part of living on the First Coast is being so close to such a unique ecosystem of Florida nature. Every day we are part of, survive in and get to see Florida's natural beauty. I love being near our swamps, rivers, creeks, estuaries and nearby springs. How cool is it that we have manatees, right whales that swim to our oceans to calve in the winter and even Florida black bears not far from Jax? Our beaches are wild and untamed and the ocean air brings relaxation and peace. The First Coast has all the "Old Florida" beauty, and even though we have alligators, tons of mosquitoes, bugs, heat, snakes and humidity, I love it all.



## Hugs Across the County gains nonprofit status

Hugs Across the County, a local organization that provides emergency assistance to St. Johns County students in need, has been recognized as an official nonprofit with tax-exempt status under section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

“We are thrilled to be awarded 501 (c) (3) nonprofit status,” said Brette Reiman, founder and board president. “We are grateful to Investing in Kids, the nonprofit we have operated under since our start in 2010. We look forward to the exciting work that nonprofit status will allow us to accomplish.”

Hugs Across the County will work with its board of directors to develop plans to assist more students, build community partnerships and create new fundraising activities. The founding board of directors includes Brette Reiman, founder and president; Sandy Calvin, vice president; Dr. Joseph Joyner, president-designee of Flagler College and former superintendent of St. Johns County Public Schools; Beverly Slough, St. Johns County School Board; Bailey Benoit, school counselor at Crookshank Elementary; and Kim McNickle, homeless student liaison at St. Johns County Public Schools.

Hugs Across the County was originally founded in 2010 to provide classroom volunteers to Title 1 schools. Volunteers quickly learned of the extensive needs of many students in the area, however, and its mission expanded to include providing emergency assistance.



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## Library’s Book Talk Café program to feature best-selling author Steve Berry

Best-selling author Steve Berry returns to the Ponte Vedra Branch Library’s Book Talk Café program on Monday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. to talk about his latest thriller, “The 14th Colony.”

Because of water damage to the library’s FOL Community Room, the program will be held at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The latest offering in Berry’s Cotton Malone series, “The 14th Colony” mixes



**BERRY**

little-known historical facts with speculative fiction, asking the question, “What happens if both the president and vice president die before taking the oath of office?”

Berry will also share details of his next Cotton Malone thriller, “The Lost Order,” due out in April 2017, and sign copies of his books at the conclu-

sion of his presentation.

History lies at the heart of Berry’s novels, which consistently appear on the major bestseller lists. His books have been translated into 40 languages, with more than 21 million copies in print. So passionate, in fact, is Berry about history that he and his wife, Elizabeth, created History Matters, a foundation dedicated to historic preservation. The Book Talk Café series is presented by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Branch Library, and is free and open to the public.

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# Sawgrass resident and former golf executive turned published author of unique golf book

By Jon Blauvelt

Ponte Vedra Beach is well known for being home to the PGA Tour, one of golf's greatest courses in TPC Sawgrass and some of the sport's most prominent players in Jim Furyk, Vijay Singh and Fred Funk, to name just a few. What people may not know, however, is that it's also home to a great source of golf knowledge in the form of former golf industry executive David Hueber, who recently published a book about the sport that he said is unlike any other.

Formerly the vice president of marketing at the PGA Tour and president and CEO of the National Golf Foundation, Hueber is also now the author of "In the Rough: The Business Game of Golf," which has been on sale since Oct. 1.

"I describe it as a 'Forest Gump'-like experience through the golf industry," said Hueber, who lives in Water Oak in the Sawgrass Players Club community. "My book is about the business of the game based on my experience and the people I worked with."

Hueber takes his readers on a behind-the-scenes adventure through his business career in the golf industry and shares life lessons he both personally experienced and observed in others involved in the sport. He stresses that the book is more about the people he encountered than himself.



HUEBER

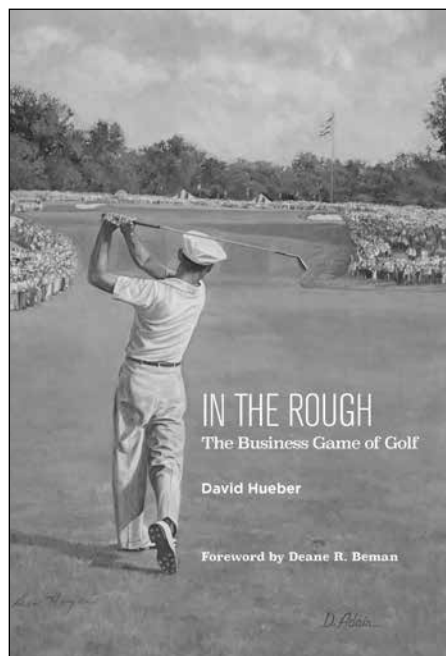
"It's about the greats of the game and golf business... what they were like off the course and in the boardroom," he said.

These greats include Ben Hogan, one of golf's best all-time players and a highly successful golf-equipment executive and businessman; Deane Beman, who was a star amateur, successful professional golfer and commissioner of the PGA Tour for 20 years; and Minoru Isutani, a wealthy Japanese entrepreneur, who is probably best known for having lost \$350 million on the purchase and sale of Pebble Beach. Other characters featured in the book include Jack Nicklaus, Ping Golf Company Founder Karsten Solheim, Greg Norman and Ely Callaway Jr.

"It makes it an easier read when you connect the dots to people and personalities," said Hueber.

"In the Rough" also touches on Hueber's knowledge regarding trends in the golf industry, specifically related to why the sport has seen a recent decline in participation.

"We created a monster," said Hueber, who noted that the golf industry has averaged 160 course closures a year since 2006. "We built too many golf courses, often times in the wrong places. The



Photos courtesy of David Hueber

The front cover of "In the Rough: The Business Game of Golf," written by Ponte Vedra Beach resident David Hueber.

model is broken."

Jerry Tarde, chairman and editor-in-chief of Golf Digest, speaks highly of the book.

"You've probably never heard of David Hueber, but he's one of the most influential people in golf over the past 25 years," said Tarde in his review of the book. "Over the course of the book, you'll get a glimpse inside the PGA Tour during its

'Wonder Years,' as well as what it was like to work alongside Ben Hogan or play Pebble Beach anytime you wanted."

Signed copies of the book are available at [www.InTheRough.golf](http://www.InTheRough.golf) for \$24.95. The book is also on Amazon for \$28.43.

Hueber, who also holds the patents for the invention of hybrid woods, is a native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, that grew up in the golf business. His father was a club pro, and he started out as a caddie, mowed greens and played well enough as a teenager to earn a golf scholarship to Florida State University. This led to a business career in marketing at the PGA Tour under Commissioner Deane Beman.

He served as vice president of marketing until he moved to the National Golf Foundation, becoming the organization's president and CEO. He then became president and CEO of the Ben Hogan Company when it was owned by Cosmo World, a Japanese company. He also served as president of Ben Hogan Property Companies, which owned Pebble Beach.

Now with a doctorate from Clemson University, where his dissertation research focused on sustainable golf course development, Hueber is currently a consultant and strategic planner for golf companies and real estate developers, working to make the golf industry less myopic.

Hueber has lived in Ponte Vedra Beach with his wife Cindy for more than 25 years.

## Annual '5K Run for Peace' benefiting Betty Griffin Center to take place April 8

Runners and walkers alike are invited to participate in the 2017 5K Run for Peace benefiting the Betty Griffin Center April 8. The family-friendly event's proceeds will go toward the nonprofit agency, which provides emergency shelter and services for residents experiencing domestic or sexual abuse in St. Johns County.

"This is among our biggest fundraisers of the year, so we hope runners and walkers will take part in our 5K to support a very good cause," said Betty Griffin Center Executive Director Joyce Mahr. "Nearly 500 people participated last year, and we hope for more community involvement in 2017."

Set to begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 8, the event will take place at the St. Augustine Pier located at 350 A1A Beach Blvd and will include a separate registration for children under 13 years of age. Those interested in participating may sign up at [www.runsignup.com/Race/Events/FL/StAugustine/RunForPeace5k](http://www.runsignup.com/Race/Events/FL/StAugustine/RunForPeace5k), or through the events section at [www.bettygriffincenter.org](http://www.bettygriffincenter.org). Adult registration costs \$25 plus a \$2.50 sign-up fee through Feb.



28 and will increase to \$30 after that date. The race fee for children is \$15 plus the sign-up fee through April 6.

The Betty Griffin Center was founded in 1990 and shelters 250 to 350 victims of domestic and sexual abuse annually, operates a 24-hour crisis helpline, provides



Photos provided by Betty Griffin Center

professional counseling for victims of domestic and sexual abuse, provides age-appropriate violence prevention training and also operates two thrift stores at Julington Square and Anastasia Square to assist in

funding the agency's ongoing operations

For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.bettygriffincenter.org](http://www.bettygriffincenter.org). To report abuse, call the Betty Griffin Center 24-hour helpline at (904) 824-1555.



# Melodica Men: Musicians take on new instrument after viral hit

By Jasmine Marshall

Joe Buono and Tristan Clark come from musical backgrounds that would be considered impressive by any stretch of the imagination. At just 24 and 26 years of age, the pair out of Murray Hill has a series of accomplishments between them: Buono is a composer and teacher who has earned two master's degrees from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute, and Clark is a recent graduate of the Juilliard School who plays principal trumpet with the Jacksonville Symphony.

But in 2016, it wasn't the trumpet or a series of original compositions that took the duo on a whirlwind journey of busking that would eventually lead them to a solo debut with the Jacksonville Symphony at the Holiday Pops concert series. It was the melodica – a free-reed instrument crossing a keyboard and a harmonica, more typically used for play or music education than serious performances.

The two saw viral fame after their three-minute melodica arrangement of "Rite of Spring" racked up more than 1.5 million views on Facebook in just a day – exposure that would get the ball rolling for the friends who would later refer to themselves as Melodica Men. With a strong start under their belts, Clark and Buono are looking to take their skills to the stage and beyond – but for that ambition, there was a rather lighthearted start.

## Playful beginnings

It was a toy that led to the inception of Melodica Men, a duo born almost on a whim after Buono discovered a



Local musicians Joe Buono (left) and Tristan Clark form the "Melodica Men," applying their classically trained musical talents to the whimsical instrument.

toy instrument in his grandfather's attic.

"About a year ago, I found a toy melodica at my grandpa's house and I thought it was pretty funny, so I just took it," Buono said, recalling the day he first tried the instrument. "And I just had so much fun with it that when my mom asked me what I wanted for graduation, I asked for a real one."

Buono would eventually show an equally enthused Clark, and after weeks spent playing the instrument they later put their skills to test on the street.

"During a trip to Seattle, Joe came up to visit and brought his melodica," Clark said. "We went and played on the street for 10 days over the course of two weeks and, unexpectedly, people really loved it."

So much, in fact, that the pair netted about \$2,000 in those 10 days – enough to fund a trip to Paris where they drew crowds of locals and tourists alike for their street

performances. It was in the City of Lights that Clark said they realized how a fun hobby could be a potentially transformative experience, one that made them want to pursue other opportunities as a duo.

"When we were playing Paris, hundreds of people from all over the world would watch us," he said. "We ran into people from New Zealand, Lebanon – everywhere. So many people from different cultures and countries, some who didn't even speak the same language as us, would just gather around and have a great time."

Realizing the significance of bringing people together in what had recently become a high-alert city was in the wake of terrorist attacks was "humanity affirming," Clark said, and it made the decision clear.

## What's next

Though Buono and Clark regard their unorthodox new venture with a healthy dose of playfulness and self-deprecation, the young musicians are eager to share with others the sense of joy and togetherness the melodica is meant to bring. In the future, they'd like to begin playing jobs as Melodica Men at weddings and parties. The two are open to acting as entertainers for a variety of events, and are equally excited to spearhead a new style of play.

"It may seem unusual but it's just really fun because it's a toy instrument but you can do things with it that are pretty surprising, even to us," Buono said. "We almost feel as if we're pioneering this instrument because we're constantly discovering new things."

To learn more about Melodica Men, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Melodicamen>.

# Talmudic course to explore what drives decision-making in the face of dilemma

Rabbi Nochum Kurinsky of Ponte Vedra Beach invites the community to engage in "brain-twisting, mind-wrestling, hair-splitting" experiences as they explore modern situations and their complex dilemmas while seeking solutions by examining original Talmudic texts.

Beginning Wednesday, Feb. 1st at 7 PM, Rabbi Kurinsky will offer a new, six-session course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) called "The Dilemma: Modern Conundrums. Talmudic Debates. Your Solutions."

Students will deal with real-life examples of the moral and legal conundrums faced by decision-makers and leaders in

situations ranging from the programming of Tesla Motors vehicles to the liability issues present in the mobile gaming app Pokemon Go.

Rabbi Kurinsky, the JLI instructor of The Aaron & Blanche Scharf Chabad Center, said participants will analyze, discuss and debate original Talmudic texts to solve dilemmas and get an authentic taste of dynamic Talmud study in "The Dilemma."

"I find people in Ponte Vedra Beach love having the opportunity to engage in social discourse, particularly when it involves fascinating intellectual challenges and hot topics such as Pok-

mon Go and Tesla's self-driving cars," he said. "This is by far the most captivating course we've ever offered and I encourage everyone to attend."

"The Dilemma" is accredited in Florida for continuing legal education credits for attorneys and others in the legal professions. Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, includ-

ing those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple or other house of worship.

Those interested may call (904) 543-9301 or visit [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com) for registration and for other course-related information.

# St. Augustine Film Festival to feature over 40 films

A zany comedy about overnight millionaires, a Spanish-language film about a couple questioning their marriage and a documentary about American World War II veterans who risked everything to help the fledgling state of Israel survive are among the films to be screened as part of the 7th annual St. Augustine Film Festival.

To be held from Jan. 19-22 at various downtown venues, the festival will feature more than 40 films. Screening locations include Flagler College's Lewis Auditorium and Gamache-Koger Theatre as well

as on three screens at Corazon Cinema and Café.

A series of festival parties will also be held throughout the weekend.

Film and party passes are on sale on the festival's website: <http://www.staugfilmfest.com/>. Individual tickets for films at the Lewis Auditorium are only available online. All other tickets can be purchased 10 minutes prior to show time at the venue via cash or credit card. Individual tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and \$7 for military members and students.

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# Call for contact lens users to commit to healthy vision



Dr. S. Akbar Hasan  
Special to the Recorder

January is National Eye Care Month, making the start of the new year the perfect time to develop good habits – and if you’re a contact lens wearer, it may also be time to

eliminate a few bad ones.

Ninety-nine percent of contact lens wearers in the United States report at least one behavior that puts them at risk for a contact lens-related eye infection – including wearing contacts for too long, keeping them on while in the pool or occasionally wearing them overnight.

While these may seem like minor offenses, a recent study from the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found these oversights can lead to contact lens-related infections that can cause long-lasting eye damage. The study found nearly one in five contact lens-related eye infections result in serious issues, including scarred corneas, reduced vision or the need for a corneal transplant.

The good news is these infections

are largely preventable, but to ensure the health of your eyes, it’s important to understand the association between contact lens care and corneas.

## Contact lenses and corneal health

The cornea is the outer layer of the eye that acts as a clear, protective window. Unlike most tissues in the body, the cornea contains no blood vessels to nourish or protect it against infection.

Many contact lens-related infections start as a corneal abrasion, or scratched eye – a common eye injury that causes discomfort and redness. Improper contact use causes bacteria to grow in the lens – and when the lens is put into the scratched eye, it increases the risk of bacteria getting in the abrasion and becoming infected.

## Best practices

Fortunately, it’s easy to vastly reduce your risk of developing an eye infection by following contact lens best practices.

The most important practice is to follow your doctor’s protocol. Because they are so commonplace, it’s easy to forget that contact lenses are medical devices. Just like prescription medicine, you should use contacts as directed by your doctor – including regularly cleaning and replacing them.

Other good practices include washing and drying your hands before touching lenses, using fresh solution when cleaning, and removing them before going to sleep or swimming. It’s especially important to teach these practices to children or young adults who are just starting to wear contact lenses, as it will help them develop good lifelong habits.

In terms of contact lens type, daily disposable lenses are associated with the fewest risks, especially compared to extended wear lenses. Another option for lifelong contact lens wearers is LASIK, or laser eye surgery, which eliminates the need for glasses or lenses by reshaping the cornea and permanently correcting your vision.

If you do experience corneal irritation for more than a few days or develop an abrasion, please contact your eye doctor immediately. By getting early treatment, you can prevent a scratch from becoming an infection.

As we begin 2017, one of the easiest resolutions you can adopt is taking good care of your eyes. With proper contact lens use, you can keep looking forward to a promising new year with clear vision.

**Dr. S. Akbar Hasan is a Ponte Vedra resident and a board certified, fellowship-trained cornea, LASIK and cataract specialist. For more information on Dr. Hasan and his practice, visit [FloridaEyeSpecialists.com](http://FloridaEyeSpecialists.com).**

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**Excited about the prospect of a new "Central Park" in Ponte Vedra?**

If you haven't already heard, the portion of the Oak Bridge Golf Course just North of the Sawgrass Village Shopping Center is set to be sold in order to raise the funds needed to transform & revitalize the remaining 12 holes of the course, and in effect, save a failing golf operation and protect the property values of the community. The success of this golf course affects us all, regardless of where you live in Ponte Vedra. However, we believe that selling this property to create more residential development is NOT the answer. We are proposing a "central park" that will be funded & supported by tax-deductible donations from local individuals and businesses. So allow us to present our vision, the Sawgrass Village Community Park & Gardens! Our non-profit organization, in partnership with like-minded, reputable organizations in town, are well on our way to making this vision a reality... and we need the community's help! We are in need of volunteers to help us organize the fund-raising effort in order to purchase this last significant piece of open-green space remaining in Ponte Vedra for our residents to enjoy! Please visit our website for more information on how to pledge a donation, or to sign-up to volunteer to help us with our cause & protect the charm of our wonderful coastal town. We need to come together as a community to preserve this land for our families, and for the generations of families to come! Visit [www.SawgrassVillagePark.com](http://www.SawgrassVillagePark.com)



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# Jim Furyk named U.S. Ryder Cup team captain

Ponte Vedra Beach resident Jim Furyk will be the U.S. Ryder Cup team captain for the 42nd Ryder Cup, which will be played Sept. 28-30, 2018 at Le Golf National in Guyancourt, France.

“For more than two decades, Jim Furyk has stood proud and tall on the American golf stage and we are thrilled to have him as our Ryder Cup Captain,” said PGA of America President Paul Levy, who joined Furyk for a news conference Jan. 11 with members of the media at PGA of America Headquarters. “His accomplishments as a player are well known, but his inherent competitive spirit and leadership traits are what made his candidacy so attractive. Jim offers the total package and is well suited for the task at hand.”

The unanimous choice by the Ryder Cup committee last month, Furyk is the 28th U.S. captain since the Ryder Cup started in 1927. Thomas Bjorn of Denmark was appointed as the 2018 European Ryder Cup team captain.

The 46-year-old Furyk has played in nine consecutive Ryder Cups, which is the second-most consecutive appearances in U.S. Ryder Cup history. Only Phil Mickelson has played in more among Americans, with 11.

Furyk played on winning U.S. Ryder Cup efforts in 1999, 2008 and in 2016, when he served as vice captain.

A 17-time winner on the PGA Tour, Furyk also played in seven Presidents Cups, serving as captain's assistant in 2015.

“I would like to thank Davis (Love III) and the PGA of America Ryder Cup Committee for their faith in me and my selection as United States Ryder Cup captain,” said Furyk at the news conference. “I’ve said many times that the Ryder Cup is part of my DNA, so this opportunity was a privilege and honor to accept. This is a special moment for my family.”

Furyk named Love as the first of his vice captains. Love was the U.S. captain in 2012 and 2016, playing in six Ryder Cups overall.

Last year, the United States won the Ryder Cup for the first time since 2008 by defeating Europe, 17 to 11, at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minnesota.

“I am anxious to get started and recapture the momentum we enjoyed at Hazeltine, both in the team room and on the golf course,” said Furyk.

“It’s been a long time since we’ve won in Europe, and I am looking forward to the challenge.”

Furyk has lived in Ponte Vedra Beach since 1996, and he and his wife Tabitha have been involved in numerous local charities through the Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation.



Photo by Carrie Resch

**Ponte Vedra Beach resident Jim Furyk will be the 28th U.S. captain for the Ryder Cup since the tournament began in 1927.**

# Country singers Alan Jackson, Lee Ann Womack to perform at St. Augustine Amphitheatre



ALAN JACKSON



LEE ANN WOMACK

Country star Alan Jackson will bring his “Honky Tonk Highway Tour” to the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on Saturday, April 8 with multi-platinum singer Lee Ann Womack as special guest. Jackson last performed to a sold-out crowd at the amphitheatre in 2015.

The country icon will perform hits such as “Chattahoochee,” “Drive” and “Gone Country.” His 2017 “Honky Tonk Highway Tour” comes on the heels of the recent 25th anniversary celebration in which the singer played to sold-out crowds throughout 2015 and 2016. Jackson recently released the album, “Angels and Alcohol.”

The Newnan, Georgia native has sold nearly 60 million albums worldwide, ranks as one of the 10 best-selling male vocalists of all time and was recently listed as one of Billboard’s Top 10 Country Artists.

Special guest Lee Ann Womack joins Jackson for his St. Augustine show. As a Jackson duet partner of long-standing, Womack has appeared on several of the singer’s albums, and the two have shared

a number of stages including the Grand Ole Opry. Womack also honored Jackson at the 2014 CMT Music Awards, where he received his Impact Award.

Womack has sung for presidents, the Nobel Prize concert and Maya Angelou’s Celebration of Joy Rising. A Grammy Award winner and Country Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year, Womack also won the prestigious Album of the Year for “There’s More Where That Came From,” plus a pair of Singles of the Year. The East Texan has also performed duets with Willie Nelson, George Strait, and others.

Tickets for Alan Jackson with special guest Lee Ann Womack are on sale now at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box offices. Tickets are also available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), all authorized TicketMaster outlets or by phone at (800) 745-3000. Doors open April 8 at 5:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$70 to \$95.50. For more information, visit [www.staugustineamphitheatre.com](http://www.staugustineamphitheatre.com).

Photos provided by St. Augustine Amphitheatre



# Inaugural Atlantic Beach Luminaria raises \$3,700

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty's inaugural Atlantic Beach Luminaria raised \$3,700.

The funds were donated to Boy Scout Troop 15 of St. Paul's Catholic Church in support of My Brothers' Keeper and the Beaches Town Center Agency for Beaches area community improvements.

"It was so incredible to see the streets of Atlantic Beach throughout the community lined with luminaria, magically transforming our city into a night of lights and a celebration of the holiday season like it has never

seen before," said Realtor Lee Elmore. "I personally want to thank everyone who volunteered and participated to help make the inaugural Atlantic Beach Luminaria a huge success.

"We are looking forward to even bigger participation in the years to come," Elmore continued, adding that Neptune Beach would be added to the event next year. "So get ready for an even bigger night of lights."

Modeled after the popular luminaria in

LUMINARIA continues on Page 35



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**Friday, January 20th & Saturday, January 21st**



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**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony | 5:00pm, Friday, January 20th**  
**Artist's Reception | 6:00-10:00pm, Friday, January 20th**  
**Book Signing Event | 1:00-3:00PM Saturday, January 21st**  
**Artist's Reception | 6:00-10:00pm, Saturday, January 21st**



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In celebration of the Grand Opening of our new Ponte Vedra Beach gallery Cutter & Cutter Fine Art presents this special Five Hundred Dollar Certificate valid for use towards any new purchase of fine art that totals \$5,000 or more in either our Sawgrass Village or downtown St. Augustine locations. Certificate is valid until March 31, 2017.



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Thursday, Jan. 19	Friday, Jan. 20	Saturday, Jan. 21	Sunday, Jan. 22
<p><b>Human - The Movie</b> The Golden Way: Films That Make a Difference, an initiative of the St. Augustine Film Society in partnership with the St. Augustine Film Festival, will screen the film "Human" at the St. Augustine Film Festival on Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in Flagler College's Ringhaver Student Center. The film, produced and directed by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, consists of exclusive aerial footage, music and first-person stories told into the camera. Christopher LeClere, a visual anthropologist at the University of Florida, will moderate the event.</p> <p><b>The BookMark to host Karen White</b> New York Times bestselling author Karen White will make an appearance at The BookMark Jan. 19 to sign and discuss copies of her new book, "The Guests on South Battery." Beginning at 7 p.m., the author named by Huffington Post as "the queen of southern fiction" will speak with visitors about her new venture. Set in Charleston, the book follows protagonist Melanie Trenholm and the secrets and spirits she unearths when she returns to work after maternity leave. The BookMark is located at 220 First Street in Neptune Beach.</p> <p><b>Emerging Leaders Kick-Off</b> On Jan. 19, the United Way of St. Johns County will host the Emerging Leaders Kick Off Party. United Way SJC invites all members of the community to take part at the Lightner Museum's Grand Ballroom for a night of networking, fun and learning. This new affinity group is a diverse group of young professionals working to create the next generation of philanthropic leaders in St Johns County by offering activities each month that bring members and the community together. The Lightner Museum is located at 75 King Street in downtown St. Augustine. This event will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person at the door and entry includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and drink tickets for beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks. Highlighting the event will be music and five chances to win an exclusive 24-hour Lincoln car test drive, a three-course dinner for two and wine pairing at Michael's Tasting Room presented by Bozard Ford and Lincoln.</p>	<p><b>International Shabbat Dinner</b> On Friday, Jan. 20 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., join Chabad at the Beaches in the The Aaron and Blanche Scharf Chabad Center as children from around the world gather for an evening of unity at this year's International Shabbat Dinner. The latest in a series of fun, inspiring, and family centered events from CKids Club, the International Shabbat Dinner celebrates connection, friendship, and the holistic Shabbat, a sacred day of rest honored for thousands of years by Jews throughout the world. The evening will feature candle lighting, prayer, interactive games and performances, singing, and Shabbat eats and treats. Visit <a href="http://www.Chabad-Beaches.com">www.Chabad-Beaches.com</a> for more information and to RSVP.</p> <p><b>Children's Pen Pal Program</b> The Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church's Children's Ministry will introduce a "pen pal" program connecting seniors with 3rd-6th graders so that they may learn from each other, support one another and exchange items. This program is open to anyone interested in participating. Contact Mary Margaret at <a href="mailto:mbarbour38@gmail.com">mbarbour38@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Coastal Wine Market Wine Tasting</b> Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p><b>PV Professionals Networking Group</b> The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group will meet Friday at 9 a.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, located at 5125 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. Join with other local business professionals and enjoy socializing while making valuable business contact. For more information, call Gloria at (904) 635-6103, visit <a href="http://www.pvpng.com">www.pvpng.com</a> or email <a href="mailto:pontevedrapng@gmail.com">pontevedrapng@gmail.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>Archaeological Institute Lecture</b> The Archaeological Institute of America—Jacksonville Society will meet at noon on Jan. 21 in Building 51 at the University of North Florida. Dr. Lee Newsom, an archaeologist and ethnobotanist with Flagler College, will present a lecture titled "Mastodon Trail Mix: foraging behavior of the 'original forest elephant' based on Aucilla River 'digesta.'" The lecture will highlight the inter-species dynamics of an ancient forest community in Florida. This event is free and open to the public. Complimentary refreshments will be served afterwards in the Archaeology Lab. For more information, contact Melva Price at (904) 241-9411, email <a href="mailto:aiajaxsoc@gmail.com">aiajaxsoc@gmail.com</a> or visit <a href="http://www.aiajax.org">www.aiajax.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Ponte Vedra YMCA Open House</b> The Ponte Vedra YMCA will host an open house event every Saturday throughout the month of January to showcase its offerings. With activities for the entire family, the free event will take place throughout the day. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane. For more information, call (904) 543-9622.</p> <p><b>Katz 4 Keeps Adoption Weekends</b> Join Katz 4 Keeps Jan. 21-22 for a weekend adoption event helping cats and kittens find their forever homes. This event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Katz 4 Keeps facility located at 935B A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information about this event or organization, call (904) 834-3223 or email <a href="mailto:info@katz4keeps.org">info@katz4keeps.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Science and History Boat Tour</b> Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History has partnered with the St. Johns River Taxi to host science and history river tours every Saturday. Guests will learn about the history of Jacksonville and the importance of the St. Johns River as they cruise the river. Boats leave from the museum, located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville, at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$12 for children. To learn more, visit <a href="http://www.themosh.org">www.themosh.org</a></p>	<p><b>Blood Drive at PV United Methodist Church</b> Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church, located at 76 S. Roscoe Blvd., will host a blood drive Jan. 22 with the bloodmobile in the parking lot from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Anyone in good health who is at least 17 years of age and 110 pounds may donate. Those who have visited countries with malaria within the past year are not eligible. To make an appointment, visit <a href="http://www.oneblood.org">www.oneblood.org</a> and click "donate now." Enter the code 31016 in the sponsor code box and follow the prompts to select a time. Confirmation of the appointment may be printed and presented at the blood drive. Photo ID is needed and walk-ins are welcome. Email <a href="mailto:NFlaGal@aol.com">NFlaGal@aol.com</a> with questions or concerns.</p> <p><b>Anne Frank: A History for Today</b> The international exhibit that inspired a community-wide initiative will open to the public at the Museum of Science History (MOSH) in Downtown Jacksonville. Through Feb. 12, visitors will enjoy free admission to the museum and exhibit, which has informed visitors all around the world through excerpts, photographs and events held throughout the city. The exhibit will be presented as part of "Voices of Hope," a larger community initiative guided by MOSH that will incorporate several coordinated programs by leading organizations throughout Northeast Florida. "Anne Frank: A History for Today" and "Voices of Hope" will aim to generate conversation among Jacksonville communities, from school children to prominent leaders and professionals, on the theme of universal acceptance.</p> <p><b>Care Connection Volunteers Needed</b> Adult volunteers are needed at Care Connection, located at 180 Marine St. in St. Augustine, to mentor young adult volunteers on weekend home improvement and minor repair projects for seniors who can no longer do the work themselves. Adult volunteers will help youths engage with seniors as they learn career skills and professional behavior in the field while performing community service. For more information, call (904) 209-3686 or email <a href="mailto:aleach@stjohnscoa.com">aleach@stjohnscoa.com</a>.</p>

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Monday, Jan. 23	Tuesday, Jan. 24	Wednesday, Jan. 25	Thursday, Jan. 26
<p><b>Auditions for 'Once Upon a Mattress'</b> The Christ Church School of the Arts will hold auditions for its spring mainstage musical production of "Once Upon a Mattress," a comedic musical telling of the classic fairytale, "The Princess and the Pea." Audition dates and times are Jan. 23-24 from 6 to 9 p.m. Casting will be for all principal and supporting roles plus ensemble. Contact Barb Roberts at mrob3613@aol.com for more information and to reserve a spot. Performance dates will be April 26-27, 29-30 and May 4-7. Christ Church Ponte Vedra is located at 400 San Juan Drive.</p> <p><b>Travel Training Program</b> The Council on Aging's Travel Training program is designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. Residents interested in expanding their transportation options or who would like to increase their confidence as a bus rider can receive assistance from trained volunteers in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging at (904) 315-6505 or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p><b>Life Enrichment Group</b> This group is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. The program is offered daily, serving the Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>Lawn Service Volunteers Needed</b> The Council on Aging is seeking volunteers for Care Connection at 180 Marine St. in St. Augustine. Lawn service volunteers are needed, including volunteers who will act as a job scheduler, job supervisor and equipment maintenance person. For more information, call the Council on Aging at (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com.</p>	<p><b>FEMA Floodplain Map Open House</b> FEMA and St. Johns County will host a community outreach meeting regarding proposed floodplain map updates from 10 a.m. to noon and 4 to 7 p.m. Jan. 24 at the Community Center and Exhibition Hall, 2508 South Beach Parkway, Jacksonville Beach. Residents and businesses are encouraged to review proposed updates. For more information, please call (904) 827-6806.</p> <p><b>Mike Shackleford and Friends: Kiwanis Holiday Charity Concert</b> Singer-songwriter Mike Shackleford is assembling his fourth annual Mike Shackleford and Friends: Kiwanis Holiday Charity Concert. Music will range from old favorites to new compositions. The concert takes place at 6:30 p.m. and will be located at the Community Presbyterian Church at 150 Sherry St. in Atlantic Beach. Ticket proceeds will support a variety of community projects of the Kiwanis Club of Jacksonville Beaches, including scholarships for Fletcher High School seniors, a music scholarship to a Fletcher High School student, programs for the Sulzbacher Center through the year and more. Tickets cost \$10 each and are available at the door, from any Kiwanis member or by calling (904) 241-9411.</p> <p><b>Prenatal Yoga</b> Share experiences with other women with empowerment through yoga, meditation and guided visualization. This approach is gentle and safe for women in all stages of pregnancy. Participants are asked to bring a yoga mat, towel and water. This event will be held at 6 p.m. and there is a \$13 class fee per attendee. For additional information or to register, all (904) 202-5376 or visit baptistjax.com/ymca. Prenatal yoga classes will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center in the Ponte Vedra YMCA located at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Sunset Rotary Club Meeting</b> The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call club President Janeene Hart at (904) 412-5409 or email jwhart1208@gmail.com.</p>	<p><b>Homeschool Day at St. Augustine Alligator Farm</b> St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park will host a Homeschool Day for home-schooled kids of all ages. This event will feature educational adventures unique to the park in addition to special discounted admission rates from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The ToucanTina snack bar will offer a \$5 brown bag lunch special, which includes a sandwich, Lays potato chips, animal crackers and a juice box. There will also be a free educational station set up with biofacts and live animals in the Anastasia Island Conservation Center from 10 a.m. to noon. Registration is not required. St. Johns County residents pay \$7 per person and non-residents pay \$8 per person. Children 18 months and younger are admitted free. St. Augustine Alligator Farm is located at 999 Anastasia Blvd. For more information, visit www.alligatorfarm.com.</p> <p><b>Adult Day Health Volunteers Needed</b> Ponte Vedra Therapeutic Adult Day Health Care at 1050 A1A North is in need of a volunteer any weekday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This volunteer will help participants in activities such as games, music, chair exercises and simple arts and crafts projects. Certified pet therapy dogs are also welcome. Call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com for more information.</p> <p><b>Well-being Wednesday</b> During and after the Mid-Week Market in Bull Park, free well-being classes will be held at the Adele Grage Cultural Center. Qigong classes, including Tai Chi, are now available Wednesday mornings at the Adele Grage Center from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Instructors and speakers are encouraged to contact the department of recreation and special events at (904) 247-5828 for more details about providing the community with well being information and classes.</p>	<p><b>Free Line Dance Classes</b> From 5:30 to 7 p.m., the Ponte Vedra Womans Club will offer free line dancing classes at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, located at 5125 Palm Valley Road. Learn the Cupid Shuffle, Biker's Shuffle, Electric Slide, Macarena and more dances to be featured at the club's Second Chance Prom coming in April. All are welcome to participate. For more information, or to RSVP, visit www.PonteVedraWomansClub.com.</p> <p><b>Yoga for Survivors at the Y</b> Share a restorative experience as a yoga instructor certified by the Christina Phipps Foundation guides cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations through a gentle and safe yoga practice. This free event is open to the community. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The event will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center in the Ponte Vedra YMCA at 170 Landrum Lane. Class begins at 11:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Life Enrichment Day Retreat</b> Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra hosts a Life Enrichment Day Retreat every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For more information, call (904) 834-7578 and ask for Ilene Thrasher or visit www.at-pontevedra.com.</p> <p><b>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to jasmine@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</b></p>

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# Maximize your storage space to get organized

By Tim Blin

Special to the Recorder

One of the most frequent comments I hear from homeowners is, "My garage

and closets are too small and I can't fit everything in it."

Yes, we would all like our garages and closets to be bigger, but the problem isn't necessarily the space is too small; it's that the space does not have a system or plan. In a perfect world, we would all have much larger garages and closets that would allow everything to fit. Unfortunately, this is not the case for most homeowners and we must make do with the space available.

The best way to get and stay organized is to have a strategy and utilize cabinets, shelving and organizers to achieve that goal. I have designed thousands of garages and closets over the years, and I have seen practically everything imaginable. As an organizational expert, I look at the space differently than the homeowner. I can already visualize what the space will look like and where all the homeowner's belongings will go. Whose car goes where? Where will the bikes go? What about the garbage cans or recycling bins? What goes in the cabinets and what will be put on organizers? And where do all the clothes and shoes go?

The problem with keeping a garage



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# Cultural center to host 'Bag Lady Luncheon February 22

Cleaning out your closet as part of your New Year's organizing? The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is accepting donations of gently used designer handbags for its popular annual "Bag Lady Luncheon."

To be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 22 at Sawgrass Country Club, The Bag Lady Luncheon offers attend-

ees the chance to bid on a silent auction featuring more than 100 designer bags.

Proceeds from the event support the cultural center's art education, exhibitions and community outreach programs.

Since its inception in 2013, the luncheon has raised nearly \$60,000 for

the cultural center.

Tax-deductible donations of gently used handbags may be dropped off at the cultural center at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$45 per person and may be purchased online at [www.ccpvb.org](http://www.ccpvb.org) or by calling Dee at (904) 280-0614 ext. 205.



## Space

Continued from 16

or closet organized is there are such a variety of items of all shapes and sizes. If you do not have a system, you are going to be continually frustrated and the space is not going to feel organized. Most homeowners are overwhelmed and do not know where to start, but once the cabinets and organizers are installed everything has its place. Many clients say they should have done this years ago and that it is now so easy to keep it organized. But the greatest satisfaction I hear is how good it makes them "feel." I guess you could compare this feeling to having a clean car, a desk clear of clutter, your kitchen counter-tops clean and your bed made up with freshly washed sheets. I think you can get the idea and see the similarities with the power of lack of clutter.

Once you have developed a plan and a system is in place, this is when the garage or closet becomes a truly functional space in the home. If the disorganization and clutter in your home has just become too much, a garage or closet system may be the answer so you can enjoy the benefits of a clutter free lifestyle!

*Tim Blin is the owner of Tailored Living featuring PremierGarage.*

### SHORT TAKES

#### Parent's Night Out

St. Augustine Alligator Farm will entertain children in a safe and educational environment while parents have a night on the town with "Parent's Night Out."

Set to take place the first Friday of most months from 6 to 10 p.m., the event will include two slices of pizza per person, drinks, hands-on animal presentation, twilight zoo tour, a craft, nocturnal games and more.

Admission is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members (price is per child). Pre-registration online is required.

Register at [www.alligatorfarm.com](http://www.alligatorfarm.com). The St. Augustine Alligator Farm is located at 999 Anastasia Blvd.

For more information, visit [www.alligatorfarm.com](http://www.alligatorfarm.com).



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# Professional home stager offers tips for keeping house organized

By **Stephanie Augusta**

Special to the Recorder

The holidays are over, kids are back to school, your northern house guests have returned to the snow, but your home is a mess!

You said, “It’s a new year, and I’m getting organized!” You have no idea, however, where to begin. Organization. To some it’s a four-letter word. To others it’s as relaxing as a day at the beach! Joking aside, there’s one truth to living an organized life: an effortless daily routine. If you place your phone, purse, wallet, grocery list, etc. in a designated spot, you will always know where it is. Always.

Being a home stager, I like to see every item, in every room, in its place, all the time. But let’s get real, that’s impossible. You can, however, make a family effort to try! Ask yourself, “I feel organized when?” Then develop a system for maintaining that one goal, and do it every day for a week. Do this for all areas in your home in need of organization.

Take a picture of an area, or room, which needs some TLC, then analyze the picture. Look for cluttered areas, or out-of-place items, such as magazines, multiple remotes, kids’ toys, etc. If you see stacked magazines, or papers, get the recycle bin and toss them. Were you saving that magazine for an article, or recipe? Take a picture with your smart phone, then toss the paper (now you’ll have the recipe next time you’re at the store). Invest in a large, decorative, wicker basket, then ask the kids to place their toys in there.

Tidy up a closet by first determining the items you don’t need. No longer have a twin sized bed? Then, you probably don’t need twin sized sheets. Ask yourself, “Have I used this item in the last year?” If

the answer is no, then consider donating, selling or tossing the item. Stack same-sized towels and sheets together, then place items facing the same way. This makes the closet appear tidy. It’s a little work, but well worth the effort.

The kitchen counter seems to be a catch all for everything under the sun. The importance of adopting a system for consolidating these items is vital for everyone’s sanity. Start with purse, keys and phone. Find a central location to house these items, so they’re out of your way, yet easily accessible. Next, invest in a file system that works for you. Folders, baskets and stackable trays are great organization tools, and there are so many decorative choices which look nice on a counter or shelf. Accordion files are great for storing kids’ artwork separated by year, by child; but only keep the most special pieces – for example, the hand/footprints or stories they’ve written. Go through your mail near the recycle bin and immediately toss the junk, then file the important mail accordingly. Put bills in a “To Pay” file, weekly ads/restaurant coupons in a shopping file, etc., but remember to purge these files often.

Lastly, I feel most organized when I know what’s for dinner every night. So, I create a breakfast, lunch and dinner menu for the coming week. I keep an ongoing grocery list in my kitchen and add things as needed. Finally, I add the necessary items from my weekly menu to my list, go shopping and rest easy knowing that I know “What’s for dinner?” every time I’m asked.

**Stephanie Augusta is the owner of Ponte Vedra Staging, a company that helps homeowners prepare their homes for sale in a competitive real estate market. She can be reached at (904) 400-3356 or via email at [pontevedrastagingco@gmail.com](mailto:pontevedrastagingco@gmail.com).**



BEFORE



AFTER

Photos courtesy of Ponte Vedra Staging



BEFORE



AFTER



# Goodwill: Get organized and help create jobs by donating items

**By Tracy Collins**

Special to the Recorder

Was one of your new year's resolutions to declutter? Start 2017 off right with a solution that will help you – and your neighbors, too. Collect the items you no longer need and donate them to Goodwill of North Florida. In doing so, you will help fund job placement, training and community-based services right here in our area.

“With the holidays over, it is time to examine your home and remove items that you no longer need,” said Lorie Marrero, founder of the Clutter Diet® and Goodwill’s national spokesperson. “It’s also a time of year when many people set out to find new jobs or plan their careers. Thanks to Goodwill, many people are employed and caring for their families as a result of your donations.”

A good place to start is the closet. Two ways to get honest about what should stay and what should go are the six-month and daily reject rules.

First, go through the closet and pull anything you have not worn in six months. This won't be easy. It is in our nature to get attached to our things. Once you have made this initial sweep, turn all of the hangers backwards. When you put back washed clothes, hang them the correct way. In June, pull anything on a hanger that is still backwards.

Marrero also recommends making sure everything in your closet fits and flatters you today. Take note of the

clothes that you put on then take off because you don't like the way it fits or looks. Don't put it back.

“If it doesn't work for you, donate it to Goodwill so someone else can get use out of it, and it brings jobs to the community,” she said.

In 2016, Goodwill provided more than 104,000 services and placed 15,011 individuals into employment right here in Northeast Florida.

Goodwill also accepts household items, so divide the house into zones. This could be the entire kitchen, living room, bathroom, attic or garage, or it could be as simple as one drawer. Tackle each zone one at a time. Once you have started a zone, challenge yourself to keep going until you are finished. Take before and after photos to stay motivated.

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**Tracy Collins is vice president of marketing and public relations for Goodwill Industries of North Florida. Visit [www.Goodwilljax.org](http://www.Goodwilljax.org) to find your nearest Goodwill donation center.**



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#15 Steven Sifontes centers the ball in the box to a teammate.



#12 Nate Fordham advances the ball for the Sharks.



Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton

# Shark boys mercy Clay on Senior Night

By Jerry Norton

Special to the Recorder

The Ponte Vedra boys' soccer team celebrated Senior Night last Thursday with an impressive 8-0 mercy rule shutout of the Clay High School Blue Devils. Senior Jack Bingemann was the Sharks' top scorer, completing the "the three-goal hat-trick."

The win improved the Sharks' record to 5-0-1 in class 3A district 4 play and 13-2-3 overall.

Earlier in the week, the boys lost 3-0 to non-district foe Fleming Island – only the team's second loss of the season. Their other defeat also came at the hands of a non-district opponent Oakleaf, 3-0; and the only blemish on their district record is a December tie against Matanzas.

The Sharks started early against the Blue Devils when Bingemann came



Shark seniors pose for a photo (L-R) #22 Lucas Nomura, #4 Andre Mauriello, #1 Ethan Penn, #2 Carson King, #6 Josh Greene, #8 Joe Gravelle, #10 Donovan Crowley and #9 Jack Bingemann.

down the left wing and beat the keeper with a shot into the far side of the goal seven minutes in. Bingemann made it 2-0 five minutes later, converting a cross from senior Donovan Crowley.

Sophomore Michael Gambuzza put Ponte Vedra up by three when he banged home his own rebound with 11 minutes left in the half.

Things went downhill fast for the

visitors in the second half. Junior Steven Sifontes beat the Devil keeper with a quick move at the four-minute mark. Less than two minutes later sophomore Nate Fordham deked the keeper out of position to put Ponte Vedra up 5-0.

Sifontes registered his second goal of the night at the 27-minute mark, then three minutes after taking the lead 6-0, Bingemann added his third goal of the game. It came when senior Ethan Penn sent a low cross in front of the net to Bingemann who made a horizontal dive to head the ball into the open goal.

Penn's goal at the 17-minute mark put Ponte Vedra in front 8-0, mercifully ending the game.

The eight Shark seniors – Bingemann, Penn, Carson King, Andre Mauriello, Josh Greene, Joe Gravelle, Crowley and Lucas Nomura – and their parents received flowers to honor the Senior Night occasion.

# Lady Sharks upset Bartram 2-0 on Senior Night

By Jerry Norton

Special to the Recorder

The Ponte Vedra girls' soccer team shocked Bartram Trail on Friday night's Senior Night match-up, posting a gritty 2-0 shutout victory over the favored Bears. Bartram, leading their class 4A district with a 5-0-1 record and an overall record of 11-2-2, came into the Shark Tank as heavy favorites against the 7-4-6 Ponte Vedra team that had lost three straight games.

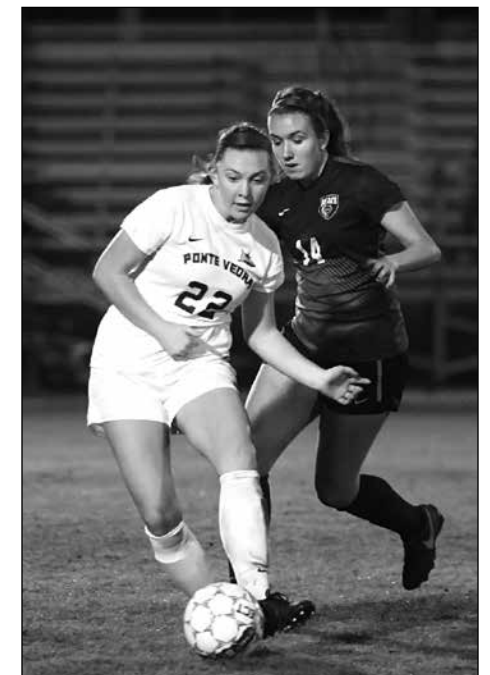
The Sharks needed to be at their best to pull off the upset but they also needed a bit of luck as well. As it turned out, luck came into to play on both Sharks' goals.

Neither team was able to score for the first 20 minutes, although the Bears had the best scoring opportunity on a shot that caromed off the left post two minutes in.

Bartram controlled the play for the better part of the first 40 minutes, with most of



#2 Zie Frecks of the Sharks gets a pass away to a teammate.



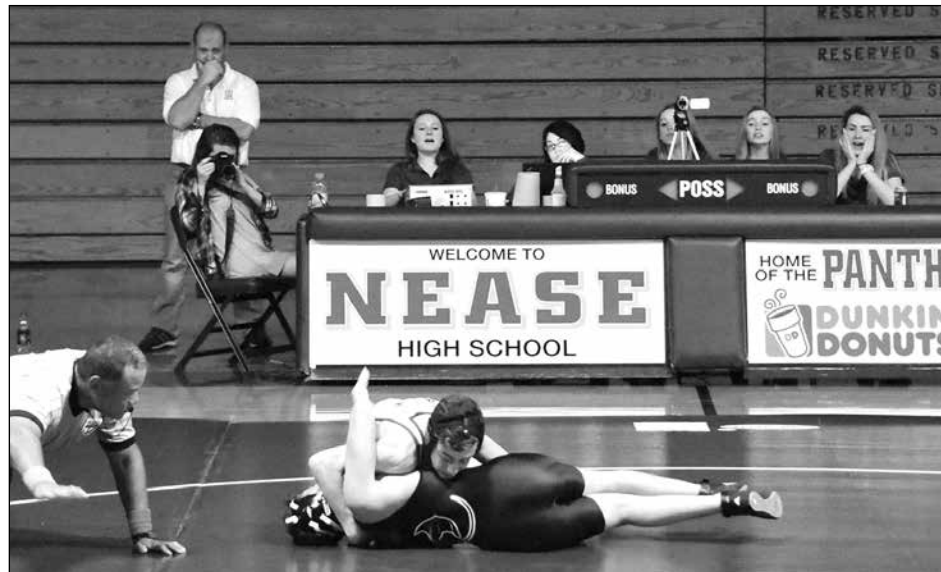
#22 Reilly Tarbet of the Sharks fight to maintain control of the ball against the Bartram defender.

Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton





Nease senior Jon Walter lost his match at 220 pounds due to an injury and resulting forfeit.



Nease senior Aidan Pagana won his match at 138 pounds with a pin.

# Nease wrestling honors five seniors before victory over Atlantic Coast

By Jon Blauvelt

The Nease wrestling program celebrated senior night Jan. 11 before defeating the Atlantic Coast Stingrays 39-26.

“It’s always a big night,” said Nease Coach Craig Muckle. “We preach family. We’re really tight. Any guy that leaves, I always have a hard time. I’m a big, emotional guy. It’s always tough.”

The team honored seniors Aidan Pagana, Jon Walter, Derek Alexander, Matt Valdivieso, Cayse Clouse, Dylan Martinson and Dalton Koike. Parent and team assistant Brian Pagana said these student athletes are true leaders.

“Too often, athletes, and in this case wrestlers, are thought of as ‘jocks,’” said Pagana. “But if you look at the senior class we have this season, you will see they are a much more diverse group than just athletes. We have class presidents, National Honor Society members and accomplished musicians.”

A team captain, Aidan Pagana picked up a win at 138 pounds after pinning his opponent. Throughout his career at

Nease, the four-year varsity letterman has advanced to both districts and regions. Off the mat, Pagana served as class president from ninth to 11th grade as well as student council advisor in 12th grade. He plans to major in pre-dentistry at University of Central Florida, Florida State University or University of Florida.

Also a team captain, Walter suffered a mild concussion during his match at 220 pounds after Muckle said the opposing Atlantic Coast wrestler committed an illegal move. Walter was taken to a local hospital and forced to forfeit the match.

“He didn’t control him back to the ground,” said Muckle. “It wasn’t malicious. He didn’t do it on purpose. It was a scramble, they got caught in the air and he landed on the back of his head.”

A two-year varsity letterman, Walter also advanced to districts and regions while at Nease. In addition to wrestling, Walter played on the football team for four years and served as a chief petty officer in the Nease ROTC. He’s interested in pursuing admission to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Alexander won his match by forfeit at 160 pounds because Atlantic Coast didn’t have a wrestler at that weight class. In addition to wrestling at Nease for two years, Alexander has been a member of Nease ROTC. He also plays piano and oboe for Nease’s wind ensemble as well as the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra. Alexander plans to attend Florida State University.

Valdivieso was not in the varsity lineup against the Stingrays. A four-year wrestler for Nease, he is also a member of the student council, senior class vice president and ambassador for the communications academy. He plans to travel and then join the U.S. Air Force.

The wrestling program also honored Clouse, who has served as the team’s manager for three years. She plans to attend the Arizona Academy for Emergency Services and major in paramedic studies.

Martinson and Koike were recognized but unable to attend the match.

Throughout the match, Nease juniors Brenden Teaman and Jacob Sorgen won via pins at 126 pounds and 145 pounds, respectively. In the most exciting match of the night at 170 pounds, junior Grayson Suggs defeated his opponent 5-3 in overtime.

“Our guys worked hard,” said Muckle. “They kept going. They never stopped.”

Freshman Colin White lost his match at 152 pounds in a close 2-2 contest that ended in a pin. Junior Jarrod Case and freshman Nick Thoressen also lost their matches at 182 pounds and 195 pounds, respectively.

Moving forward, Muckle said his message to the team is to focus.

“Work and get better each day,” he said. “Each day is a new day.”



Photos courtesy of Brian Pagana

Nease wrestling seniors Cayse Clouse, Matt Valdivieso, Aidan Pagana, Jon Walter and Derek Alexander

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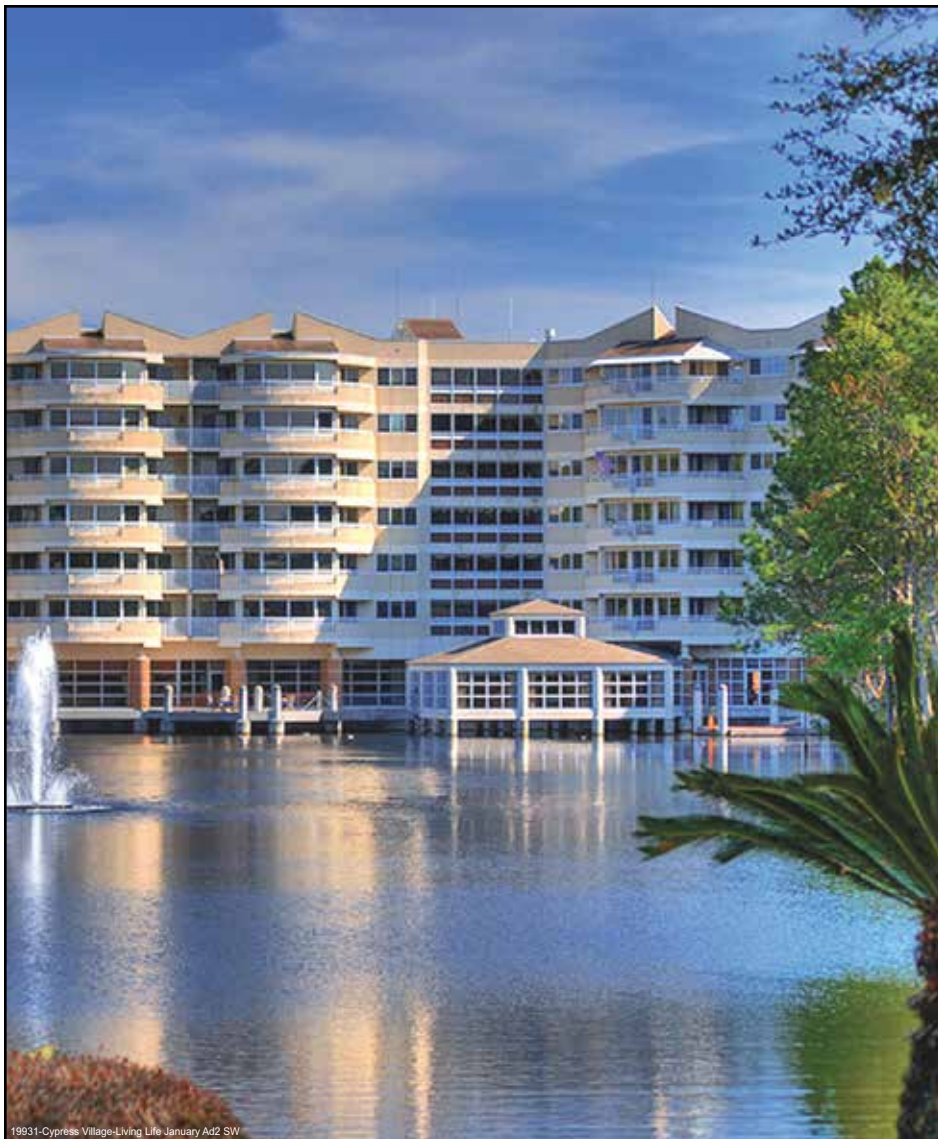
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## BASKETBALL

# Sharks top district standings

By Jim Moyes

Special to the Recorder

Faced with the prospect of playing three of their toughest opponents this past week, Ponte Vedra fans had to be pleased that the Sharks emerged victorious in two of those battles.

Sandwiched between a pair of victories over Bolles and Palatka was a tightly contested loss to one of the area's top ranked team, the Creekside Knights. The Sharks survived the week despite losing a pair of their best players.

Senior guard Mike Nicandri suffered a knee injury during Tuesday's victory over Bolles and will be sidelined for the remainder of the season. It was a double whammy at the guard position for the Sharks, as starting guard Will Mons likewise had a season-ending knee injury early into this campaign.

Leading scorer JD Pirris is scheduled to return to the lineup after this week's trio of games and will be a most welcome addition for the injury-riddled Sharks.

Overcoming these drawbacks, the Sharks were able to hold off Palatka on Friday

night, improving their overall record to an impressive 11-5 and a district leading 4-1.

The Sharks enjoyed a seemingly comfortable 11-point lead in Friday's always interesting road trip to Palatka. Unlike last year, when Palatka's tenacious full court pressure defense turned into a Panther home win, such was not the case this year.

The Sharks led 46-35 heading into the final quarter before Palatka went on a furious rally. With some questionable home cooking from the men in stripes, Palatka outscored the Sharks by 10 points, but fell one point short of overtaking the Sharks.

In their only home game of a quirky schedule, that will find Ponte Vedra playing but one home game as opposed to 13 on the road, the Sharks surprised the defending state champions from Bolles with a convincing 77-47 victory in front of a large crowd at the Shark Tank.

The Sharks, after leading 27-20 at halftime, played perhaps their best half of basketball of the season by exploding for 50 second-half points to run way from Bolles. Pirris led a balanced attack for the Sharks, with a game-high 21 points while pulling down 11 rebounds and dishing out

five assists.

Eston Hensley continued his great play with 15 points while 6'8" junior center Jack Johnson chipped in with eight. Johnson also was a domineering factor on defense by blocking four shots and altering a number of other errant Bolles attempts.

The Sharks took the short jaunt to nearby Creekside last Thursday as huge underdogs to a Knight team boasting of a lofty state ranking.

In the first game of the season, the Sharks were man handled by Creekside 69-41, and Knight fans expected more of the same in the rematch.

However, the Sharks, playing without Mons, Nicandri, and Pirris, gave the Knights a real scare before running out of gas in the game's final moments.

The Sharks trailed by only two points late into the third period before the Knights were finally able to pull away from the shorthanded, but gritty, Sharks.

Several of the Sharks stepped up nicely for Coach Bud Beech's crew, led by Jack Shannon with a team-high 17 points. Junior center Johnson continued his improved play with 11 while sophomore guard Reese Russi, forced to log a lot of minutes with the Sharks missing three of their guards, added 10 points to complement his five rebounds and four steals.

Hensley, who drew a crowd of Knights

throughout the contest, was the fourth Shark to reach double figures with 10 points, all coming in the first half.

The most important game during this week's busy stretch of games was PV's tight victory over Palatka.

Playing in a Panther gym, where the Sharks had but one win (2014) in school history, the 53-52 conquest of Palatka saw several Sharks make major contributions.

Shannon led all Shark scorers for the second straight game with a team-high 16 points and a team-high six assists. Sophomore Russi was close behind with a career-high 14 points while Johnson was a dominant force on the defensive end of the court.

The still improving Johnson scored 10 points but that didn't begin to account for his most important role.

With his long wingspan, Johnson blocked eight Palatka shots to equal his own school record that he set a year earlier, also against the Panthers.

After Tuesday's important district game with Menendez, the opposition doesn't get any easier for "The Beech Boys."

The Sharks will play Thursday against an always-competitive Bishop Kenny team that were state runner ups last season. Less than 24 hours later, PVHS will again hit the road to play a district game against a much-improved and well-coached Matanzas five.

## KEEPING UP

By Barbara Boxleitner

Special to Ponte Vedra Recorder

**Kylie Reiman** is the top diver for the Tufts University women's swimming and diving team.

The senior out of Ponte Vedra High School regularly has placed in smaller meets. She won the three-meter dive and was second in the one-meter during the season opener against Middlebury College. Reiman was second in the three-meter and third in the one-meter during a Dec. 10 meet.

She was among the team's top scorers at the MIT Invitational, placing ninth in both diving events and earning 14 points for each. Last season, she competed in the NCAA Zone Diving Regional a second consecutive year.

### More women's swimming and diving

Georgetown University freshman **Margaret Barnhorst** won the one-meter dive and was second in the three-meter against Pepperdine. She competed for the Sharks.

Centre College freshman **Cat Gleason** was third in the 1,650-yard freestyle at the Colonel Classic. The Ponte Vedra Beach resident was fifth in the 500 freestyle.

Lafayette College freshman **Emily Benson** was fifth in the 1,000 freestyle against Lehigh. The Ponte Vedra alumni was seventh in the 100 butterfly.

Another from the Sharks, freshman **Samantha Price** of Denison University (Ohio), was second in the 200 butterfly against DePauw.

### Women's gymnastics

Allen D. Nease graduate **Rachel Reis** led Bowling Green University with a 9.75 on the uneven bars at a Penn State University quad meet. She is a senior.

University of Maryland sophomore **Amanda Bertorello** scored a 9.725 on the bars against West Virginia. The Bartram Trail graduate added a 9.70 on the floor exercise and a 9.6 on the balance beam.

### Men's wrestling

Johns Hopkins University sophomore **Hayden Good** has a 2-7 record competing at 285 pounds. His wins were by a fall and an 11-4 decision. The former Bear was a defensive end for the football team and finished with 11 tackles in 12 games.

Send updates about area athletes to Barbara Boxleitner at [bbboxleitner@outlook.com](mailto:bbboxleitner@outlook.com).

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# Florida Dairy Farmers present Mr. Football award to Nick Tronti



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Ponte Vedra High School senior quarterback Nick Tronti accepts the 2016 Florida Dairy Farmers Mr. Football award from Putnam County dairy farmer Jim Frazel. As the recipient of the award, Tronti is recognized as Florida's top high school football player. The University of North Carolina-Charlotte commit passed for 3,333 yards and 34 touchdowns and rushed for 662 yards and 19 touchdowns.



Tronti and his senior teammates celebrate the award with the Florida Dairy Farmers' traditional milk chug. The Sharks embarked on a magical playoff run that ended in a heartbreaking 35-33 loss to American Heritage High School in Ponte Vedra's first-ever state championship appearance.

## Upset

Continued from 22

the action taking place in the Shark end of the pitch. But at the 19-minute mark, Ponte Vedra's Kia Hayes gained control of the ball just past the mid-field line and launched a booming shot at the Bartram goal. The Bear goal keeper got in front of the hard shot but failed to control it. When the ball fell to the ground, Caroline Leshar was in perfect position to drive it into an open net to put the Sharks up 1-0.

The second half started much like the

first with Bartram in control of the ball at mid-field but unable to penetrate the tenacious Shark defense for any serious shots on goal. Ponte Vedra appeared to benefit from the momentum of their go-ahead goal and played more aggressively overall. When the Bears failed to take advantage of a Shark yellow card infraction midway through the second half, the underdog Sharks seemed even more inspired and determined.

By now they were playing like they could actually win the match and the Bears found themselves back on their heels. With nine minutes left to play, the Sharks' Rachel Newcombe picked up a pass some 30 yards

from the Bartram goal and sent a hard shot toward the left post. The Bear keeper moved to make the save but – as on the first Ponte Vedra goal – she misplayed it and saw the ball skip past her into the cage. The result: a well-earned 2-0 win for the Sharks on

Senior Night.

Prior to the game, the seven senior Sharks – Layla Adamo, Angie DeVincentis, Sophie Leshar, Fallon Farrell, Julia Worman, Devon Stepp and Zie Frecks and their parents – received flowers in honor of the occasion.



Photo by Chris and Jerry Norton

The seven Lady Sharks pose for a Senior Night photo (L-R) #17 Layla Adamo, #7 Devon Stepp, #9 Sophie Leshar, Coach Dave Silverberg, #1 Angie DeVincentis, #12, Julia Worman, #2 Zie Frecks and #16 Fallon Farrell

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# Business Weekly

PAGE 28

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017

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## Florida Blue named presenting sponsor of 'Women with Heart' luncheon to benefit Volunteers in Medicine

Florida Blue will be the presenting sponsor of the 2017 "Women with Heart" luncheon to benefit Volunteers in Medicine.

The event will be held Feb. 8 at the Florida Blue conference center on its Deerwood Campus in Jacksonville. The luncheon will honor 11 Northeast Florida women who support Volunteers in Medicine's mission to provide medical care to low-income, working individuals and families. Honorees will include Aimee Boggs, Dr. Annie Egan, Rep. Mia Jones, Paula Liang, Rev. Kate Moorehead, Helen Morse, Dr. Kathryn Pearson Peyton, Nicole Thomas, Susan Towler, Lisa Weatherby and Tracy Williams.

In addition, noted philanthropist Delores Barr Weaver will receive the "Dorion-Burt Heart of Gold Award" in recognition of her support for the nonprofit organization's



mission.

"Florida Blue is proud of its longstanding partner-

ship with Volunteers in Medicine," Florida Blue Market President Darnell Smith said. "We applaud the efforts of these amazing ladies to champion access to healthcare for North Florida's most vulnerable population. We are confident that this year-long initiative will significantly impact patients who utilize the services and programs offered by Volunteers in Medicine's free downtown clinic."

Volunteers in Medicine CEO Mary Pat Corrigan noted that Florida Blue was one of the nonprofit's founding partners.

"We are thrilled to have Florida Blue's leadership and guidance on our board of directors," Corrigan said, "and to have it take a lead role in the launch of our inaugural 2017 Women with Heart event."

For tickets or more information on the "Women with Heart" event, email [events@vim-jax.org](mailto:events@vim-jax.org).

For sponsorship or ticket information call Cindy Cooper 904.254.5075

### Volunteers in Medicine JACKSONVILLE

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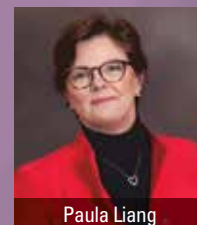
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**Frederic Schilling**  
Columnist

tax liabilities. By purchasing a policy for your grandchild, you can minimize this liability by creating an additional shelter from high taxes.

**Capture a lower premium for life:**

The age at which a person purchases their permanent life insurance can affect how much their premiums cost – and these rates lock in for the life of the policy. For this reason, purchasing a policy for a grandchild when they’re young will provide them with much lower premiums than if they were to purchase that same policy on their own 30 years later. You can

help your grandchildren’s future finances by locking in their premiums today, when they’re younger and healthier.

**Help set up future financial stability:** A person is never too young to start healthy financial habits. Purchasing a life insurance policy for your grandchildren can help support their financial wellness, even at a young age. Benefits such as growing a tax-deferred cash value in the life insurance can help your loved one have access to future funds, should they need an income boost. You’re also supporting them by giving them a death benefit protection, which is always a helpful risk-planning strategy in life.

Each person has a unique life that drives what decisions make the most financial sense. If you’d like to explore whether gifting a life insurance policy to your

grandchildren is right for you, we’re happy to talk.

*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](http://www.seniorguardian.com). This article is not intended to give tax or legal advice. Securities offered through Center Street Securities, Inc. (CSS), a registered Broker-Dealer and Member of FINRA & SIPC. Senior Guardians is independent of CSS.*

## MOVERS & SHAKERS



**WOODS**

**Monique Burr Foundation welcomes Woods**

**Paul Woods** has joined the Monique Burr Foundation for Children as the organization’s new development director.

“The MBF Child Safety Matters™ program is expanding throughout Florida and the U.S. and Paul’s background, skills and enthusiasm are ideal for the Foundation’s critical development work,” Executive Director Lynn Layton said.

“He is dedicated to helping us raise funds to support this program that has been proven to prevent child bullying, cyberbullying and all types of abuse. We are delighted to welcome Paul to our team.”

Woods holds a bachelor’s degree from Pensacola Christian College and brings more than 15 years of experience in fundraising, sponsorship development and event management to the foundation.

“I look forward to using my skills to focus on donor support for the foundation and expand the use of the MBF Child Safety Matters™ program to prevent child abuse,” he said.

**Mizrahi joins River Garden**

**Mauri Mizrahi** has joined River Garden Hebrew Home as assistant administrator.

A Jacksonville native, Mizrahi is a physical therapist and board-certified geriatric clinical specialist with a long association with River Garden.

“Coming back to work at River Garden is like coming home,” she said, noting that she is both “honored and humbled by this incredible opportunity.”

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Planet Swim to open Nocatee training facility**

An outdoor training/competition pool, indoor teaching pool and two indoor flow pools will be among the offerings at a new Planet Swim training facility set to open later this year in Nocatee.

To be located adjacent to Davis Park near Ponte Vedra High School, the new facility will offer swimming instruction as well as training facilities for competitive swimmers.

According to an announcement on the Nocatee residents blog, the location for the new facility was

selected for its proximity to Davis Park’s sports fields and nearby schools for hosting competitions.

Founded in 2009, the Ponte Vedra-based Planet Swim attributes its success to its trained staff and curriculum that employs new technologies such as stroke analysis software and neuroscience applications to enhance motor learning.

“We believe that the combination of our expertise with Nocatee will result in ultimate success,” Planet Swim Founder and CEO Gus Calado said. “We are thrilled to expand our services to the Nocatee community

and beyond excited for the upcoming preparations leading to the Fall 2017 grand opening!”

**PPR Talent Management launches Hueman recruitment, staffing agencies**

PPR Talent Management Group has spun off two new businesses, launching Hueman as a new recruitment firm in Jacksonville Beach.

Hueman will serve as the parent company of two business lines: Hueman RPO (recruitment process outsourcing) and Hueman Risk Adjustment Staffing.

Hueman RPO was formerly PPR Talent Solutions, while

Hueman Risk Adjustment Staffing was formerly PPR Risk Adjustment Staffing.

With 110 employees, Hueman will be headquartered in the former Harmonious Monks space at 320 First St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.

Hueman was established by the founders of PPR Talent Management Group under the leadership of CEO Dwight Cooper.

“People are what drive business forward,” Cooper said. “And people are the heart of any company, especially ours. Our main focus is to help people find the right job, and help companies find the right people.”

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# Avast, ye matey! It's time for pirate party adventures!

**By Terri Mashour**

Special to the Recorder

The other day we went to a pirate birthday party. We thought it was going to be just visiting the Palencia Park Pirate Playground and then having cake. But it was more of an organized party and so much fun!

After playing on the pirate ship, octopus and mini treasure chest, the kids came back under the pavilion to play "Pin the Patch on the Pirate." While they were doing that, the parents hid a treasure chest in the playground. The kids were asked to pretend to be pirates and say, "Shiver me timbers," "Ahoy matey," and "Aaarrrhh" while they searched for the treasure chest. Once it was found, they each got their own little treasure chest filled with chocolate coins, also known as pirate's booty. Then they did a New Age piñata where they pulled strings from a treasure chest piñata instead of hitting it, not knowing who would finally make the bottom fall out with all the candy. The kids enjoyed each structured activity and I was amazed at the parents' organization!

With the First Coast being right near St. Augustine, a pirate mecca, and the ship wrecks off our coast, pirate parties are a great idea for kids' birthday fun. Here are some ideas for pirate birthday party fun:

## Pirate playgrounds

**Palencia Park**, 405 Palencia Village, St. Augustine: This park hosts a large playground with ship-shaped jungle gym, swings, covered pavilion and restrooms. Call St. Johns County to reserve.

**Fernandina Pirate Park**, 2500 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina: This new park was built in 2014 in Fernandina. It hosts wooden posts in the shape of a pirate ship, a large sand box area, modern climbing equipment, and is accessible to children of all ages and physical capabilities. There are picnic tables and benches for parents to sit under this oak tree covered play space.

## Pirate party sites

**Black Raven Adventures:** Captain Hook comes on and steals treasure chest at the dock, then takes it to his ship. Sail out and search for him to get it back. Inside the chest are loot bags for all the kids. Train to sword fight, paint faces, shoot cannons and get the treasure bags back. Cupcakes and drinks provided. Parties begin at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday mornings and start at \$300. Call (877) 578-5080.

**St. Augustine Pirate and Treasure Museum:** Kids enjoy being led by a pirate through the museum using clues to search for hidden treasure. Kids participate in interactive, immersive experiences along the way. When they find the pirate treasure,



each child earns their pirate booty! Parties start at \$10 per child. (877) Go-Plunder

## Kids' pirate party tours

**Kids Krew Tours:** During this fun St. Augustine Kids pirate tour, kids get to learn about local history and hold real artifacts that were found in St. Augustine. They look into a real spy glass in search of soldiers and learn how to use a compass before heading out to raid the town and take back St. Augustine! Kids raid participating local stores that turn over pirate's booty to the kids. Admission is \$10 per child for Duval and St. Johns County. (904) 417-8391.

Of course you could pick any location on our beautiful coasts, bring pirate hats and patches, swords, treasure chests for goody bags and bring a cake for outdoor picnic fun and let the kids pretend to be pirates. Plus, don't forget the major pirate holiday: National Talk Like a Pirate Day is Sept. 19! So if your child's birthday is near that date, have everyone dress up like pirates and enjoy free donuts from Krispy Kreme! Have fun at your child's big day and be sure to "Shiver Me Timbers!"

*Terri Mashour is the owner of Fun4FirstCoastKids.com.*

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# Children's cooking classes make for birthday party, anytime fun

By Terri Mashour

Special to the Recorder

In our house, we're all about getting kids in the kitchen! When my daughter was little, she always wanted to see what I was doing at the kitchen counter. So I picked her up and had her help from about 14 months old. She started with cracking the eggs, pouring ingredients and stirring. Now at age 4 she pours and flips pancakes, seasons the stew and helps clean up, too. We love the idea of kids cooking classes to get them involved in what they eat and there are many classes in Jacksonville with fun kids programs. Some even host birthday parties! Check out six places for local kids cooking classes in Jacksonville!

**Sweet by Holly Deco Parties:** At Sweet by Holly, kids can decorate four mini cupcakes, picking from six toppings and six flavors of icing. They then get to pick out a professionally created cupcake from the counter. Just sing happy birthday with your own magnificent creation! Parties start at \$90/person for six children.

**Meet Make and Celebrate with Alley Cakes:** The girls at Alleycakes Bakery invite kids to join them for "how to" classes featuring items from their menu as well as guest chefs from popular local spots. Kids' classes include macaroons, cake pops, cupcakes, mini cakes and more! Each child receives a child-size apron with markers to personalize and take home, basic decorating tools and take home bakery box. Prices start at \$10 per person.

**Panera Bakers in Training – Bit Kids:** In Panera's fun-filled culinary experience, children are outfitted with their very own cotton baking hat and apron to bring home. They can try their hand at the craft of bread making by stretching and scoring two French baguettes – one to bring home and one to donate to people in need in your community. They'll also decorate their own cookie with



tips from an artisan baker. Made for groups of 10-15, this is a great activity for your class, scout group, kids club or birthday party. Registration is \$20 per child.

**Maggiano's cooking classes:** Let the fun begin! Maggiano's has cooking classes for kids! Children ages 6-13 are welcome and each child will receive an apron, chef's hat, and make various homemade Italian dishes, one per class! Admission is \$40 per child and one parent eats for

free. Each additional adult is \$20 each.

**Junior Chef Classes at Williams-Sonoma:** Junior chef classes at Williams-Sonoma show kids how fun and easy cooking can be! Kids learn to make delicious recipes, from main courses to desserts and snacks, with plenty of tasting along the way. Classes are limited and fill up quickly because classes are free!

**Native Sun Natural Foods Market:** Each month, Native Sun Jax offers free kids' activities in one of their three locations. They range from arts and crafts, holiday activities and cooking classes. Check their Facebook page for upcoming events.

**Publix Aprons Cooking School:** From after-school snacks to gingerbread houses to more elaborate meals, Publix offers many cooking classes for kids. After mastering a menu of sausage pigtailed with honey mustard dipping sauce; kickin' ramen bowls; turkey and brie crepe-quesadillas; and sunrise citrus smoothies in the after-school snacks class, kids will be teaching their parents a few things! Publix also offers school holiday and summer camp cooking classes, serving up a great way to learn the fundamentals of cooking! Classes range in price around \$35 per child.

**Cinnotti's Bakery:** Try a cooking camp! Enjoy three days of fun where children learn safety in the kitchen, baking techniques and the art of decorating. With everything from muffins to decorating their own cookies, the class will send kids home with an abundance of goodies to share with friends and family! We love seeing all the sweets kids bring home!! Lunch, aprons, and hats for each child are provided. Cinnotti's also hosts family gingerbread house making classes during the holidays. They provide all the materials and you take your creation home with no clean up.

*Terri Mashour is the owner of Fun4FirstCoastKids.com.*

## Cooking contests offer pint-sized chefs chance to show off culinary chops

Having a cooking-themed kids' birthday party? Don't let those culinary concoctions go to waste! A number of Florida-based cooking contests give kids the chance to demonstrate their chops in the kitchen.

The Dairy Council of Florida, for example, is now accepting recipes for its fourth annual Gridiron Cooking Challenge. Open to elementary and middle school students statewide, the competition is part of "Fuel Up to Play 60," an in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by the National Dairy Council and NFL to help encourage today's youth to lead healthier lives.

Elementary and middle school students in groups of four are encouraged to create and submit a healthy, original recipe that prominently features dairy products. The deadline for submissions is March 3, 2017.



The top four student teams in each Florida NFL market – represented by the Miami Dolphins, Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Jacksonville Jaguars – will compete for the grand prize at the Gridiron Cooking Challenge as they cook their recipe on site in less than 60 minutes.

The students' creations will be judged by a select group of distinguished professionals including NFL players, Florida Dairy Farmers, Fuel Up to Play 60 student ambassadors and health professionals.

The winning team in each NFL market will receive a prize pack for their school valued at up to \$2,500. Each student on the team will also receive an iPad mini, among other prizes.

"Every year, we look forward to reviewing the new and creative ways students include dairy in their recipes," said Michele Cooper, CEO of Florida Dairy Farmers, which supports the competition.

"The Gridiron Cooking Challenge is a great opportunity for students to demonstrate the versatility and nutritional value of dairy products as we continue to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle."

Recipe entry forms are available on the

Florida Dairy Farmers website at [www.floridamilk.com](http://www.floridamilk.com) and may be submitted via mail or email.

### Fresh From Florida

For high-school chefs, the Fresh From Florida Student Chef Cook-Off offers budding gourmets the chance to create and prepare an original recipe using fresh Florida products, with the chance to have their creation served on cafeteria lines.

Selected students will prepare their recipe for a panel of judges at a regional cook-off. The winning student will be invited to serve as the sous chef for a professional chef at a future event.

The Northeast Florida regional event will be held March 4 in Jacksonville. For complete details on recipe requirements, judging details and more, visit [www.freshfromflorida.com](http://www.freshfromflorida.com)



# Planning the perfect party

## A birthday party planning checklist

By Jasmine Marshall

For all the fun and games to be had at a birthday party, the planning process can be an entirely different experience.

When considering party venue, menus, activities, favors and any number of mishaps, it's clear that throwing a shindig that looks effortlessly fun requires planning and preparation. So what should be considered for a party without a hitch?

### One to three months before:

The average birthday party should be planned one to three months in advance. Now is the time to discuss themes, a guest list and potential entertainment options such as clowns, petting zoos, live music or mascot appearances. Deciding on a time and place several weeks out allows guests the time to make the appropriate arrangements to attend – plus, delegating tasks

early leaves less to do in the days leading up to the party.

**Decide on a theme.** Choosing a party theme should be one of the very first steps taken in party planning as it helps streamline the process; selecting a character, movie, color or pattern gives party planners a guide with which to purchase décor, entertainment, favors and food.

**Send invitations.** Will parents need time off? Will children be attending other events at that time?

**Book the entertainment and venue.** Any entertainment or venue option will need advanced notice of party dates, times and locations. Booking sooner rather than later is the best way to ensure the entertainer and event location will be available. Should planners have a change of heart, cancellation is always an option – but there's no guarantee that either will be

available for booking a party at the last minute. This stage is also a good time to reach out to a photographer or videographer should one be hired.

### Three to four weeks before:

At this stage, the "skeleton" of the planning should flesh out. With a theme decided, entertainment booked and invitations sent, it's time to begin purchasing party supplies and consider a schedule of events and a party menu.

**Plan the meals.** When choosing food, tie the menu back to the theme through colors, flavor and presentation and carefully consider the needs and whims of the guests. Guests with food allergies may not be able to eat snacks, cakes or candy that contain or have been in contact with certain ingredients.

Common food allergies include nuts, soy, gluten and shellfish. As a precaution, consult with guests about potential allergens before finalizing a menu.

**Gather supplies.** Consider what supplies and décor will be needed and draw up

a list. Items such as disposable tableware, balloons, streamers and confetti are most commonly needed, but don't overlook smaller necessities – if there will be crafting activities, games, prizes or favors, this stage is also the time to purchase them.

### One week before:

At crunch time, follow up with guests who haven't RSVP'd to ensure that all guests have been accounted for.

Order cake, balloons and catering at this time.

### Three days before:

Purchase any groceries needed for the party no more than three days before the event so that fresh ingredients stay fresh.

Prepare prizes and goody bags to set aside.

### The day of:

Decorate the venue.  
Prepare meals or arrange ordered food.  
Enjoy the big day!

**THEME: SUPER BOWL**

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### ACROSS

1. Chewing noise
6. Unit of work or energy
9. Alternative to knit stitch
13. Flu symptom
14. "We will, we will rock \_\_\_\_"
15. The color of some old photos
16. Crème de la \_\_\_\_
17. Pilot's estimate
18. Often-missed humor
19. \*Team that's never been in Super Bowl
21. \*Team with most appearances but no wins
23. Articulate
24. \*Washington's Super Bowl MVP, \_\_\_\_ Rypien
25. Protestant denom.
28. Uncontrollable anger
30. Lung pouch
35. a.k.a. The Islamic State
37. Tibetan monk
39. "Semper Fidelis" to U.S. Marines, e.g.
40. \*Pittsburgh's Super Bowl MVP, \_\_\_\_ Swann
41. Jerry Maguire, e.g.
43. "For" in Spanish
44. Reduce pressure
46. Those not in favor
47. Larger-than-life
48. Seabiscuit's house
50. Big top
52. "Fat chance!"
53. "The Sun \_\_\_\_ Rises"
55. Horse poker
57. \*Companies pay big for it on Super Bowl night
61. \*One of 4 teams with no appearances
64. Sad face
65. Girls' night out, in text
67. Shipping box
69. R2-D2, e.g.
70. Container for ashes
71. Remove location from IMap
72. Singles
73. Bird-to-be
74. Boris Godunov and Nicholas Romanov

### DOWN

1. Chlorofluorocarbon
2. \* \_\_\_\_ Adderley, appeared in 4 of first 6 Super Bowls
3. Last word on walkie-talkie
4. Advisories or reminders
5. Antebellum
6. Windows to the soul?
7. Decompose
8. Exotic jelly flavor
9. \_\_\_\_ wig or \_\_\_\_ winkle
10. Second word in a fairytale?
11. \* "The \_\_\_\_ is the thing"
12. Big name in chips
15. Former Himalayan kingdom

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	1	6	4		8	2		
			9					
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

20. African antelope

22. Part of investment portfolio, acr.

24. Reminder of past

25. \*Suffered 4 consecutive Super Bowl losses

26. Heretofore

27. Santa Maria's companion

29. \*She's a Lady

31. Tug-of-War prop

32. Locker room infection?

33. Courtyards

34. \*Vince Lombardi, e.g.

36. Give the cold shoulder

38. Casino chip

42. Hint of color

45. Lamentation

49. Freddy Krueger's street

51. Popular political promise

54. Smooth transition

56. Mends a sock

57. '70s hairdo

58. European "curtain"

59. Justice's garb

60. Deuces

61. Chinatown gang

62. Wine country

63. Recipe command

66. \* \_\_\_\_ Stadium in Houston

68. Lt.'s subordinate



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OBITUARIES



Eugene J. White

Eugene "Gene" J. White, 86, died Jan. 2, 2017. He was born Feb. 23, 1930 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He grew up in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania and retired to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1980.

Gene started his career selling galvanized trash cans for Wheeling Steel and was chosen to appear on the popular television show "What's My Line" in 1955. He continued his career in industrial sales having designed, built and sold environmentally conscious incinerators to governmental agencies, hospitals and crematoriums worldwide. Gene was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania for over 60 years. More than anything Gene enjoyed golf, motorcycles, traveling, RVing and spending quality time with his family.

Gene was predeceased by his wife Martha on Oct. 6, 2016. They are both lovingly remembered by their children,

Claudia Waldo of Jacksonville Beach, Amy Arroyo of York, PA, and E.J. White (Cora) of Cumming, GA; grandchildren, Jedediah Waldo, Christina White and Kayla White; and three great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to Cypress Village Wellness Center and Community Hospice for their support and love.

A service celebrating the life of Gene and Martha White will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017 in the Chapel of Quinn-Shalz Funeral Home, 3600 South Third St., Jacksonville Beach, FL.

Please visit our online tribute at [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). Services are under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home in Jacksonville Beach.



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FEBRUARY 3

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HORMONAL IMBALANCE  
A MOOD SWINGING MUSICAL REVUE  
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UNDER THE  
STREETLAMP  
TWO PERFORMANCES  
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ANDY MCKEE  
FEBRUARY 15

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FEBRUARY 16

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DREW MORGAN & COREY RYAN FORRESTER  
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MARCH 1

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# North Florida Land Trust triples conserved land in 2016

The North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) tripled the amount of land it conserved in 2016, protecting more than 12,000 acres of land.

That is the most land NFLT has been able to preserve in one year since the organization started its mission. Founded in 1999, NFLT serves as a champion of environmental protection primarily in Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties.

“We are elated with what we have been

able to accomplish this year and grateful to all our partners and donors who made it possible,” Executive Director Jim McCarthy said, noting that from 1999 to 2015 the nonprofit protected just over 6,000 acres of land.

One of NFLT’s main projects for 2016 was to create a document called the Preservation Portfolio that identifies 112,346 acres of land the organization would like to preserve. NFLT assigned a price to the cost of acquiring the land and compared it to

the ecosystem benefits that the land would provide for free if left undisturbed. The nonprofit found the ecosystem benefits from the land were worth double the cost of acquisition. NFLT acquired about 214 acres of land in the portfolio and will continue its mission through 2017.

Overall, NFLT’s success in 2016 was attained by helping landowners sell conserva-

tion easements, acquiring land from developers and receiving donations of both.

“I credit our staff for our historic success,” said McCarthy. “They have been incredibly diligent and focused on our mission. We still have a way to go to preserve all of the land that we have identified as critical for preservation and I look forward to another historic year.”

## LUMINARIA

Continued from 34

Riverside Avondale, the Atlantic Beach event produced a holiday glow throughout the community, providing a venue for friends and neighbors to gather for the holiday

season. Proceeds from the event were raised from luminaria kits sales and community donations.

“Our team loves to be a part of events that bring our communities together while making a positive difference in the lives of many,” said Christy Budnick, broker and executive vice president.



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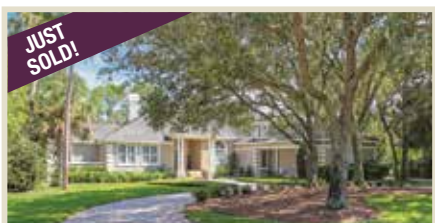
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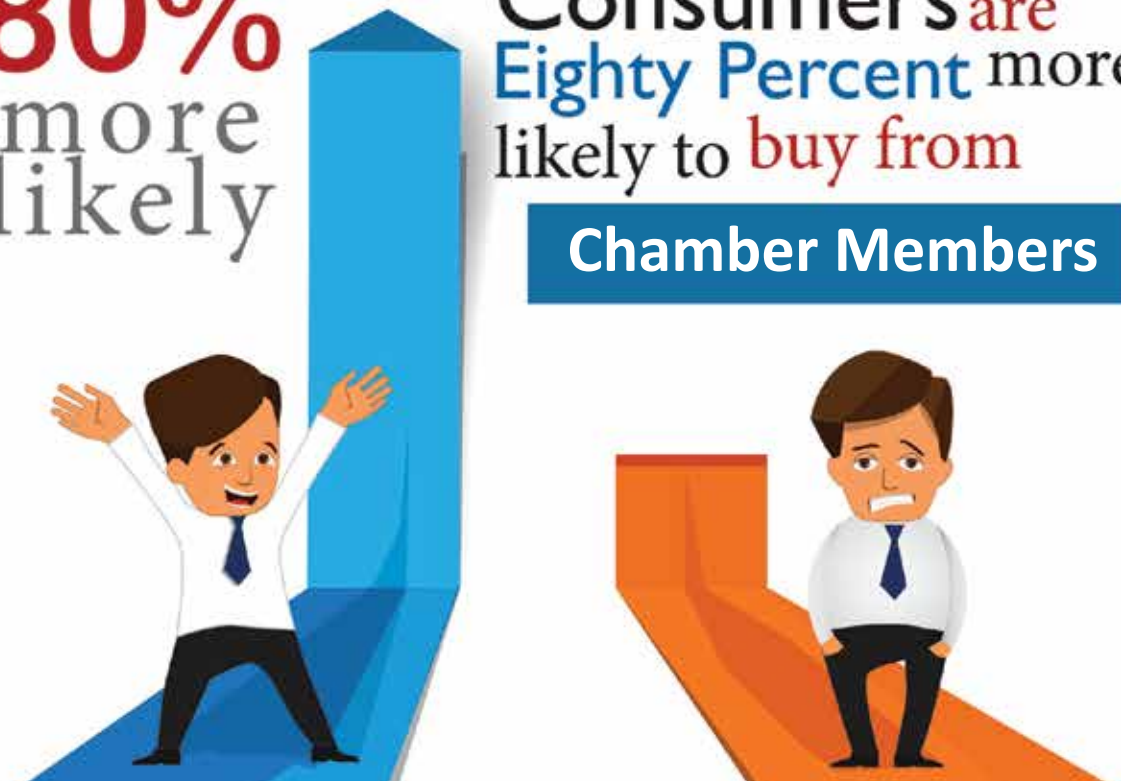
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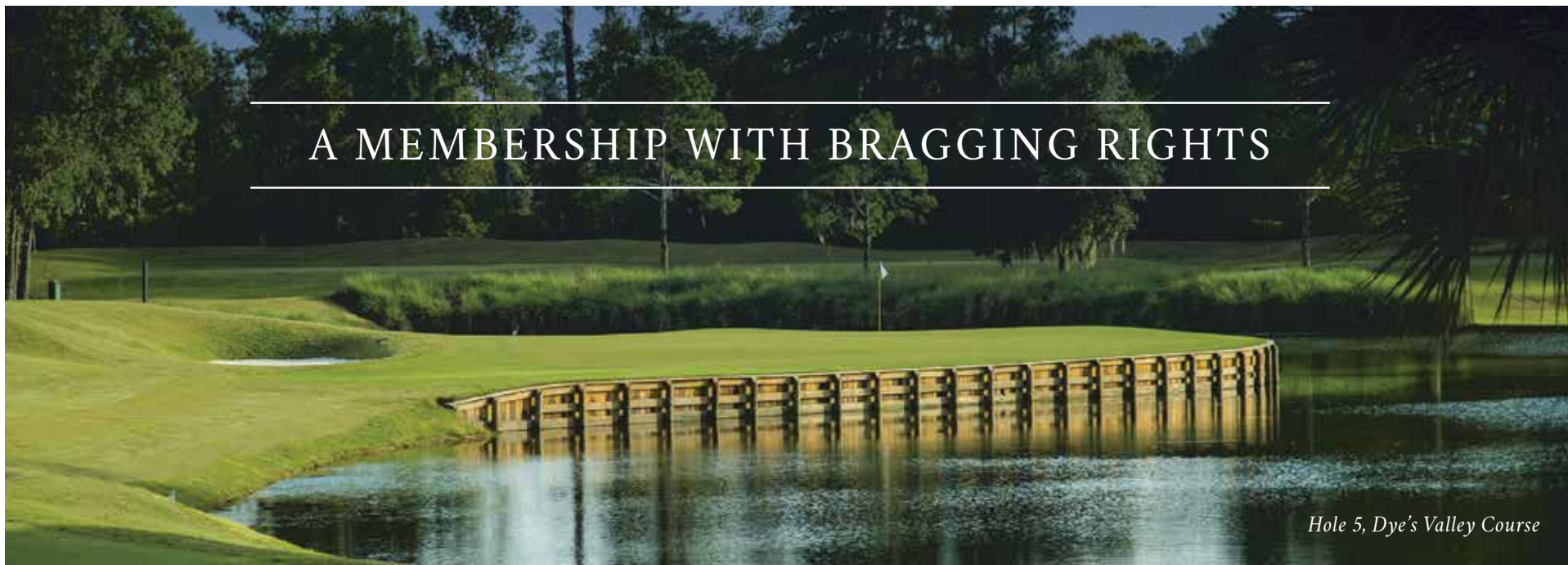
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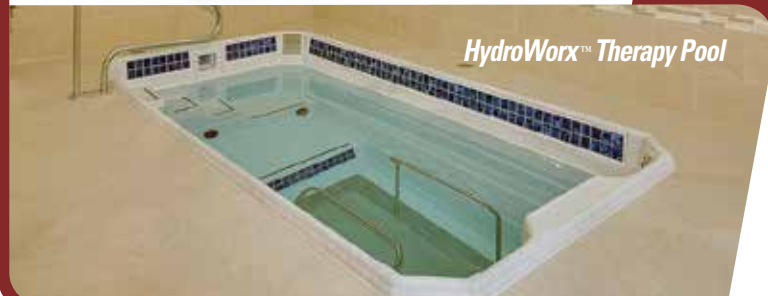
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