

Ponte Vedra Recorder



January 4, 2018
Volume 47, No. 53
75 cents

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PonteVedraRecorder.com

HERE'S TO 2018

Fireworks light up the sky at St. Augustine's Beach Blast Off Sunday, Dec. 31 to ring in the New Year. Read page 11 for more.

Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Business Weekly featuring Dollars and Sense

Pages 19-28

Panera Bread files to open in Ponte Vedra

Page 19

Sports, Pages 34-35

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One of Us

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Send us your news

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

E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com

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



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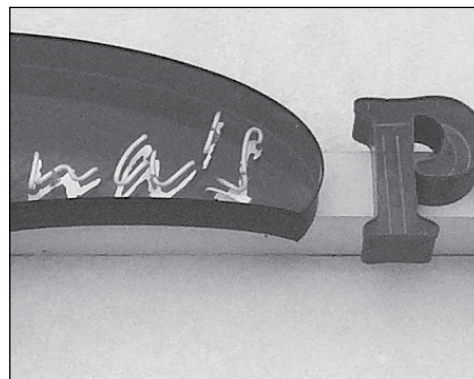
PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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1	8	2	7	9	5	3	6	4
9	7	6	3	4	8	5	2	1
8	2	3	4	5	6	1	7	9
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6	1	4	9	7	3	2	8	5
2	3	7	5	8	4	9	1	6
5	9	8	1	6	2	7	4	3

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to jonb@opcfla.com

by Monday at 5 p.m.

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

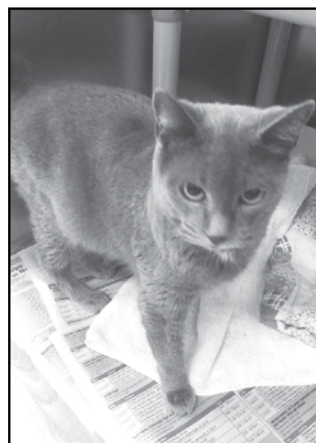
Five readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Mantra Hair Salon sign. Good job, everyone! The winner of the random drawing was **David Daniel**. Congratulations, David – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Smokey, and I am a 3 1/2-year-old male cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center by my owner who could no longer care for me. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #21594



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Mama, and I am a 6-year-old female dog who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a rescue from the island of St. Thomas. Come



visit me today here at the pet center! #40764

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

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



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U.S.P.S. (705-300) Periodical Postage Paid at Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Postmaster: Send change of addresses to: Ponte Vedra Recorder, P.O. Box 501, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, 32004. (904) 285-8831
Subscription Rates, Bulk Mail: One year, \$35; six months, \$20. Rates not applicable in Canada or overseas.
To subscribe, call Circulation Manager Rob Conwell at (904) 686-3936.

The Recorder is published every Thursday at 1102 A1A N., Unit 108 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

January ZOO DEALS



Enjoy deals all month long, including discounted admission, free prizes, \$5 member value bands and more!

JACKSONVILLE ZOO AND GARDENS

Find details at www.jacksonvillezoo.org



A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity!

Build your custom dream home in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach with ocean access across the street. This enclave of 23 estate-sized home sites on Ponte Vedra Boulevard is surrounded by majestic Live Oaks with pristine preserve and lake views. Starting in **\$600,000s.**



Move-in ready with a major renovation in 2016

Including new roof, new attached 2-car garage, new paint interior / exterior, and new granite counter tops and appliances in kitchen. Plenty of room for guests with master and 2nd bedroom on 1st floor plus 2 additional bedrooms upstairs. **\$355,000**



Beach Living at its Best!

The WaterMarke is a luxury, 11-story 25-unit oceanfront condominium in Jacksonville Beach. The WaterMarke offers spacious oceanfront terraces, secured lobby, two parking levels and private storage units. Completed in March 2005, this gated property includes private beach access, an ocean-side pool with a heated spa and secured, covered, ground-floor parking. **\$679,000**

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PV2-LV45823



Constance Wulf A.P.

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PV3-LV45792



COLLECTION



OLD PONTE VEDRA
\$635,000

Relax on your wrap-around deck & enjoy ocean views! This fabulous 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo is spacious & beautiful, with granite countertops, tile floors, newer carpet, plantation shutters, a marble wood-burning fireplace, & oversized 1-car garage. MLS 890011

Carol Light | 904.803.7729
CLight@WatsonRealtyCorp.com
Patti Atwill | 904.705.1350
PattiAtwill@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



JAX GOLF & CC
\$599,900

Stunning custom home on large lot overlooking the signature 9th & 18th holes. This beautiful brick home is perfect for multi-generational families, with 2 master bedrooms & private bath access in additional 2 bedrooms. Special features include custom dentil crown molding, fine millwork, & premium bamboo flooring. MLS 893723

John Richardson | 904.465.5110
JRichardson@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



DOLPHIN COVE
\$519,900

Impeccably maintained custom home with wide-plank wood flooring, coffered ceilings, recessed lighting, plantation shutters, & a kitchen equipped with soft-close cabinets, granite countertops, & SS appliances. The master bath features a spa-like shower & the enclosed porch offers tile floor & a vaulted ceiling leading to a paved patio. MLS 895524

Elizabeth Brockelman | 904.451.0043
EBrockelman@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



FAIRFIELD
\$445,000

Waterfront gem with tremendous curb appeal. This move-in-ready home is located on a quiet tree lined street in the gated Fairfield community. Enjoy a light & bright living space, updated kitchen, delightful sunroom, private paver patio, & lake views throughout! MLS 909834

Kay Kennedy | 904.631.4184
KayKennedy@WatsonRealtyCorp.com
George Lewis | 904.910.1766
GeorgeLewis@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

Newlywed dies weeks after being struck in head by softball

By Samantha Logue

Palm Harbor resident Greg Fusco died Dec. 17 after suffering from a skull fracture during a Dec. 2 softball tournament in Ponte Vedra Beach, according to a GoFundMe page created by friend Courtney Hinkle.

Fusco was on the pitcher's mound at the Davis Park baseball diamond when a batted ball struck him in the temple, knocking him unconscious. He was

subsequently flown to a Jacksonville hospital, where surgery was performed. Following surgery, he was placed in the Intensive Care Unit for recovery.

Fusco and his wife had recently returned from their honeymoon, and the GoFundMe page – which has raised more than \$22,000 to date – was set up to help them with medical costs. After posting several updates that suggested Fusco might be making a recovery, Hinkle posted a notification on Dec. 17,

however, that Fusco had died early that morning.

“Today is an unfortunate day,” she wrote. “There are no words to put together to even begin to start the healing process. ... Thank you to everyone for all your love, support and donations.”

A funeral service was held for Fusco Dec. 28 at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens Funeral Home in Palm Harbor, and a Celebration of Life followed Dec. 30.

Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery mourns death of founding partner

Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery recently announced the death of founding partner and esteemed plastic surgeon, Dr. Paul John Scioscia, at the age of 57.

Scioscia began his career at Vanderbilt University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree, studying molecular biology and chemistry. He received his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He then completed an internship and a five-year residency in general surgery at the University of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania State University. Subsequently, he completed a two-year residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

Scioscia elected to extend his training to sub-specialize in cosmetic surgery by completing a one-year fellowship in aesthetic surgery at New York University's prestigious Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital. There he trained with many of the world's most prominent plastic surgeons. He started his career 20 years ago in Jacksonville, ultimately joining Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery as one of its founding partners.

Scioscia loved his family, traveling, golfing, cooking, spending time with his friends and caring for others. His goal was to provide his patients with the highest-quality care, in a respectful and discreet manner. Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery – specifically, Dr. Robert Burk, Dr. Cayce Rumsey, Dr. Brett Snyder, Dr. Erez Sternberg and Dr. Hollie Hickman – has expressed a commitment to providing the same level of care to all of Scioscia's patients going forward.

To obtain medical records or further information about current or future treatment, Scioscia's patients are encouraged to contact Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery at (904) 395-2701.

Ponte Vedra Beach woman found guilty of DWI manslaughter, could face 15 years in prison

By Benjamin Naim

A Ponte Vedra Beach woman was found guilty of DWI manslaughter, reckless driving and DUI with property damage after a three-day criminal trial that ended Dec. 20. Bryan Shorstein of the State Attorney's Office of the 7th Circuit said she could face up to 15 years in prison.

Jennifer Mae Levin, who has a prior DWI on her record, was reportedly driving northbound in the southbound lane of Interstate 95 on Dec. 19, where



Jennifer Mae Levin

she crashed head-on with an elderly woman traveling the opposite way in her vehicle. Levin turned off County Road 210 and started driving in the northbound lane

going under the overpass leading to southbound I-95, Shorstein said.

Shorstein noted that the 91-year-old victim, Octavie Morand, was in “excellent health” prior to the incident.

Levin's blood alcohol level was a .153/.148.

According to the State Attorney's Office, the criminal scoresheet suggests a minimum sentence of 10 years and a statutory maximum sentence of 15 years. Levin will be sentenced Jan. 18 at 9 a.m. She is currently being held in St. Johns County Jail with no bond.

Jail records state she is also facing possession of marijuana and drug equipment charges. Shorstein said the state anticipates these charges will be worked out after the sentencing.

Florida man dies on New Year's Day in I-95 crash near International Golf Parkway

A 58-year-old man from North Port, Florida (Sarasota County), died on New Year's Day after losing control of his car on I-95 near International Golf Parkway.

According to a report from Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), James Wayne

Clark was traveling northbound in the inside lane of 95 in his 1995 Saab 900 when he attempted to change lanes.

Clark consequently lost control, traveled off the roadway and collided with a tree located near the roadway. The crash took place at approximately

6:25 p.m.

He was pronounced deceased on the scene. According to the FHP report, Clark was wearing a seatbelt.

The report also states that results are pending regarding whether or not alcohol played a role in the crash.

CTTF reveals Ponte Vedra Beach-Palm Valley traffic study results

Support of intersection improvements and disapproval of the widening of A1A from four to six lanes are among the results of traffic surveys the Citizens Traffic Task Force (CTTF) Board revealed to residents in a recent email.

The CTTF circulated the first of its two online traffic surveys in October, collecting input on short-term improvements that can be made to various intersections in Ponte Vedra Beach and Palm Valley that would improve traffic flow and safety. A second survey was circu-

lated in mid-November asking for input on the widening of A1A and Mickler Road. Both surveys were developed by the CTTF Board to solicit feedback from area residents and businesses as a result of recommendations proposed in a recent study commissioned by St. Johns County and the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO).

According to the CTTF email to residents, a clear majority favors the intersection improvement recommenda-

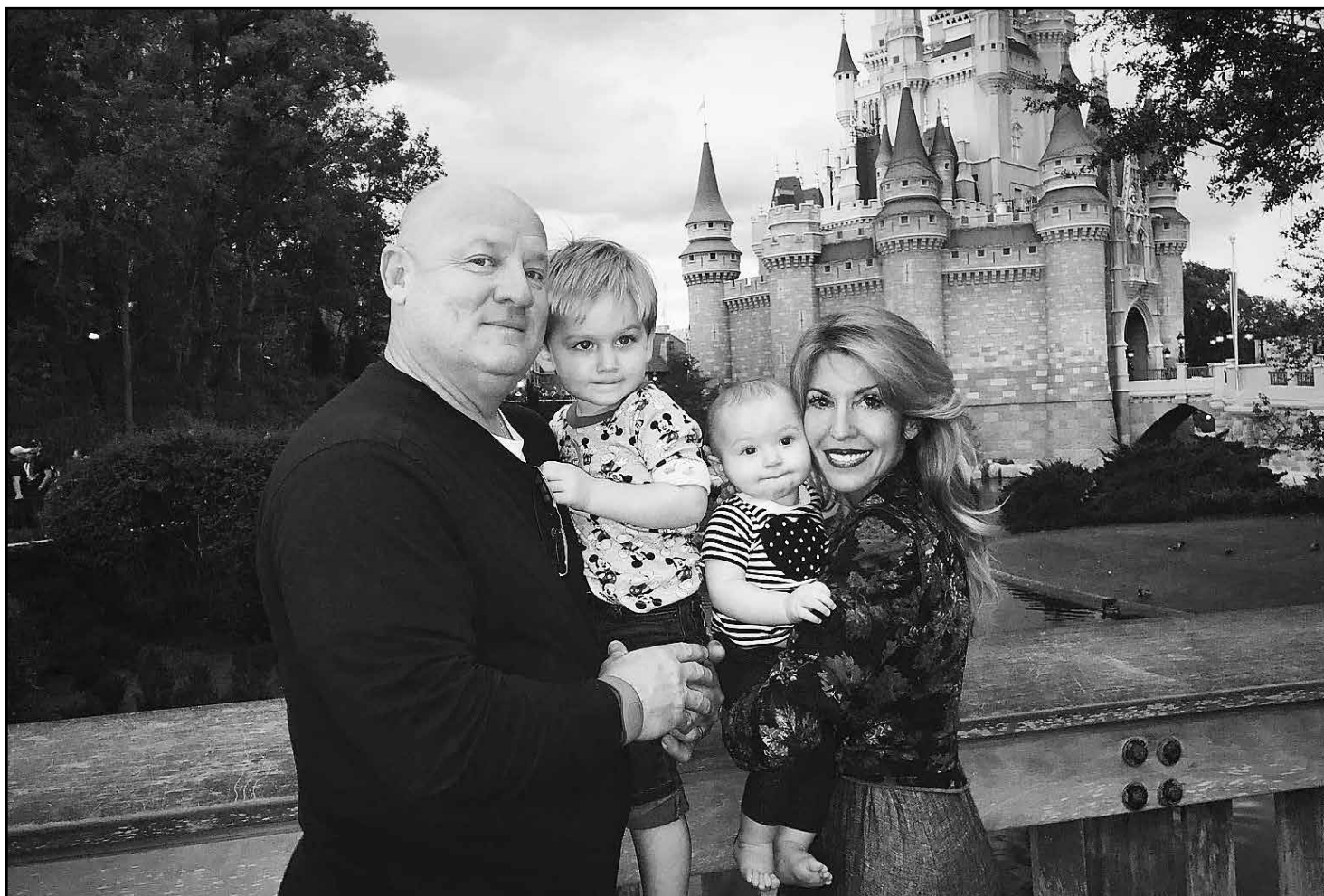
tions and opposes the widening of SR A1A from four to six lanes. A slight majority, however, favors the widening of SR A1A from two to four lanes from Mickler Road to the south gate of Sawgrass Country Club.

In addition, a slight majority opposes the removal of the roundabout at CR 210 and Mickler Road. Meanwhile, a slight majority favors the widening of CR 210 from two to four lanes from the Palm Valley Bridge to SR A1A.

The CTTF Board said the two surveys

received more than 1,500 individual community responses.

The group added that the results have been shared with St. Johns County staff. According to the email, the board is scheduling a meeting in January with the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to present the survey results and discuss the steps necessary to achieve funding for the most critically needed improvements.



Ginamarie Anthony with her husband and two grandchildren

Photos courtesy of Ginamarie Anthony

PV resident's 'Birthday Party for Jesus' reminds all of reason for the season

By Samantha Logue

Each year on Dec. 25, Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, but while Christmas is beloved by many, some feel that the true reason behind the holiday often gets lost among the traditions that have sprung up around it. For the past 13 years, Ponte Vedra resident Ginamarie Anthony has made it her goal to remind herself and others of the true meaning of Christ's birthday by celebrating it the same way she celebrates every other birthday—with a birthday party.

"It's been so much fun," Anthony said. "We've had bouncy houses, a cotton candy machine, balloons and it's all about the birth of Jesus. No Santa Claus."

Held this year from Dec. 16 to Dec. 23, Anthony's "Birthday Party for Jesus" has become a Christmas tradition of its own. Each year, she invites locals to stop by her home to celebrate and drop off gifts, which she then donates to charities and families in need.

"The stipulation is that the children bring an unwrapped gift that they would like to receive themselves at their age and place it at the feet of Jesus in the manger," she explained. "They see what it's like to give, and you can see them receiving the message of it all."

While the original birthday parties were more like children's birthday parties, as



Local residents drop off presents in celebration of Jesus' birthday and as part of Ginamarie Anthony's 13th annual Christian initiative.

Anthony's kids have grown up, the parties have evolved into cocktail receptions where she thanks donors.

"I have five children and two beautiful grandchildren, and it has changed the way that we view Christmas," she said. "And I'm honored that people still give — that they're still doing it 13 years later."

This year, when it came time to distribute the gifts, Anthony had one particular family

on her mind — that of recently deceased 13-year-old Paris Byrd.

Byrd, who was a student at Murray Middle School in St. Augustine, died Dec. 5 of an enlarged heart after becoming ill during basketball try-outs in the school's gym. Anthony, having heard the story on the news, decided to surprise Byrd's family Christmas morning with presents that had been donated to her cause.

"Meeting (Byrd's mother) was amazing," Anthony said. "She's a very strong lady, and her other children were just so grateful."

In addition to the Byrd family, Anthony said she was able to donate about \$500 worth of presents and gift cards to the Alpha-Omega Miracle Home, a shelter in St. Augustine that provides housing and support for single mothers, their children and senior women.

"You know people have a hard time, but where we are you don't expect it," Anthony said. "But it's out there right in front of us, so how do you not do something?"

For Anthony, the Christmas message she hopes to convey each year isn't rooted in gifts or traditions, but simply in showing kindness and understanding to everyone.

"There's always someone looking to do some good, and we need help right here in our own town, in our own state, in our own country," she said. "Just be kind, be open and be there for someone. You never know when you might need it in return."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The spirit of giving is alive and well in the Beaches community.

Throughout December, volunteers from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, North Florida Chapter, and teachers from Ocean Palms Elementary School, offered free holiday gift wrapping for local residents. And, for the third consecutive year, Betsy's Hallmark and Five Below provided paper and supplies.

Shoppers far exceeded with their generosity, contributing nearly \$3,000 in donations from Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve. Those donations will go toward research, and help provide services and assistance to North Floridians living with or affected by MS. Kudos to Judy at Betsy's Hallmark and Rob at Five Below for allowing our organization the opportunity to move closer to a world free of MS.

Elli Miles, Bike MS manager/Bruce Reid, chapter board member
National MS Society, North Florida Chapter

St. Johns County offers Christmas 'tree-cycling' program

St. Johns County is hosting a Christmas "tree-cycling" program for those who wish to recycle Christmas trees after the holidays.

Residents are encouraged to bring Christmas trees between 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 5 and 6 to any of the following locations:

- Ron Parker Park (near the dog park) – 607 Old Beach Road, St. Augustine
- Cornerstone Park – 1046 A1A North, Ponte Vedra
- St. Johns County Fairgrounds – 5840 State Road 207, Elkton

Artificial trees will not be accepted as only natural trees can be recycled. Trees should be free of decorations and debris. The trees will be mulched and utilized to beautify St. Johns County parks. Staff will be available to assist residents with trees.

For more information, call (904) 209-3740.

Mary Daniel is a longtime Beaches resident, founder of local company ClaimMedic, passionate volunteer with organizations like K9s For Warriors and a dedicated fan of the Georgia Bulldogs.

Mary Daniel

By Jon Blauvelt

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I was born in Jacksonville Beach and have lived in the area my entire life. After college I started working for Dr. Lewis Obi in medical practice management and have never looked back. I have had the pleasure of being the administrator for several beach practices including Dr. John Harris, Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery and most recently 24/7 Pediatric Care Center, which is owned by my sister and her husband, Anna and Norberto Benitez.

What's the story of your company, ClaimMedic? What makes it different?

After so many years in practice management, which has included overseeing medical billing departments, I knew that medical billing can be confusing and frustrating for so many patients. My husband and I are Mayo Clinic patients, and I have personally experienced medical billing errors from their billing department several times. I began to realize that others were also experiencing the same problems and that I could help. So, two years ago I started ClaimMedic to help seniors, caregivers and others with their medical bills. We are only one of five medical billing advocates in the state of Florida. We simplify the process to save our clients' money, time and frustration. Our goal is to provide our clients peace of mind knowing that they'll never again pay a medical bill that they don't owe.

What makes volunteering so important to you?

I have volunteered all my life for so many great organizations, but the work I'm doing right now as a puppy raiser with K9s For Warriors is the most gratifying work I've ever done. As a puppy raiser, you get an 8-week-old puppy and keep him/her for 10 months. The job is truly 24/7 because the puppy goes with you everywhere, so it can be socialized and taught obedience. We've taken our pups to football games, to The Masters and THE PLAYERS Championship, truly everywhere we go. When the puppy turns 1, he/she returns to the K9s For Warriors campus for his/her official service dog training, and then he/she is matched with a veteran who suffers from PTSD. Twenty-two veterans are committing suicide every day, so these pups will truly save a veteran's life. To have this amazing organization in our own backyard is such a gift to this community. I would encourage everyone to volunteer in one of the many ways available, including becoming a puppy raiser. There is currently a year-long waiting list for veterans to get a dog. The puppy program allows K9s to funnel more dogs into the program, so we can serve these warriors before it's too late. There is truly nothing better than giving back to the men and women who have given us so much, sometimes at a huge sacrifice.

What do you enjoy most about living in the Beaches community?

The small town feel of our area ... I love running into people I've known since elementary school in the grocery store or at the doctor's office. It's one of the many reasons this area will always be my home.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

As a lifelong resident of the Beaches, what's been the most noticeable change you've observed in the community?

Traffic! As more and more people discover the beauty of our beaches, the roads have become crazy at times. But the community has been able to hang on to its small-town charm so it's worth the extra effort to get here.

What do you like to do in your free time?

My husband Steve and I are huge college football fans! We

are a house divided: He's a Gator, and I'm a happy Georgia Bulldog! I'm a two-time past president of the Jacksonville Bulldog Club, the largest Bulldog club in the nation, and I serve as president of the club's 501(c)(3) scholarship fund. I'm also a master gardener so I love to spend time in the yard. We love to travel and enjoy taking our dogs on long walks through St. Augustine, the Jacksonville Riverwalk or on one of our many beaches.

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

A sample of our listings



1299 PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$5,750,000

113 CUTTER COURT
\$2,450,000

210 DEER COLONY
\$2,390,000 - Builder/Lot Package

325 PANTHER CHASE TR.
\$2,350,000 - New Construction

752 PROMENADE POINT
\$1,890,000

24448 MOSS CREEK LN.
\$1,599,000

7610 FOUNDERS CT.
\$1,395,000

133 HARBOURMASTER CT.
\$1,385,000

124 TEAL POINTE LANE
\$1,375,000

PABLO CREEK RESERVE

- 5239 BENTPINE COVE RD.** \$1,350,000
- 14043 MAGNOLIA COVE RD.** \$1,197,000
- 5221 BENTPINE COVE RD.** \$1,159,000
- 5227 BENTPINE COVE RD.** \$999,000
- 5233 BENTPINE COVE RD.** \$349,000 - Lot
- 5256 COMMISSIONERS DR.** **Under Contract** \$335,000 - Lot
- 5251 BENTPINE COVE RD.** \$319,000 - Lot

9110 MARSH VIEW CT.
\$1,199,000

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List or Buy and Receive a Full Golf Membership to Marsh Landing Country Club

128 LAMPLIGHTER
\$1,189,000

312 ROYAL TERN RD S.
\$999,000

108 PALM FOREST PLACE
\$699,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

210 DEER COLONY LOT #4
\$695,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

285 MARSH COVE
\$669,990 - Preserve at Ponte Vedra Lakes

MARINA SAN PABLO #504
\$669,000

3858 BRAMPTON ISLAND CTN.
\$648,900 - Jacksonville Golf & CC

54 DAVIN COURT
\$639,990 - Preserve at Ponte Vedra Lakes

MARINA SAN PABLO #302
\$439,900

145 KINGFISHER DR.
\$399,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

756 PROMENADE POINT
\$305,000 - Lot

TRICIA BOWERS
904.254.0446

116 LAUREL COURT
\$959,000

148 GOVERNORS ROAD
\$722,500

226 SOUTH ROSCOE BLVD.
\$640,000

14411 MARINA SAN PABLO PL #11
For Rent \$4,750/mo.

JULIE CHILDERS
904.270.9710

1236 1ST ST N. - JAX BEACH
\$534,000

1517 MAYFAIR RD.
\$375,000 - Jacksonville, FL

"Exclusive Agents for Exclusive Customers"

2615 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$1,599,000

2677 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$1,195,000 - Furnished

2921 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$995,000

3115 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$945,000

2589 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$725,000 - Furnished

137 HARBOURMASTER CT.
\$579,000

2659 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
Storm Damaged "As Is" Only \$525,000

2767 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$499,000 - "As Is"

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Thursday, Jan. 4	Friday, Jan. 5	Saturday, Jan. 6	Sunday, Jan. 7
<p>Bettye LaVette at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host American rhythm and blues star Bettye LaVette live on stage Jan. 4 at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7). The Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.; visit www.pvconcerthall.com or call (904) 209-0399 for more information and to purchase tickets.</p> <p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Jan. 4 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>'Days of Heaven' at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe A hot-tempered farm laborer convinces the woman he loves to marry their rich but dying boss so that they can have a claim to his fortune. This film is showing at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe at noon. Tickets cost \$10, which includes a meal, popcorn and a small drink. The Corazon Cinema and Cafe is located at 36 Granada St. in St. Augustine. Visit www.corazoncinemaandcafe.com for more information.</p> <p>Cummer Beaches lecture series: Women artists of the 19th century Cummer Beaches and the Beaches Museum & History Park will present the third talk of a lecture series on women artists from the Renaissance Jan. 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact Wendy Mayle by email at wmayle@cummuseum.org or by phone at (904) 899-6007. This event will take place at the Beaches Museum & History Park Chapel, located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Cannon Firing Demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>'Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi' at IMAX Theater Having taken her first steps into a larger world in 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens,' Rey continues her epic journey with Finn, Poe and Luke Skywalker in the next chapter of the Star Wars saga. This blockbuster is showing at the World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater Jan. 5 at 12:30, 3:45, 7 and 10:15 p.m. Visit www.worldgolfimax.com for tickets and more information.</p> <p>Faces & Figures exhibition The St. Augustine Art Association presents this exhibition showcasing works of the human form including portraits, statues, busts and other pieces of art. The exhibition is free and open to the public; the gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. Visit www.staaa.org for more information.</p> <p>Foreign Film Friday The public is invited to watch a foreign film about a life of joyful discovery for siblings in Japan. This film will be shown at the Southeast Branch Library as part of "Foreign Film Friday," Jan. 5 at 6670 U.S. 1 S. in St. Augustine starting at 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Augustine Amphitheatre farmers market The St. Augustine Amphitheatre farmers market, which takes place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., features fresh produce, baked goods, seafood, handcrafted items and plants along with live entertainment. This event will be held at 1340 A1A S. in St. Augustine. Admission is free.</p> <p>GTM Research Reserve guided exploration hike This guided exploration hike will focus on the Guana Peninsula's 5,000 years of human history, including how natives used estuarine resources, what European plantation life was like and current efforts to learn about and save these resources. The 1.5-mile tour takes place on the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m.; it departs from the Trailhead Pavilion located just west of the Guana Dam. The GTM Research Reserve is located at 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Mike Armstrong at the Comedy Zone Comedian Mike Armstrong, who is referred to as "everyone's favorite cop," will perform at The Comedy Zone Jan. 6 at 7:30 and 9:45 p.m. Armstrong has appeared on HBO, Comedy Central, Fox and CMT. The Comedy Zone is located at 3130 Hartley Road in Jacksonville. Visit www.comedyzone.com for more information and to purchase tickets.</p> <p>Heartfulness, relaxation & meditation for adults Heartfulness Meditation is a simple, practical technique that can be used alongside other forms of yoga or spiritual practice. Participants can learn how to truly relax and feel lightness and joy. This event will take place Jan. 6 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Anastasia Island Branch Library at 124 Seagrove Main St. in St. Augustine Beach.</p>	<p>Katz 4 Keeps adoption day Katz 4 Keeps, a nonprofit cat rescue organization, will hold an adoption day Jan. 6-7 at 935B A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (904) 834-3223 or visit www.katz4keeps.org.</p> <p>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Florida Chamber Music Project presents Boccherini, Puccini, Nino Rota & Wolf The Florida Chamber Music Project will present a season of performances at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall starting Jan. 7 at 3 p.m. with Boccherini's Quartet "Opus 58", No. 4 G245 in B minor, Puccini's "Crisantemi", Nino Rota's String Quartet and Wolf's Italian Serenade. Admission costs \$25. Visit www.pvconcerthall.com for more information and to purchase tickets. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.</p> <p>Cooking Class with Joshua Day of Harvest Hospitality Join chef Joshua Day for this cooking class at Rype & Readi Golf Bistro Jan. 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. at 4900 Cypress Links Drive in Elkton. Admission costs between \$45 and \$60. Visit www.rypeandreadi.com/golfbistro for more information and to purchase tickets.</p> <p>Public performance: CHALK Jacksonville's Museum of Science & History (MOSH) will partner with Barbara Colaciello, the director and producer of BABS'LAB, for a special presentation of poetic excerpts from CHALK Jan. 7 at 3 p.m. CHALK is a play written by poet and radio host AL Letson that reveals inner voices of kids who are trapped in a society where bullying is tolerated in schools, social media and the work place. This free event will take place at MOSH, located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville.</p>

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Monday, Jan. 8	Tuesday, Jan. 9	Wednesday, Jan. 10	Thursday, Jan. 11
<p>Nights of Lights Selected by National Geographic in 2011 and 2012 as one of the 10 best holiday lighting displays in the world, St. Augustine's Nights of Lights features millions of white lights that create a magical atmosphere in the nation's oldest city. Tracing its origins to the Spanish tradition of displaying a white candle in the window during the Christmas holidays, the lighting reflects the city's history and illuminates the setting for lasting holiday memories. Nights of Lights will run through Jan. 31, 2018 at Plaza de la Constitution on King Street.</p> <p>WinterFEST 2017 Adventure Landing in Jacksonville Beach will transform its Shipwreck Island Water Park into a winter wonderland for the annual WinterFEST celebration. This year's festival runs through Jan. 8, 2018. The event will feature outdoor ice skating, an alpine ice slide, visits and pictures with Santa, s'more roasting and other attractions. Additionally, visitors can wind through a snowy village and enjoy window displays, hologram lights and decorations. Adventure Landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd. Call (904) 516-9739 or visit https://jacksonville-beach.adventure-landing.com for more information.</p> <p>The Olde South Photography exhibition Rick McAllister's photography exhibition showcases structures representing southern culture including cracker cabins, barns, textile and sugar mills, plantation and estate ruins, churches, cemeteries, forts and fortifications. The exhibition will be on display in the Rotunda Gallery of the St. Johns County Administration Building from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.</p> <p>Mindful Meditation This series, which will take place Mondays at the Ponte Vedra YMCA at 170 Landrum Lane, will teach participants how to relax, use breathing exercises to focus thoughts and create a more compassionate outlook on life. The cost to attend is \$30; call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/hlc to reserve a spot.</p>	<p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully-inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p>Portrait or observational drawing class This class will take place Tuesdays at the Murray Hill Art Center from 3 to 5 p.m. for observational drawing and 6 to 8 p.m. for portrait drawing. Participants will learn how to improve their drawing and how to use different media to enhance their artistic skills. The Murray Hill Art Center is located at 4327 Kerle St. in Jacksonville. Visit www.artleaguejax.org/classes/observational-drawing for more information and to purchase tickets.</p> <p>Civil war discussion forum at Ponte Vedra Library Dr. Wesley Moody will discuss the "Seven Myths of the Civil War" book at a Ponte Vedra forum Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Library. The book tackles enduring Civil War myths and explores a wide range of subjects including the war's causes, soldiers and more. The Ponte Vedra Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p>Prenatal Yoga Visitors are invited to share their pregnancy experience with other women and empower themselves through yoga, meditation and guided visualization. This approach is gentle and safe for women in all stages of pregnancy. Participants should bring a yoga mat, towel and water; there is a \$13 class fee per attendee. Call (904) 202-5376 for more information or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to register. This event will take place at 6 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra YMCA, located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Yoga at church Join St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal for Yoga every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a mat to this yoga class, which is suitable for all skill levels and ages. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Day Retreat The Life Enrichment Day Retreat 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. This program is offered daily at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, located at 5125 Palm Valley Road. For more information call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichment-group@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Middle School Book Talk Middle Schoolers in grades 6 through 8 are invited to join the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Jan. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. to explore their love of reading through food, movies, dioramas and more. Guests can bring a bag dinner and a favorite book to share. Call the library at (904) 827-6950 for more information. The Ponte Vedra Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p>Injury Prevention and Running Mechanics Join Paul Provenzano, PT, DPT, CSCS, from Baptist Beaches Rehabilitation, as he explains proper running mechanics and how to prevent injury during training and racing. This event, which takes place at the Ponte Vedra YMCA at 170 Landrum Lane, is free and open to the community. It starts at 5:30 p.m. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve your spot.</p>	<p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Jan. 11 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>'Dream Big: Engineering Our World' at IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame Narrated by Academy Award winner Jeff Bridges, "Dream Big: Engineering Our World" showcases the most impressive examples of human ingenuity and engineering – from the Great Wall of China to underwater robots. This movie is showing at the IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame Jan. 11 at 10 a.m. The theater is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine. Visit www.worldgolfimax.com for showtimes and to purchase tickets.</p> <p>Jacksonville Country Day School Admissions Open House Admissions Open House will offer parents an opportunity to meet and hear a brief description of what to expect from Jacksonville Country Day School Jan. 11 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Parents can also visit classrooms to see the school in action. Contact Lori Hall, admissions coordinator, at (904) 641-6644 Ext. 128 or LHall@JCDS.com to RSVP for the Admissions Open House event. Jacksonville Country Day School is located at 10063 Baymeadows Road.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to ben@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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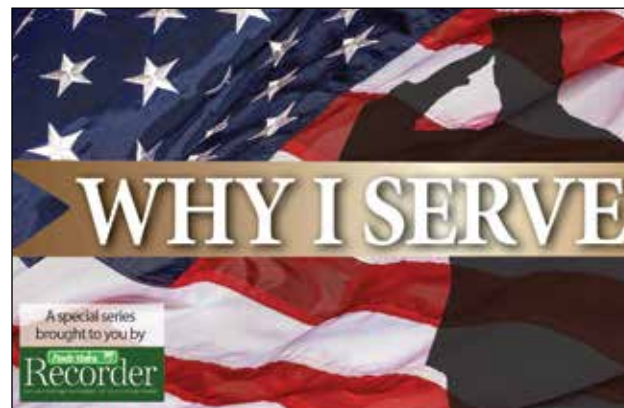


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Why I serve

The Ponte Vedra Recorder is excited to introduce Why I Serve, a video series highlighting veterans and active service members of the U.S. military that reveals why they ultimately decided to serve and what the experience provided for them.

Watch a snippet of the first piece on the Ponte Vedra Recorder Facebook page or the full version online at www.PonteVedraRecorder.com. Sponsorship opportunities are available for Why I Serve; any interested parties should contact Ben@OPCFLA.com for more information.

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PV2-LV45821

A family from Australia enjoys the festivities and celebrates the New Year at St. Augustine's Beach Blast Off.



ABOVE: A family from Montreal gathers at St. Augustine's Beach Blast Off.

RIGHT: Event attendees celebrate the New Year and enjoy live music at St. Augustine's Beach Blast Off.



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Residents, visitors celebrate New Year at St. Augustine's Beach Blast Off

By Jon Blauvelt

Area residents and visitors from far and wide celebrated the New Year at St. Augustine's Beach Blast Off Sunday, Dec. 31 at the St. Johns County Pier.

A fireworks show highlighted the evening, with event attendees watching from the beach and the pier parking lot.

Leading up to the show, people enjoyed live music from local bands, food and drinks from several local vendors and a kids' zone, which featured inflatables and activities like face painting.

Event attendees also enjoyed carnival rides, a climbing wall, photo booth and more. Free shuttles provided transportation to and from the event.

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Rotaract Club of Jacksonville's Beaches raises over \$11,000 for Mission House with 'A Night at the Alhambra'

The Rotaract Club of Jacksonville's Beaches hosted its third annual holiday fundraiser Dec. 7 at Alhambra Theatre & Dining and raised \$11,197.82 for Mission House.

Organizers of "A Night at the Alhambra" from Beaches Rotaract set a fundraising goal of \$10,000 and ultimately exceeded it by more than \$1,000. This year's total represents a 522 percent increase in donations compared to last year's fundraiser. In addition to the funds raised, approximately 700 pieces of clothing, blankets and toiletries were donated to Mission House thanks to a supply drive that was organized as part of the event.

"A Night at the Alhambra" also featured a cocktail reception, raffle, three-course meal and the evening's produc-

tion of "Christmas Carole." Members of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach joined the "Rotaracters" for the joint holiday outing and contributed to the effort.

VIP sponsors included CSI Companies, Brightway Insurance Ponte Vedra and Aegis Pension Services. Presenting sponsors included Joni Zwick, PA, Forcura, SmithBooks Accounting, Bing & Associates and Tyler Rodriguez.

For more information on the Rotaract Club of Jacksonville Beach, visit www.beachesrotaract.org/. For more information on Mission House — a Jacksonville Beach-based nonprofit that provides food, clothing, medical care and support services to help the Beaches-area homeless become self-sufficient — visit www.missionhousejax.org.

Members of the Rotaract Club of Jacksonville's Beaches gather at "A Night at the Alhambra." Pictured from left to right are Kristine Gundian, Shelby Aitken, Natalie Smith, D'Arcy Hubbard, Magdalena Cichon, Rachael Daven, Nicole Hamm, Charlie Flynn and Hunter Bradshaw.

Photo courtesy of Beaches Rotaract



Photos by Benjamin Naim

Volunteers pose for a photo at the 12 Days of Christmas event at the Mission House.

Volunteers deliver gifts to homeless at Mission House's 12 Days of Christmas event

By Benjamin Naim

Women from Marsh Landing Country Club tennis teams dressed as Santa's helpers and delivered gifts to homeless men and women from the Beaches area Dec. 21 at Mission House's annual 12 Days of Christmas event.

Lori Anderson, the executive director of Mission House, said the event is organized for Mission House clients to enjoy the holiday season just like everyone else.

"We want Christmas to still be special for them, and so we started 12 days of Christmas," she said at Mission House in Jacksonville Beach. "What we do is ask each one of our clients starting 12 days before Christmas what they would like Santa to bring them, something that we can't supply."



A collection of gifts for Mission House visitors.

Anderson said the facility offers clothing and other essentials for the homeless, but the 12 Days of Christmas festivity is an opportunity for clients to receive other items like watches or wallets.

Mission House is a day facility offering support and services for homeless adults from Mayport to Jacksonville Beach. The stated goal of the establishment is to assist homeless locals in their day-to-day lives and help them return to self-sufficient productivity. Mission House offers food, clothing, showers, a free clinic, spiritual services, job referrals and more.

Until 2015, Mission House purchased Christmas gifts for its clients, and volunteers handed them out to celebrate the holiday season. This year, however, members of the Marsh Landing tennis teams purchased gifts for Mission House clients.

"We're so grateful," Anderson said, "because you saw the looks on [the clients'] faces, to bring just a little bit of Christmas back to our folks means a lot. For example, we had a gentleman that needed a pair of 2X pants — we don't have that here. To get something like that is really special."

For more information on Mission House or to sign-up as a volunteer, visit www.missionhousejax.org, call Sara Spence at (904) 241-6767 or email receptionistmh@gmail.com.

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

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners and representatives from the St. Johns County School District recently recognized the PARC Group and the Tolomato Community Development District for funding safety improvements at Valley Ridge Academy. Responding to requests from Valley Ridge Academy parents and students, the community development district worked with the county and school district to provide a reduced-speed school zone at the intersection of Valley Ridge Boulevard and Greenleaf Drive near the school.

Photo courtesy of St. Johns County



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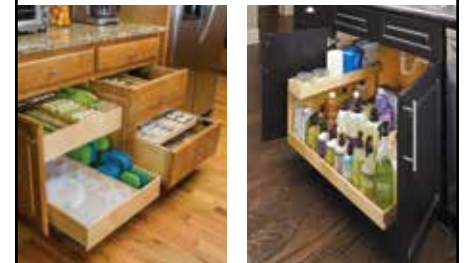
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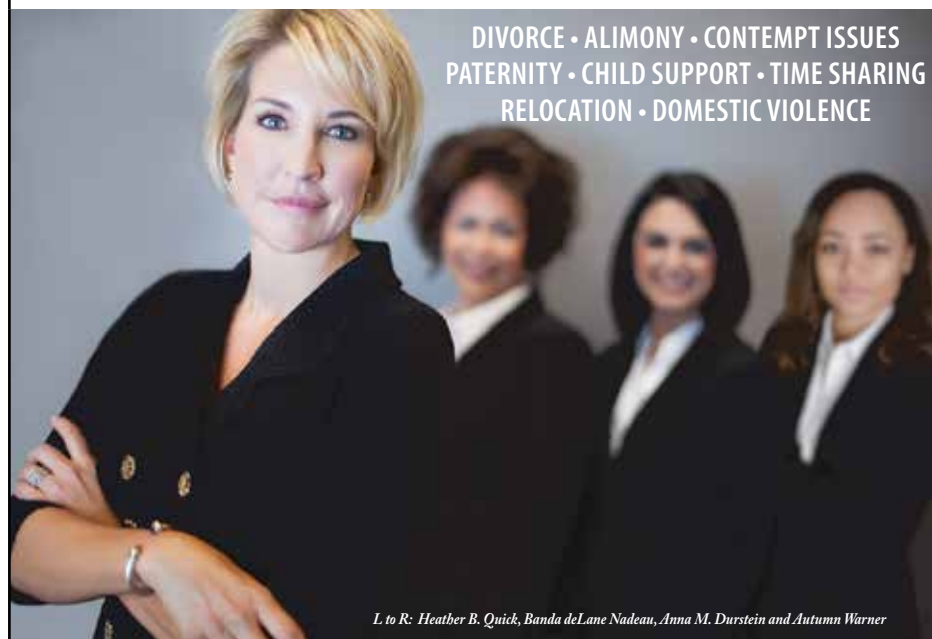
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Photo courtesy of The Bolles School

Bolles Lower School PVB students learn about artist Dale Chihuly and make holiday-inspired gifts.

Bolles Lower School PVB class teaches students about Dale Chihuly artwork

Students in Jeanette Edwards' Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus class recently learned about Dale Chihuly's artwork and how color can manifest due to heated materials, with a holiday spin.

Edwards' students used permanent markers to color designs on the side of plastic cups to make Chihuly-inspired disks for the holidays. The cups were baked until they were flat, melted disks.

Chihuly is an American glass sculptor whose works of blown glass art appear in museums, buildings and exhibit halls around the world. The Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville features a Chihuly work of art in the hospital's reception area.

Bolles robotics teams achieve high accolades at FIRST LEGO League qualifying tournament

Three Bolles robotics teams comprised of students from both Bolles Lower School campuses and the Bolles Middle School Bartram Campus achieved high accolades during the FIRST LEGO League qualifying tournament Dec. 9 at Edward Waters College.

The event marked the first time in program history that three Bolles robotics teams participated in the tournament and brought home awards.

The Bolles Ponte Vedra Beach Campus "Bolles Bots" won the Rookie Rising Star Award. Team coach Jennifer Moore said the Ponte Vedra Beach Campus "did a great job in the robot challenge with a ton of points."

In addition, the Bolles Lower School Whitehurst Campus "Bolles Bots" won the Core Values Award, while the Bolles Middle School Bartram "Bolles Bots" team won the Robot Design Award, earning a bid for the regional tournament slated for Feb. 3.

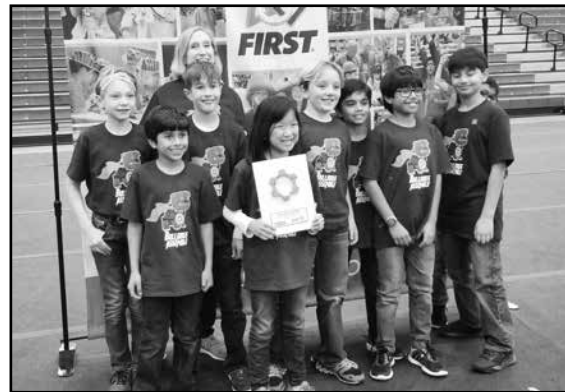
Since August 2017, the coaching staff consisting of Jennifer Moore, Beth Zerkowski, Carolyn Houston and Mark Meyers have trained Bolles' robotics stu-



Photos courtesy of The Bolles School

The Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus "Bolles Bots" team

dents with sessions before, during and after school. Students learned building, programming and real-world problem-solving skills in preparation for the FIRST LEGO tournament.



The Bolles Lower School Whitehurst Campus "Bolles Bots" team



The Bolles Middle School Bartram "Bolles Bots" team

PVB BRANCH LIBRARY HOSTS ANNUAL TEEN HOLIDAY PARTY



Photo courtesy of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library

The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library helped a group of local teens celebrate the holidays with its annual Teen Holiday Party Thursday, Dec. 21. Sponsored by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, the party featured pizza, soda, games and a White Elephant gift exchange. Attendees also had the chance to discuss their favorite books and take "shelves."

Ponte Vedra Democratic Club holds holiday party, gift drive

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club held its second annual holiday party Dec. 12 at THE PLAYERS Club at Sawgrass. During the party, the club collected children's gifts and donations of non-perishable food for local families in need.

The specific needs and wishes of 29 children who live in a housing development containing low-income units near Nease High School were identified last month. Members of The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club then coordinated a customized electronic wish list for each of the students and the siblings living in their households. Club members and friends in the community fulfilled the wishes and volunteered for days to wrap and organize the presents.

On Dec. 22, the club co-hosted a party on site for the families. Along with Ponte Vedra United for Progress and several teachers, they provided each child with a 30-gallon sack full of new clothing, shoes, toys and games, blankets, a stocking full of goodies and overstuffed bags of groceries for the winter break.



Photo courtesy of the Ponte Vedra Democratic Club

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club collected gifts for local children in a low-income housing development during the club's holiday party on Dec. 12.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care unveils plans for Stephen R. Chapman Family Community Campus

St. Augustine and St. Johns County residents soon will have one central destination to learn more about palliative and hospice care services: the Stephen R. Chapman Family Community Campus of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. The new campus is slated to open in late 2018 at 1373 Dixie Highway in St. Augustine.

The new campus will encompass 16,550 square feet and include a conference and education center, corporate and clinical offices and a resale store. The campus will be a welcoming place for all area residents, offering a variety of consumer- and health care provider-focused educational programs, advance care

planning and community grief counseling and workshops, and community meeting space open to local residents and organizations.

Longtime area philanthropists Steve and Christine Chapman, whose financial commitment has made the Chapman Campus possible, are co-leading a capital campaign to raise at least \$1.5 million to cover construction costs and ongoing expenses.

“Our ability to meet our commitment to this growing community has been limited due to a lack of adequate and accessible space to accommodate the many programs and services we offer,” said Susan Ponder-Stansel, president and

CEO of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. “Our new Stephen R. Chapman Family Community Campus will provide that needed space and be the focal point for our community to interact with us.”

The Chapmans envision the campus as a community education hub to help residents prepare for current and future health care challenges.

“The campus will provide much-needed education and coordination for local residents and their caregivers, which will empower people to make informed decisions about their own or their loved one’s health care and better navigate the medical system of the future,” Christine

Chapman said.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care has secured Fisher Koppenhafer Architecture and Interior Design as the architect, Matthews Design Group as the civil engineering firm and Auld & White Constructors as general contractor. Construction will begin in January.

For more information about the Chapman Campus, contact Donna Morrow at (904) 407-6136 or visit www.chapman-campus.communityhospice.com.

OBITUARIES

Caroline Almonrode

Caroline R. Almonrode, 55, died Dec. 25, 2017. Services under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Adolph Baste

Adolph C. A. Baste Jr., 92, died Dec. 22, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com.

Suzan David

Suzan V. David, 79, died Dec. 8, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com.

Patricia Dicarlo

Patricia “Pat” Dicarlo, 84, died Dec. 14, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com.

Dongwei Lu

Dongwei Lu, 47, died Dec. 20, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com.

Diane Kulp

Diane E. Kulp, 67, died Dec. 10, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com.

John Santana

John Santana, 79, of Jacksonville, died Dec. 27, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Virginia Smith

Virginia Keeler Smith, 91, died Dec. 20, 2017. Services under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Ginger Totten

Ginger Totten, 62, of Atlantic Beach, died Dec. 29, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Orrin Vann

Orrin T. Vann Jr., 78, died Dec. 20, 2017. Services under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

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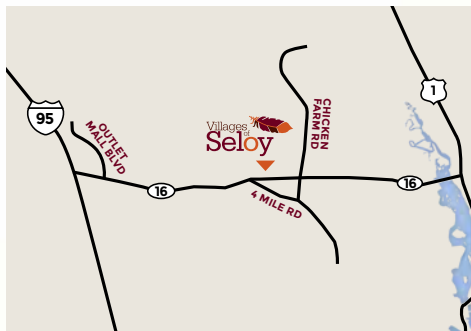
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Photos courtesy of Dalton Agency

Children from Shearwater enjoy playing in the Winter Festival's fake snowflakes.

Shearwater celebrates holidays at Winter Festival

Residents from Shearwater — the new master-planned residential community on County Road 210 — recently came together to celebrate the holidays at the community's annual Winter Festival at the Kayak Club amenity center.

Residents enjoyed pictures with Santa Claus, fake snowflakes, a hot chocolate bar, cookie decorating, holiday hay rides, train rides and more.

Residents also brought new and unopened toys to the Winter Festival as part of Shearwater's month-long donation drive for Toys for Tots. The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to children in need in the community.



A child from Shearwater meets with Santa Claus at the community's annual Winter Festival event.



Children celebrate the holidays by decorating cookies at Shearwater's Winter Festival.

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NSCDA-FL to host Alexander Hamilton re-enactor and performances for local students

Alexander Hamilton performances will be hosted and sponsored in January by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Florida (NSCDA-FL) and the Roger L. and Rochelle S. Main Charitable Trust for public and private school students in St. Johns and Duval Counties.

Eben Kuhn, a professional actor with the American Historical Theatre, will be representing Alexander Hamilton during several stages of the character's life, including the early years, education, wartime, Hamilton's drive to establish America's independence and his work in Congress for the Constitution and National Bank.

Performances will take place for approximately 1,600 fifth grade students Jan. 16-17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jacksonville Public Library, located at 303 N. Laura St. in Downtown Jacksonville. Performances will be held for approximately 500 honor-roll students at Creekside High School Jan. 19 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Students from Bartram Trail High School will also be on hand.

The NSCDA-FL brings more than 13 years of historic character performances to students throughout Northeast Florida, including re-enactors who specialize as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison and other founding fathers. The performances have been recognized by the NSCDA-FL's historic re-enactor program Lamar Award for Excellence in the Historical



Photo courtesy of Bonnie Hayflick PR Counsel

Eben Kuhn will portray Alexander Hamilton for local students at upcoming presentations in the Greater Jacksonville area.

Activities category.

Presenters are well-versed in the portrayal of their characters, including personalities, nuances and history, conducting a 45-minute interactive presentation and question-and-answer session. The school programs are coordinated by the Dames, school teachers and school district department supervisors, along with a curriculum and essay contest.

The programs are designed to share a much deeper understanding of the people and issues that shape the United States and inspire enthusiasm about history. NSCDA-FL's mission is to support public outreach programs that promote the nation's heritage through preservation, patriotic service and educational projects. Additionally, NSCDA-FL is the owner operator of the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum at 20 Aviles St. in historic downtown St. Augustine. The property is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and tours of the buildings and rooms are available from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Author to discuss 'Seven Myths of the Civil War' at Ponte Vedra Library

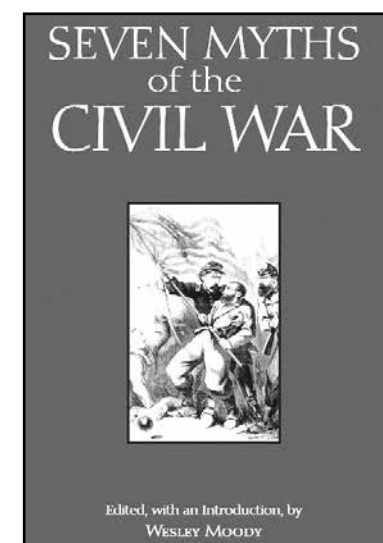
Dr. Wesley Moody will discuss his "Seven Myths of the Civil War" book at a Ponte Vedra Forum program scheduled for Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

The book tackles enduring Civil War myths and explores a wide range of subjects, including the cause of the war, soldiers, leaders, battlefields and Sherman's "March Through Georgia."

"Seven Myths of the Civil War" also contains essays by various historians revealing true stories hidden beneath Civil War falsehoods.

Moody is a professor of history at Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ). He has a PhD in American history from Georgia State University, and he is the author of four books on the American Civil War.

This event is free and open to the public.



Dr. Wesley Moody's "Seven Myths of the Civil War" will be the focus of discussion at a Ponte Vedra Forum on Jan. 9 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

Photo courtesy of Vic DiGenti

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council promotes Stancato to chief development officer

The Girl Scouts of Gateway Council (GSGC) recently announced that TriciaRae Stancato has been promoted to chief development officer.

Stancato has served as senior director of fund development and corporate engagement since joining GSGC in August 2016. As chief development officer, she will offer strategic leadership to develop and implement GSGC's fund development initiatives—including donor cultivation and stewardship.

"TriciaRae is a dynamic and innovative leader who is committed to making a difference in the lives of girls across Northeast Florida," said Girl Scouts of Gateway Council CEO Mary Anne Jacobs. "I am confident that her ability to create and implement fund development strategies will prove to be invaluable as we build upon our success as



TriciaRae Stancato

the premier leadership experience for girls."

Before joining GSGC, Stancato served as the marketing and development director for Vision is Priceless in Jacksonville, where she expanded her fund development marketing skills for nonprofit organizations. Previously, Stancato worked with Girl Scouts of Central New York as a design and development manager.

Originally from Syracuse, New York, Stancato holds a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and is an active member of the Association of Fundraising professionals, serving on the National Philanthropy Day Committee.

Coleman joins Betty Griffin Center as executive assistant

Betty Griffin Center, which provides emergency shelter and services for residents experiencing domestic or sexual abuse in St. Johns County, has hired Christie Coleman as an executive assistant.

Coleman, who reports to Betty Griffin Center CEO Joyce Mahr, will be responsible for office management, board support and other administrative support functions at the center. She was most recently an administrative assistant at the North East Florida Educational Consortium in Palatka, where she was responsible for assisting specialists, coordinators and administrators involved with the Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System network, including districts, associate centers and the Florida Department of Education/Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services.



Christie Coleman

Previously, she was a payroll specialist with CDI and served as an office manager for the Early Learning Coalition of North Florida for more than eight years.

Prior to those roles, Coleman also worked in administrative positions with several public agencies in North Florida, including Child Care Resources, the Putnam County Health Department and the Department of Children and Families.

She received an associate degree in computer science from ITT Technical Institute in Tucson, Arizona; however, she has spent most of her working career in an administrative capacity.

Business Weekly

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018

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Vet hospital plans
to join Shoppes at
Palm Valley

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Rendering courtesy of WHA Design and Panera Bread

A rendering displays a Panera Bread that the company plans to build in Ponte Vedra, pending approval from St. Johns County.

Panera Bread files applications with county to open location in Ponte Vedra Beach

By Jon Blauvelt

Panera Bread has filed applications with St. Johns County to open a location in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Karen Taylor, a St. Augustine land planner representing Panera, said the proposed location of the restaurant is in the Ponte Vedra Point Shopping Center, where PetSmart, Tire Kingdom and Beach Diner currently stand. The proposal and site maps indicate that the Panera will be freestanding and situated along A1A where parking is now available.

Taylor explained that the company has filed a major modification to the Fairfield at Ponte Vedra Planned Unit Development (PUD) to allow for the addition of a 3,100 square-foot “out-parcel” restaurant. For the Panera to be added, the overall square footage within the PUD would need to be increased by 2,932 square feet for

a total of 77,754 square feet, or an additional 1,754 square feet beyond original approval.

According to a letter from Taylor to the county, the overall number of parking spaces would decrease from 390 to 342, which she said would still adequately cover the shopping center and the new Panera.

Taylor said Panera has also filed an architectural application concerning colors, design, landscaping, signage and building materials.

The land planner said the major modification will most likely take another six months to complete. She noted that she just recently filed the applications on behalf of Panera Bread and is waiting on the county’s comments, which are due Jan. 4.

After the comments section of the process is complete, the applications will first go before the Palm Valley Architectural Review

Committee (ARC) for recommendation of approval or denial. Taylor expects this ARC hearing to take place in January. Teresa Bishop, planning division manager for the Growth Management Department of St. Johns County, said that timeline is probably optimistic. She thinks the ARC hearing will take place in February.

Following the ARC review, the applications will go before the Planning and Zoning Agency (PZA) for recommendation of approval or denial and then the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for final deliberation. Bishop estimated that these hearings will occur in the spring or early summer of 2018.

If the applications are ultimately approved, Taylor estimates that construction will start in late 2018, with completion targeted for spring of 2019.

How can you improve your financial fitness this year?



Karsten Jacobson
Guest columnist

By Karsten Jacobson, CFP®
Special to the Recorder

If one of your New Year’s resolutions is to get healthier, you may already be taking the necessary steps, such as improving your diet and increasing your exercise. Of course, physical fitness is important to your well-being – but, at

the same time, don’t forget about your financial fitness. Specifically, what can you do to ensure your investment situation is in good shape?

Here are a few “healthy living” suggestions that may also apply to your investment portfolio:

■ **Build endurance:** Just as exercise can help build your endurance for the demands of a long life, a vigorous investment strategy can help you work toward your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement. In practical terms, this means you will need to own some investments with the potential to provide long-term growth. These are the investments that, ideally, you can hold on to for decades and eventually reap the benefits of capital appreciation. Of course, growth-oriented investments, such as most types of stocks, will rise and fall in value over the short term, and there’s no guarantee of profits, or even preserving principal. But if you choose wisely, and you have the patience and discipline to hold on to your investments through the market’s ups and downs, you may well be rewarded.

■ **Maintain an ideal “weight:”** You can help yourself stay healthy by maintaining your ideal weight. This can be challenging – as you know from the recently finished holiday season, it’s easy to put on a few extra pounds. And, just as inadvertently, your portfolio can tack on some unneeded weight, too, in the form of redundant investments. Over time, you may have picked up too many similar investment vehicles, resulting in an overconcentration, or “flabbiness,” that can work against you, especially when a market downturn affects the asset class in which you’re overloaded. So, you

JACOBSON continues on Page 23

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War does not determine who is right. War determines who is left!



Harry Pappas
Columnist

By Harry Pappas
Special to the Recorder

The subject of how much we should spend on our military budget has always been a hotly debated topic. In fact, the subject in question has been buffed, defanged, neutered and whipped so many times that I get incredibly, indescribably

and excruciatingly nauseated when the topic rears its ugly face.

Nevertheless, at the risk of becoming physically ill, I wanted to share the following information with you, as I found it to be quite interesting. In March 2017, President Trump submitted his request to Congress for \$639 billion in military spending, which according to Bloomberg, amounts to \$54 billion (10 percent increase) for fiscal year 2018 and \$30

PAPPAS continues on Page 21



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Pappas

Continued from 20

billion for fiscal year 2017 (September). How about this fact? Our military spending is more than the next eight countries combined. Yep, sip on that one for a while, swirl it around, do not spit it out. Savor the taste. Incredible, is it not?

I put forth that there are usually at least two sides to every issue. Moreover, folks on each side believe in the deepest recesses of their souls that they are right. For example, looking at how much we should spend on military defense, if we spend too little, our adversaries may be encouraged to exploit our weaknesses, costing us to lose more soldiers along with potentially giving up our position as the world's best military. To the contrary, if we invest too much in our defense spending, the misallocation of resources will add to our national debt and possibly place us in an adverse financial position.

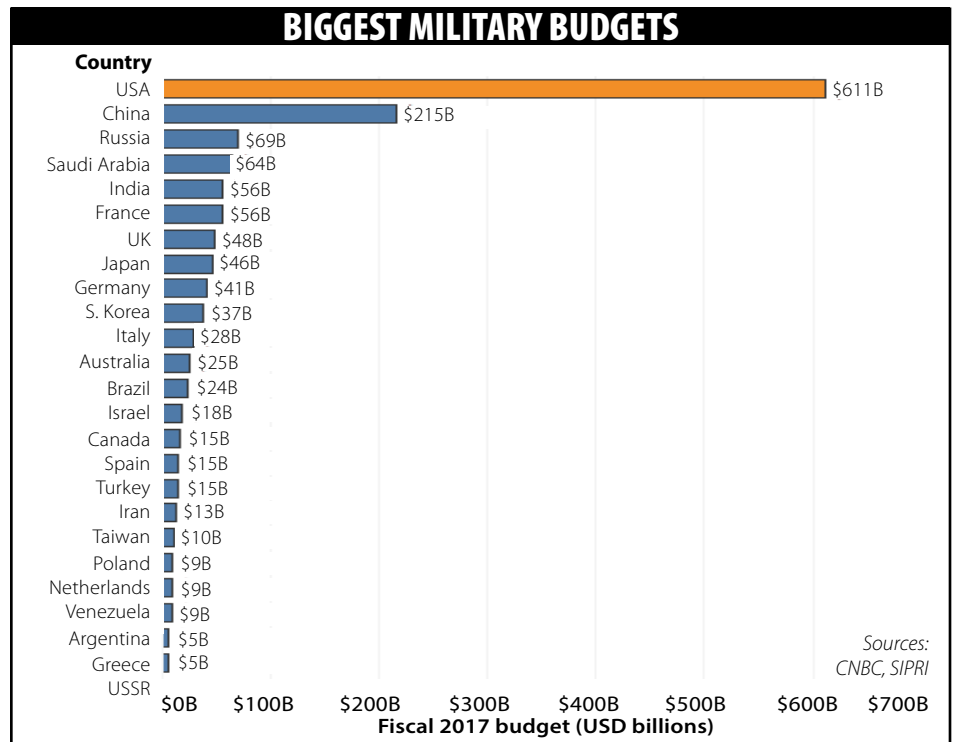
Yes indeed, it is a difficult balance to accomplish, which is why I suggest we apply The Goldilocks Principle to this remarkable, problematic issue. For those of you not familiar with the well-known children's story, "The Story of the Three Bears," there was a little girl named Goldilocks that tasted three different bowls of porridge, and she finds that she prefers porridge that is neither too hot nor too cold but has just the right temperature.

In other words, let's not spend too much or too little, but just the right amount. Sure, that's easy in theory but incredibly difficult, which is why this topic is often contested. Nevertheless, look at the chart on the right provided by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

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Berkshire Hathaway welcomes Mecke, Deegan to Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently announced that Lisa Mecke and Robin Deegan are joining the company's Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office as new realtors.

Previously, Mecke was a fifth-grade teacher in the Broward County School District. She also has had her real estate license for a decade and is eager to use her knowledge of the school districts in Northeast Florida to help her clients not only find a home but a community in which they can raise a family.

"She's transitioning into being a full-time agent with us and is eager to start helping her clients with all their real estate needs," shared Kevin Waugaman, broker/manager of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office. "With her background and knowledge of our schools and communities, I'm sure she will succeed here with us."

A self-described "fitness buff," Mecke enjoys working out when she's not working. Not only does Mecke have her Personal Training Certification, she also loves participating in Tough Mudders and Spartan Races. In her downtime, she also enjoys bike riding and spending leisurely afternoons on her boat.

"I'm a very social person; I love meeting and helping people!" said Mecke. "Being a realtor means that you're your 'own boss,' and that you will get out of it what you put into it. Florida Network Realty has a great training program that helps their agents get on the right track for suc-



Lisa Mecke



Robin Deegan

cess in their career."

Also a former teacher, Deegan decided to follow her interest in real estate and, after obtaining her license, began working as a realtor with another local brokerage. Deegan's background in education offered her a natural transition into working in the real estate world – from educating her clients about each step of real estate transactions to researching and preparing reports about the fast-paced real estate market of Northeast Florida. With two years of experience in real estate, Deegan was eager to take her career the next level and joined the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office of Florida Network Realty to help her achieve her goals.

"Robin's passion for helping others is evident from the first time you meet her," said Waugaman. "She is relentless in making sure her customers are taken care of, and in guiding them through each step of the real estate process. I am excited that she has joined Florida Network Realty, and I am confident that she will shine here."

Born and raised in New York and New Jersey, Deegan has also lived in

the Maryland/D.C. area, the Atlanta/Alpharetta area and has now lived in Northeast Florida for over 17 years. She has navigated her three children through the St. John County School system and has volunteered on several boards, committees and extracurricular organizations in Northeast Florida. When not working, Deegan enjoys spending time with her family and friends and is passionate about health and wellness – enjoying going for walks, runs and bike rides on the beach.

"I will always take the time to listen to my clients' wants and needs, to do the research to find them the right home in the right community and guide them through each step of every real estate transaction," said Deegan. "I pride myself on providing exceptional customer service and to make the real estate process a seamless and enjoyable experience. I strive to become not only a trusted realtor but a friend to each of my clients and their families."

Contact Mecke by phone at (954) 383-9652 or via email at Lisa.Mecke@FloridaNetworkRealty.com. Visit her website at LMeckeFloridaNetworkRealty.com.

Contact Deegan by phone at (904) 881-3112 or via email at Robin.Deegan@FloridaNetworkRealty.com. Visit her website at RobinDeeganHomes.com.

The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office is located at 333 Village Main St., Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082.



Photo courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Broker/Executive Vice President Christy Budnick and Founder, President and CEO Linda H. Sherrer

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty achieves \$1 billion in 2017 home sale closings

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently announced that the firm has achieved \$1 billion in closed home sale volume year-to-date in 2017.

"We are so excited to reach this milestone," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Broker/Executive Vice President Christy Budnick. "Our company is comprised of an incredibly talented and passionate realtor team, dedicated employees, terrific business partners and loyal customers for whom we are most grateful."

This is the second time Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has achieved more than \$1 billion in closed sales. The company reported more than \$1 billion in residential closings in 2005.

"We have the best team in the world and we can't thank them enough for their loyalty and contributions to the company's success," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer. "Our success is a reflection of our team's approach to residential real estate. They are the very best at what they do, and our clients are at the center of everything. Our focus is to provide customers with exceptional service and results."

Founded in 1988, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has a team of more than 400 real estate professionals in nine offices throughout Northeast Florida. The company operates a corporate relocation division, a new home and condominium sales division, Florida Network Property Management, Gibraltar Title Services, LLC and is in a mortgage relationship with EverBank.

For more information on Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, visit www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com or call (904) 296-6400.

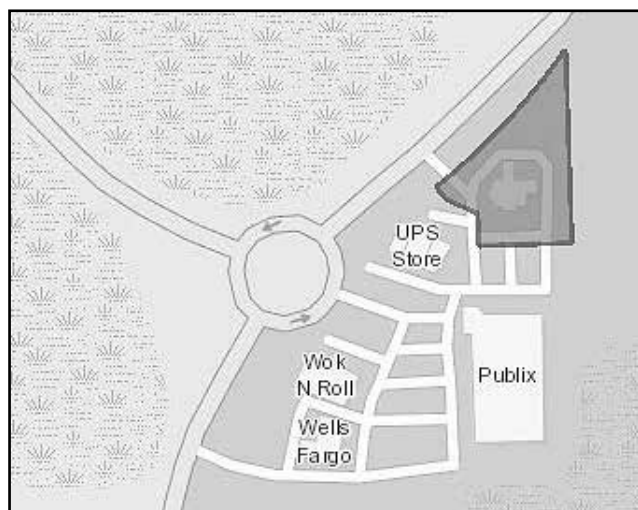
Vet hospital plans to join Shoppes at Palm Valley

A new veterinary hospital is looking to join the growing list of businesses at the Shoppes at Palm Valley.

The Palm Valley Vet Hospital has applied with St. Johns County for a non-zoning variance to add 6,735 square feet of space to the existing 2,988 square feet of existing space previously occupied by Mercantile Bank.

The application also seeks to demolish portions of the bank and to install new parking and landscaping at the property located at 3783 Palm Valley Road. The request for the non-zoning variance also seeks to "allow for the length of a building parallel, or within 45 degrees parallel, to exceed the 120-foot maximum."

Kim Del Rance, from the St. Johns County Planning and Zoning department, said the vet hospital is awaiting an architectural review, and may also require a zoning variance based on the way the building is situated.



Map courtesy of St. Johns County

The shaded area shows the proposed location of the Palm Valley Vet Hospital at the Shoppes at Palm Valley.

The application has not yet been scheduled for a public hearing, but a Neighborhood Bill of Rights notification was released in November.

The Shoppes at Palm Valley currently contains a Publix, a UPS store, a dentist office and several restaurants and other specialty shops.

Empowerment, encouragement goals of Ponte Vedra women's networking group

By Samantha Logue

In the spirit of female empowerment, a group of Ponte Vedra women has joined together to form a networking and entrepreneurial group to encourage and support local women in business.

Led by founding members Monica Moore, the founder of Fertile Health, LLC, and Elizabeth Paul, adjunct professor of International Health at the University of Florida, the group meets weekly to network, share insights and provide general support. Currently, the group consists of 16 members.

"It's such a great resource for pulling together like-minded women and supporting each other," Paul said of the group.

"We have a bigwig who's at Web.com, people who are in mortgages and somebody who's a partner in a finance business," Moore added. "One of the women in the group, she owns Cabana Life, and she introduced me to this group of attorneys who've now also joined our group."

Having previously been members of a larger women's networking group, both Moore and Paul said they were turned off by the inability to connect with other members on a more personal level at the meetings. The solution, they decided, was to create their own, smaller group.

"We're constantly bouncing ideas off of each other, so it just made sense to create a network of people," Moore said.

For Paul, the unique demographics of the Greater Jacksonville area made the idea of a local group all the more appealing.

"Living in Ponte Vedra is not like living in New York City where you can meet at Starbucks, or at someone's office after work, and it's just so easy to get together," she explained. "Here, it's a little more challenging."

As for membership requirements, while the main purpose of the group is to provide support to women in business, it is not exclusive to working women.

"We actually have someone in the group who isn't currently actively working," Moore said. "She calls herself the 'CEO of her family,' and she just comes to be energized and inspired."

Each meeting, Moore said, starts off on a positive note, with



Photo by Samantha Logue

Local businesswomen Elizabeth Paul and Monica Moore are the founders of a new Ponte Vedra-based women's networking group.

each member sharing one good aspect of her week. Members then speak about challenges they faced, and then others provide helpful feedback. The location of each meeting varies by week.

"We decided that for January, everyone is going to state their goals for 2018, so that we're holding each other accountable," Moore said. "Then everybody has to pick a book, a TED Talk, podcast or an article that they were inspired by. And you don't have to bring it, you just need to name it."

The goal, she explained, is to compile a list of resources for members to reference.

But while the entrepreneurial insight is great, Paul said, for her, the best part of the group is its collaborative atmosphere, and "just having a group of supportive, strong, motivated women who are always there for you."

For more information about this women's networking group, contact Monica Moore at monica@fertilehealthexpert.com.

Jacobson

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might be better off liquidating some of your duplicate, or near-duplicate, investments, and using the proceeds to help broaden your investment mix.

■ **Get proper rest:** Many studies have shown that we need adequate rest to stay alert and healthy. In your life, you've probably already found that if you over-tax your body, you pay a price in your overall well-being. If you look at your investment portfolio as a living entity – which, in a way, it is, as it certainly provides life to your goals and aspirations – then you can see that it, too, can be weakened by stress. And one of the main stress factors is excessive trading. If you're constantly buying and selling investments to boost your returns, you may rack up hefty fees, commissions and taxes – and still not really get the results you wanted. Plus, if you're frequently moving in and out of different investments, you'll find it hard to follow a unified, long-term strategy. So, confine your trading to those moves that are really essential, and give your portfolio a rest.

To enjoy your life fully, you'll want to take care of your physical and financial health – and, as it turns out, you can make similar types of moves to help yourself in both areas.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor. Karsten L. Jacobson, CFP®, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones at 2208 Sawgrass Village Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Florida Airbnb hosts earn \$450M, welcome 2.7 million guests in 2017

Company earns \$8.8 million, welcomes 64,800 guests in St. Johns County

Airbnb recently announced that its Florida vacation rental hosts earned a combined \$450 million in supplemental income while welcoming approximately 2.7 million guests to the state in 2017.

St. Johns County comes in at No. 12 on the company's list of top 20 counties in Florida in terms of guest arrivals, earning \$8.8 million and welcoming 64,800 guests in 2017.

The 2.7 million total guests to Florida represent 75 percent year-over-year growth. There are now nearly 40,000 Floridians who share their homes or vacation rentals through Airbnb, with each host typically earning about \$6,700 annually.

Airbnb said statewide data indicates that the vacation rental community is complementing — rather than competing with — the Florida hotel industry. The company said Florida hotels experienced strong growth in occupancy rates, prices and revenue dur-

ing 2017 — in parallel with vacation rental growth for the year. Airbnb says this suggests that vacation rentals on the company's website and other platforms are opening the state to a new demographic of tourists by catering to travelers who are less able to afford hotels, those who desire to stay in neighborhoods or cities that lack hotels and families who prefer to vacation together under one roof.

In addition to the new personal income going into the pockets of Florida hosts, Airbnb said the vacation rental community is also generating new public revenues that benefit the state and dozens of local communities through tax agreements that allow the company to collect and remit taxes on behalf of its hosts.

Airbnb is currently authorized to collect and pay the state sales tax on all bookings in Florida, in addition to collecting and paying local bed taxes in 39 counties. In 2017 alone, Airbnb said it secured new tax agreements with six counties: Miami-Dade, Broward, Sarasota, Polk, Hillsborough and Leon. The company will release a 2017 county-by-county tax report once the December taxes are remitted.

Airbnb in Florida: By the Numbers

An overview of 2017 Airbnb guest arrivals and total host income, broken down by the top 20 counties in Florida (in terms of guest arrivals).

County	Total 2017 Guest Arrivals	Total 2017 Host Income
Miami-Dade	667,200	\$134.6 million
Osceola	358,400	\$39.6 million
Broward	239,600	\$45.7 million
Orange	229,500	\$25 million
Pinellas	140,200	\$24.5 million
Polk	101,600	\$10.5 million
Hillsborough	78,700	\$10.4 million
Palm Beach	72,500	\$17.1 million
Bay	69,300	\$12 million
Sarasota	67,100	\$13.3 million
Monroe	65,700	\$13.6 million
Saint Johns County	64,800	\$8.8 million
Lee	63,800	\$13.2 million
Volusia	51,100	\$7.5 million
Brevard	45,500	\$6.5 million
Okaloosa	45,200	\$8.5 million
Duval	42,600	\$6.1 million
Walton	41,200	\$8.5 million
Collier	35,400	\$8.1 million
Escambia	31,700	\$4.6 million

Chart provided by Airbnb



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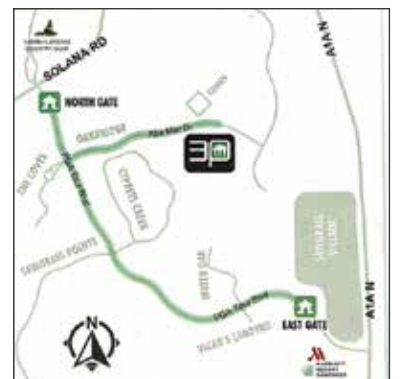
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St. Augustine Seafood Company now open for business

Serving dishes ranging from a fish and chips burrito and chowder fries to Florida citrus salad and a buffalo shrimp basket, St. Augustine Seafood Company (SASco) is now open and ready to serve the community.

Located on St. George Street within the Colonial Quarter and Colonial Oak Music Park, the restaurant offers a small, focused menu chock-full of classic seafood favorites inspired by the city's rich culinary and fishing history. St. Augustine Seafood Company boasts two dining options: a full-service lounge with full bar in the Triay House and a fast-casual, counter-service eatery in the Florencia House with outdoor seating available. The restaurant opened its doors Dec. 22.

"When creating the menu for SASco, I kept in mind the cornerstone of our concept, which is local, sustainable food for the people," explained Chef John Whitworth, head chef at St. Augustine Seafood Company. "It is a simple menu that shines with its focus on fresh and local ingredients; modern twists on time-honored seafood favorites."

The restaurant's commitment to sustainable, local seafood means that its menu boards will be updated daily to include the name of the boat that caught the shrimp, snapper or other seafood that ends up on your plate.

"We're dedicated to supporting the St. Augustine community in any way that we



ABOVE: Located on St. George Street within the Colonial Quarter and Colonial Oak Music Park, St. Augustine Seafood Company is now open for business.

LEFT: St. Augustine Seafood Company makes fresh Minorean Conch and New England Clam Chowders daily.

Photos courtesy of Old City Public Relations

can," said Michael Croce, president of Pat Croce & Company, which owns the restaurant. "We've partnered with the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum to donate \$1 from every sale of our Lighthouse Lemonade to the museum's maritime archaeology programs. We were also pretty excited to win second place in the recent Great Chowder Debate, a St.

Augustine institution. Not bad for newbies on the scene!"

Regular business hours are Sunday through Thursday from 11 am to 9 pm and Friday and Saturday from 11 am to 11 pm. Call 904-217-8947 or visit saseafoodco.com for more information. Follow on Instagram @saseafoodco and Facebook@saseafoodco.

One Ocean Resort & Spa's Wittman earns Certified Sommelier recognition

One Ocean Resort & Spa recently announced that Food & Beverage Director Stephen Wittman has been recognized as a Certified Sommelier by the Court of Master Sommeliers Americas.

"I am incredibly proud of Stephen for his dedication to the craft and going above and beyond to master the intricacies of wine culture," said Ted Peters, vice president of



Stephen Wittman

culinary for the Luxury Division of Remington Hotels, which manages One Ocean Resort & Spa. "His certification establishes a heightened standard of trusted beverage knowledge and attentive service throughout One Ocean Resort & Spa."

During the certification process, Wittman became well-versed in numerous wine regions, identifying a wine's age, varietal characteristics and flavor notes. The extensive examination consists of deductive tasting, theory, decanting and practical service, showcasing candidates' attention to detail and presentation.

"I pursued this recognition because of my passion for continued education and enhancing the guest experience through the enjoyment of wine," said Wittman. "As a Certified Sommelier, I am able to advance Azurea's artfully-inspired menus and match ideal pairings for both One Ocean guests and special event clients."

Azurea is the signature restaurant of One Ocean Resort & Spa. True to its coastal surroundings, it offers a view of the ocean from any seat in the house and is one of four AAA four-diamond awarded restaurants in all of Northeast Florida.

For more information about One Ocean Resort & Spa, call (800) 874-6000. For more resort happenings and special offers, follow One Ocean Resort & Spa on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

St. Augustine Restaurant Association creates foundation to help local hospitality workers

The St. Augustine Independent Restaurant Association (SAiRA) recently launched the SAiRA Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting St. Augustine workers primarily within the hospitality industry who are in extreme need, and to promoting hospitality-based education.

"Hospitality workers are the backbone of our local and tourist-based community," said Jeremy Ticehurst, president of SAiRA Foundation and manager at the Reef Restaurant. "They're also susceptible to upheavals in their lives due to storms, illnesses or other misfortunes.

The foundation will help provide support when they need it to get them and their family back on their feet."

Over a dozen locally-owned and managed St. Augustine restaurants make up the membership of SAiRA. Together, the restaurants employ over 500 hospitality workers in the community.

"Our restaurants consider employees to be part of a huge family," said Ticehurst. "And families take care of each other. When two hurricanes hit our area within a year, we personally saw the impact catastrophes can have on our employees. Many were displaced. Belongings were

lost. There was loss of income. We saw a need and decided to create the foundation."

In addition to supporting workers in need, the SAiRA Foundation will also promote hospitality education, with activities including hospitality training within the service industry in St. Augustine.

"A well-trained workforce will have a positive impact on our tourist-based community," said Ticehurst.

Initial funding for the SAiRA Foundation will come from association mem-



Photo courtesy of Daigle Creative

Julia Kalinski (Daniel Kids), Doug Standard (Daniel Kids), Melinda Andrew (Franklin Street), Kerry Flanigan (Daniel Kids), Nikita Campbell (local mom), Christopher Jones-Carey (Franklin Street), Abby Walsh (Franklin Street), Robin Devitte (Daniel Kids), Marshal Hayes (Franklin Street), Ricky Ostrofsky (Franklin Street), Lesley Wells (Daniel Kids) and Yvonne Baker (Franklin Street) pose during a check presentation at the Daniel Kids campus on Nov. 28. Franklin Street raised a \$6,000 scholarship for Nikita Campbell's children to attend Daniel Academy.

Franklin Street donates \$6,000 to provide Daniel Academy scholarship for siblings with special needs

Commercial real estate firm Franklin Street and its North Florida office recently donated \$6,000 to fund a scholarship for two siblings with special needs who require financial assistance to attend Daniel Academy in the 2018-2019 school year.

Daniel Academy is a K-6 elementary school operated by Daniel Kids, Florida's oldest child-serving nonprofit. The academy is designed to meet the needs of children with learning disabilities and emotional challenges through low student-teacher ratios, enriching

curriculum and on-site therapy services.

Franklin Street's Jacksonville office has raised a total of almost \$10,000 for Daniel Kids over the last two years. The company hit a fundraising record this year with 100 percent participation from its local team, which earned the firm even more in corporate matching funds.

"We are pleased to provide this much-needed funding and support for our favorite local child-serving organization – Daniel Kids," said Yvonne Baker, regional managing partner for

Franklin Street. "Our team worked diligently to raise and contribute these funds, and we're looking forward to the impact it will make. We're constantly humbled and impressed by the service and care Daniel Kids provides its residents and children in need."

In addition to raising money, local Franklin Street employees spent more than 80 cumulative hours working with teenagers at Daniel Kids, as well as volunteered at the nonprofit's play days.

For more information, visit DanielKids.org.

A.I. Thomas LLC signs deal with Dollar General

Ponte Vedra Beach-based company A.I. Thomas LLC recently announced the signing of a contract between the company and Dollar General stores based in Goodlettsville, Tennessee. The contract establishes A.I. Thomas (d.b.a. AIT Environmental Technology) as the primary contractor providing remediation services and general facility maintenance in an 18-state area for

Dollar General.

A.I. Thomas is a service disabled, veteran-owned small business with a corporate office at 220 Ponte Vedra Park Drive (suite 280). In addition to the corporate office, the company has five regional service centers. James Thomas, president and CEO of the company, has stated that the company is in the process of adding three ad-

ditional regional centers to provide additional service with the new contract.

In addition to the new Dollar General contract, the company continues to maintain a customer base that includes colleges and universities, commercial accounts and federal, state and local government accounts. For further information, call (844) 749-2256 or email aitenvirotech@aitenvirotech.com.

Foundation

Continued from 26

bers. Throughout the year, the SAiRA Foundation will host community events and fundraisers. Anyone inter-

ested in donating to the foundation can visit SAiRAFoundation.com.

Formed in 2008, SAiRA members build relationships through the sharing of information and supporting local independent restaurants. Members work side-by-side to help each other exceed

the expectations of guests and advance St. Augustine's unique culinary and cultural diversity.

For more information, call Business Solutions Unlimited, LLC at (904) 429-4588 or send an email to info@bsullc.com.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care opens for business in 11 new counties

Community Hospice & Palliative Care is open for business and accepting patients in 11 new counties, including Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Putnam, Suwannee, and Union, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

These counties are part of the area defined as 3A, or North-Central Florida. In 2017, Community Hospice & Palliative Care was selected by the Florida Agency of Health Care Administration (AHCA) to provide service to these 11 additional counties, while still providing services to the five Northeast Florida counties it has served since its founding in 1979. The five founding counties of 4A include Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns and are supported by more than 900 employees and 1,000 volunteers, assisting 1,600 patients each day to live better with advanced illness – at home, in long-term care and assisted living facilities, in hospitals and at the organization's eight inpatient care centers.

"I'm thrilled to be leading our expansion into 3A because my neighbors now have a choice when it comes to advanced illness and end-of-life care" said Belena "Billie" Adkins, RN, BSN, CHPN, 3A regional director and native of Baker County. "Our compassionate and innovative care will be provided to the community-at-large by fellow residents. Our new launch into 3A is neighbor helping neighbor, and we'll be there 24/7 when they need us."

In addition to the four levels of adult hospice care as defined by Medicare, Community Hospice & Palliative Care will also provide:

- Advanced care planning
- Caregiver education and support
- Grief and bereavement support for up to 13 months
- Integrative and complementary therapies such as music therapy, pet therapy, etc.
- Palliative care (advanced illness symptom management)
- Pediatric palliative care, hospice care and bereavement camp
- Veterans programs
- Volunteer involvement

"We look forward to bringing these and many more programs and services to the residents of 3A," said Community Hospice & Palliative Care President and CEO Susan Ponder-Stansel. "We are here to get to know them, to listen to them and ensure we provide our neighboring patients and families with the best care possible. We want to be the choice for compassionate care at the time in life when they need us the most."

Visit communityhospice.com or call (800) 274-6614 to learn more.

Florida Blue returns to present 'Women with Heart' luncheon

Florida Blue has committed for a second year to serving as the presenting sponsor of the 2018 "Women With Heart" luncheon benefiting Volunteers in Medicine, a free healthcare clinic in Jacksonville that serves Northeast Florida's working, low-income and uninsured individuals and families.

"Florida Blue's mission is to help people and communities achieve better health," said Florida Blue Market President Darnell Smith. "Partnering with Volunteers in Medicine enables us to realize our vision to be a leading innovator in fostering healthy communities. It is important to recognize the work and commitment of some of our community's finest leaders."

The 2018 "Women With Heart" luncheon presented by Florida Blue will take place on Feb. 7 at the Florida Blue Conference Center on the company's Deerwood Campus. For the second year, the recognition luncheon will kick off a year-long celebration of 11 Northeast Florida women whose leadership, advocacy and generosity have greatly impacted so many in the community.

The ladies honored as 2018 "Women With Heart" are Dany Atkinson, Cheryl Barnett, Dr. Pam Chally, The Honorable Audrey Gibson, Leslie Gordon, Shelley Morgan, Silvia Pulido, Diane Raines, Dr. Estrellita Redmon, Melissa Ross and Dr. Elana Schrader.



Photo courtesy of Volunteers in Medicine

Volunteers in Medicine's board of directors and Women With Heart host committee members recently hosted an invitation-only reception for Women With Heart sponsors and both the 2017 and 2018 Women With Heart honorees at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club. Shown are the 2018 Women With Heart honorees Cheryl Barnett (seated, left to right), Diane Raines, Dr. Pam Chally, Dany Atkinson and Dr. Estrellita Redmon; and 2017 Women With Heart honorees Tracy Williams (standing left to right), Lisa Weatherby, Aimee Boggs and Helen Morse. 2018 Women With Heart honorees not pictured: The Honorable Audrey Gibson, Leslie Gordon, Shelley Morgan, Silvia Pulido, Melissa Ross and Dr. Elana Schrader.

"We're proud to play a role in honoring this next group of amazing ladies for their dedication to some of Northeast Florida's most vulnerable and often over-looked populations — our hard-working uninsured individuals and families," continued Smith. "The inaugural year's Women With Heart event and the subsequent monthly

events customized and hosted by each of the honorees significantly impacted Volunteers in Medicine. The event not only increased awareness for the clinic's mission and its innovative volunteer service model, but it raised over \$125,000 that will support the clinic's primary and specialty care services and programs. We are

excited to join them for a second year and look forward to celebrating this impressive group of 2018 honorees."

Volunteers in Medicine CEO Mary Pat Corrigan said the nonprofit is pleased that it can always count on the support of Florida Blue.

"Presenting 'Women With Heart' once again underscores their commitment to our patients and ensuring that everyone in our community has access to quality medical care," said Corrigan. "They are a true partner in every sense of the word - they not only support us with vital financial contributions, but they also provide us with the invaluable gift of their professional expertise and guidance by providing talent to serve on our board and partnering with us to produce critical community outreach initiatives. Words can't express our appreciation to Florida Blue."

Volunteers in Medicine has more than 230 medical and non-clinical healthcare professionals who volunteer their time, which results in more than \$1.2 million in free healthcare services for Jacksonville's working, low-income, uninsured individuals and families. The clinic receives no federal funding and delivers at least \$5 in services for every \$1 donated, seeing patients five days a week, including Saturdays. For more information on Volunteers in Medicine, please visit www.vim-jax.org or call 904-399-2766.

For sponsorship information call Cindy Cooper 904.254.5075



Women with Heart

presented by

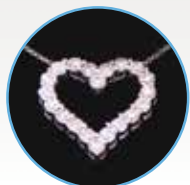


Wednesday, February 7, 2018 | 11:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.

11:00 a.m. Women with Heart Reception

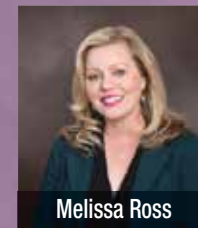
11:30 a.m. Program Begins

Florida Blue Conference Center



Beard's Jewelry owner John Lupo and his select team of designers created this stunning necklace for Volunteers in Medicine's 2018 Women With Heart honorees. Enter your chance to win this 2-carat white gold diamond heart-shaped necklace in a special drawing that will be held at the luncheon by visiting www.vim-jax.org. Only 150 chances to win.

2 0 1 8 H O N O R E E S



ABET to hold auditions for 'Man of La Mancha' Jan. 6

The Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre (ABET) will hold auditions for "Man of La Mancha," a play-within-a-play based on Cervantes' "Don Quixote," Jan. 6 at 11 a.m.

Participants should prepare a two-minute classic musical theatre song in the appropriate key; an accompanist will be provided. No acapella or karaoke track auditions are allowed, and accompanists will not transpose. Participants should also be prepared to learn short dance combinations and bring appropriate clothing/shoes for the activity.

Casting is open to all ethnicities and physical types. The play is set in a rough and ruthless world, so character types are encouraged to audition. Muleteers and most principal roles double as prisoners and/or gypsies.

The play will be directed by Lee Hamby, with musical direction by Erin Barnes.

ABET is located at 716 Ocean Blvd.

Available roles for 'Man of La Mancha'

Note: The role of Don Quixote/Cervantes has been cast.

- **Aldonza | Female 20s–mid 30s.** Strong mezzo soprano with belt. Raw, gutsy, edgy. She is a kitchen wench/prostitute who Quixote tries to make into a lady. Guarded, defiant, a survivor. Beneath her tough exterior is a woman with a noble, gentle heart who has given up hope.
- **Sancho Panza | Male 30s–50s.** Strong character bari-tenor. Devoted and loyal, he has been Cervantes / Quixote's manservant and caretaker for many years. Sancho is funny, curious, greedy, loving and vacillates between feelings of compassion and skepticism for his master. While he often acts out of cowardliness and ignorance, he possesses his own folksy wisdom.
- **Dr. Carrasco/The Duke | Male 20s–50s.** Baritone. Antonia's fiancé. A man of science and reason. He thinks Don Quixote is a madman and insists that he return home for treatment. Arrogant, analytical and refined.
- **Padre | Male 30s–60s.** Lyric tenor. A kind, thoughtful, sympathetic but passive Catholic priest. He is well-intentioned, but not strong enough to stand fully behind his beliefs.
- **Antonia | Female 18-30s.** Soprano. Quixote's niece and Dr. Carrasco's fiancée. A seemingly sweet and caring young woman who is actually deeply selfish and calculating.
- **The Innkeeper/Governor | Male 30s–50s.** A large and powerful man. He is kind as the Innkeeper, a gentle giant, but as the governor he is the leader of the inmate society in the prison.
- **Dr. Carrasco/The Duke | Male 30s–40s.** As the character of the Duke he is the sidekick to the Governor; however, as Dr. Carrasco, he is Antonia's fiancé. A scientist who thinks Don Quixote is mad and insists that he come home and be treated for his malady.
- **Maria, Innkeeper's wife | Female 40s–60s.** Alto character voice. The exasperated wife of the Innkeeper. She sees, and expects, the worst of all who enter the inn. Could double with the Housekeeper.
- **Housekeeper | Female 40s–60s.** Soprano/mezzo. Quixote's self-righteous, fastidious housekeeper. She cares for Quixote deeply, and has fantasies of a romantic relationship with him.
- **The Barber | Male, 30–40s.** Funny. He travels the countryside and peddles shaves. He is known by everyone. Character baritone.
- **Muleteers | 3–4 men, 25–30s.** Strong, masculine highwaymen. Men of size and stature. They are murderers, rapist and thieves who await their death in prison.
- **Moorish girl/Flamenco dancer | Female 20–early 40s.** She has lived life. Dancer with knowledge of the Flamenco style but not necessary.

Auditions for Jacksonville Symphony Chorus to take place Jan. 6

Auditions for the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus will be held Saturday, Jan. 6, in the Chorus Room on the second floor of the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts in Jacksonville.

Auditions are by appointment, but walk-in auditions will be available beginning at 10:15 a.m. Auditions will consist of a 90-second sight-reading activity, establishment of range and singing an excerpt of "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" from "Ein Deutsches Requiem" by Johannes Brahms.

The Jacksonville Symphony Chorus has general rehearsals Tuesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Jacksonville University's Marks Chapel. All performance-week rehearsals occur at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. Performance week rehearsals will consist of a piano rehearsal and one or two orchestra dress rehearsals. Chorus members are asked to commit to an entire season of rehearsals and performances.

New members will join the chorus for the remainder of the 2017-2018 season, which will include a Feb. 18 Jacksonville Symphony Chorus Concert (Haydn Mass and Dvořák "Te Deum"), a Pops concert featuring the works of Rodgers and Hammerstein May 3-5 and "Chorus of the Vassals" from "Götterdämmerung" (men only) May 30 through June 2.

If accepted into the choir, choral scores will be available at the first rehearsal to borrow or purchase. The average cost to purchase a score is approximately \$25. Members provide their own concert attire.

For additional information or to secure an audition time, email Chorus Manager Jill Weisblatt at jweisblatt@jaxsymphony.org. New member forms can be found at www.jaxsymphony.org/symphony-chorus.

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Time: 6pm – 10pm
Location: Nocatee Crosswater Center

St. Augustine Film Festival to kick off new year on First Coast

The 8th annual Saint Augustine Film Festival, which will bring dozens of foreign and independent films to the First Coast, will be held Jan. 18-21.

Film buffs can see over 36 films in advance of wider distribution, or foreign films that may never be seen outside of their country of origin except in a film festival environment.

“I think we have one of the best line-ups since we started, with films coming from places we don’t often get exposure to like war-torn countries such as Afghanistan, Syria or Georgia, to Eastern European countries like Poland and Estonia,” said Gregory von Hausch, CEO of the Saint Augustine Film Festival and the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival. “We also have a great group of independent films from the USA, with several based on true stories, and foreign ones from major film-producing countries like Ireland, France, the UK and Italy.”

The festival will take place at three venues: the Corazon Cinema and Café with

three screening rooms; the large Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College that seats nearly 800; and the intimate Gamache-Koger Theater in the Ringhaver Student Center at Flagler College that seats just over 100.

New this year are three simplified festival passes: an all-access pass that covers all three parties and all films for \$180; an all-films pass for films shown at any venue for \$100; and an all-Lewis Auditorium pass for \$60 where most of the major films will be shown. Individual tickets for Lewis Auditorium will be available online for \$10.

Film passes can be purchased online through Jan. 9, at www.StAugFilmFest.com/tickets. The Festival will start selling individual tickets to films screening at Lewis Auditorium only, in early January. Individual tickets to other films at other locations will be sold to those in the standby line, 10 minutes prior to the start of any screening subject to availability.

For more information, visit www.staug-filmfest.com.

Beaches Museum unveils 2018 Spring Chapel Concert Series

The Beaches Museum and Lazzara Family Foundation announced the 2018 Spring Chapel Concert Series, boasting roots in blues, gospel, funk, rhythm and soul.

The series includes the following acts:

- Chad Jasmine, Jan. 22
- The Prestage Brothers, Feb. 19
- Moses Mo, March 12
- Springing the Blues Artist to be Announced, April 2018
- Betty Fox, May 7

Series tickets are available through Jan. 22 at a cost of \$100 for all five concerts. Individual tickets are also available for each concert at a cost of \$25 in advance or \$30 the day of the show. The concert series, held in the historic and intimate Beaches Museum Chapel, has boasted sold-out shows in the recent past.

To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.BeachesMuseum.org or call (904) 241-5657.



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Donna Deegan

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Yummy Subs		Dips, Chips & Tasty Treats		

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Author to discuss turning real life into fiction at Ponte Vedra Writers meeting Jan. 13

Many people these days are busy writing their memoirs, and author Darlyn Finch Kuhn believes those life experiences provide the perfect backdrop for compelling fiction.

She will be discussing the process at the next meeting of the Ponte Vedra Writers on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 10:30 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Library.

The title of her talk, “Change the Names and Make Stuff Up,” describes how easy it can be.

“You never know how great your life stories can be until you free yourself to exaggerate,” Kuhn said.

In Kuhn’s presentation, participants will learn how to:

- Free themselves from worrying about what people will think about what they write.

- Convert friends and family into characters even they won’t recognize.

- Ramp up the drama to turn real life into compelling, selling fiction.

Kuhn is a poet, short-story writer and



Darlyn Finch Kuhn

novelist who edits the Scribbles literary e-newsletter and produces book trailer videos. Her debut novel, “Sewing Holes,” won first place in the published

novella category of the Florida Writers Association’s 2015 Royal Palm Literary Awards.

The Ponte Vedra Writers chapter is one of more than 50 writers’ groups affiliated with the Florida Writers Association, a nonprofit membership organization with nearly 1,500 members. Visit www.floridawriters.net for more information about the organization.

The meeting is free and open to the public.

Hope at Hand holding high school poetry contest

Hope at Hand is holding a poetry contest for high school students as part of its 3rd Annual Jax Poetry Fest in April.

Students may submit one poem of no more than 15 lines on any subject and in any style except concrete or blackout poetry. The content of the poem cannot be vulgar, offensive or contain profanity. The contest is open to both public and private high school students.

Poems must be original, individual work of the entrant. Submissions are due

by March 9.

Hope at Hand is a 501(c)(3) charity that provides poetry lessons for at-risk youth populations in North Florida. Founded by veteran educator Steffani Hendricks Fletcher in 2009, Hope at Hand combines poetry and art to help youth process life, love and progress. Hope at Hand partners with over 15 youth agencies in North Florida.

Visit www.HopeatHand.org for more information.

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Reserved Seating + Reception: \$75

Jacksonville Symphony to present 'Symphony in 60' and Masterworks concerts Jan. 4-6

The first week of January brings the second "Symphony in 60" of the season, as well as the fifth Masterworks concert for the Jacksonville Symphony after a month-long hiatus for the holidays.

The Symphony in 60 concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 4 at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts in Jacoby Symphony Hall in Jacksonville. The concert will be preceded by a happy hour, which will begin at 5:30 p.m. The Masterworks concerts will take place Friday, Jan. 5 and Saturday, Jan. 6 at 8 p.m.

Courtney Lewis will return as music director after announcing a three-season contract extension through the 2020-2021 season. In his first three seasons with the Jacksonville Symphony, Lewis was responsible for creating Symphony in 60, an abbreviated Masterworks concert that also features a pre-concert happy hour and post-concert party on-stage with Symphony musicians.

On Thursday, Jan. 4, the Symphony will present the second of three Symphony in 60 performances this season, "The Inextinguishable," featuring Carl Nielsen's Symphony No. 4 "The Inextinguishable." At the con-

cert, the Jacksonville "gifts-with-a-purpose" company, Rethreaded, will host a pop-up shop.

"The Fourth Symphony, or 'The Inextinguishable' as he titled it, was written between 1914 and 1916," Lewis said. "The work was a response to the violence of the First World War, Nielsen's marital strife and a preoccupation with what he described as 'life force' in music ... The Symphony evokes the most primal sources of life – what you might think of as survivor instinct, or the will to live no matter what."

For the Symphony's two upcoming Masterworks performances, Lewis will be joined on stage by guest pianist Zhang Zuo. Zuo, who will also host a free piano masterclass Jan. 4 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Time-Union Center for the Performing Arts, has been hailed as "full of enthusiasm and glamour, radiating the vigor of youth," (Chinese Gramophone) and "a powerful, passionate and compelling representation of pure artistry," (Los Angeles Times).

For tickets and further information, call the ticket office at (904) 354-5547 or visit www.jaxsymphony.org.

2018 grant applications available for artists from Community Foundation

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has posted grant applications for certain categories of competitive 2018 grantmaking, including for individual professional artists to elevate their work.

The Community Foundation seeks to invest in individual professional artists in Northeast Florida who are pursuing the next step in their artistic development. The grants are up to \$3,5000 and will be awarded for one year. They are funded through the Community Foundation's Art Ventures initiative. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and reside in Duval, Clay, Nassau, St. Johns or Baker County.

Applications are due by March 5, 2018 for grants beginning in June 2018. Visit www.jaxcf.org/receive/ individual-artists for more information on requirements, the timeline and application.

The Community Foundation has and will have additional competitive grant opportunities for Early Childhood (Emerging Opportunities and Programmatic), Aging Adults, Visual Art in St. Augustine, and Putnam County. The Beaches Community Fund has also opened up applications for nonprofits serving residents from Mayport to Guana. Please refer to www.jaxcf.org/receive/ for the latest information.

CROSSWORD

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64					65	66		67			68
69					70			71			
72					73			74			

THEME: FAMOUS AMERICANS

ACROSS

- 1. Echo sounder
- 6. Sheepish cry
- 9. Speed obstacle
- 13. Seven day mourning period
- 14. 100%
- 15. More painful
- 16. It's often wreaked
- 17. Cardinal 3
- 18. Figure with vertex and rays
- 19. *Pop icon-painting pop icon
- 21. *Jackie O's first husband
- 23. "You betcha!"
- 24. Off-color
- 25. Like TV's Randall/Klugman couple
- 28. Genealogy "plant"
- 30. No, it doesn't crawl in one's ear
- 35. *World-famous yellow cartoon boy
- 37. Kuwaiti, e.g.
- 39. Tarzan's swing
- 40. Indian nursemaid
- 41. Gardener's pipe, pl.
- 43. Overeat
- 44. Last European colony in China
- 46. Surfer's stop
- 47. Bone-dry
- 48. Choose by divine intervention
- 50. Police informer
- 52. Hi-_____
- 53. Chihuahua-Pug hybrid
- 55. By means of
- 57. *Norma Jean's pseudonym

- 61. *His Airness
- 64. Naked protozoa
- 65. Not an amateur
- 67. Type of wave
- 69. Surrendered land
- 70. What iodine and quinine have in common
- 71. Like unbagged tea
- 72. *Kentucky's Fort _____, named for first US Secretary of War
- 73. Aye's opposite
- 74. English homework?

DOWN

- 1. Wildfire remains
- 2. *Famous American clarinetist, Artie _____
- 3. Cher or Mariah Carey, e.g.?
- 4. Poacher's ware
- 5. Prestige
- 6. Get-out-of-jail money
- 7. *Cassius Clay
- 8. Like Mary-Kate and Ashley
- 9. Capital of West Germany, 1949-1989
- 10. Push for something
- 11. Mix together
- 12. Mouse to a snake
- 15. Footwear to match toga
- 20. *Queen of All Media
- 22. Bo Peep follower
- 24. Renting
- 25. *2009 Nobel Prize for Peace recipient

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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.

- 26. Israeli statesman Moshe
- 27. Famous Slytherin member
- 29. Aphrodite's son
- 31. Semis
- 32. Australian horse
- 33. Accustom
- 34. *Man behind Windows
- 36. Bangkok inhabitant
- 38. Between Phi and Kappa
- 42. Aussie gas station
- 45. Without clothes
- 49. Olden day "your"
- 51. Middle Ages garment
- 54. Remove from Google Maps
- 56. Dora the Explorer's farewell
- 57. *Baseball Hall of Famer, Connie _____
- 58. End of grace
- 59. Redecorate, e.g.
- 60. Wild goat
- 61. *Actor Bishop or punk rocker Ramone
- 62. Fusses
- 63. *Neil Armstrong's employer
- 66. Ribonucleic acid
- 68. Grazing land

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Candlebox returns to Ponte Vedra Concert Hall with special guest State to State Feb. 28

Seattle post-grunge rockers Candlebox returns to play the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 28, with special guest State to State.

Candlebox previously performed at the Concert Hall in November 2015. Starting at \$33.50, tickets go on sale to the public Friday, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m.

According to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, Candlebox rode the grunge bandwagon to multi-platinum success in the early 90s with the band's own take on grunge, which diluted the punk and indie elements inherent in its original form and instead incorporated the bluesy, classic-style hard rock that grunge had ostensibly replaced. Nonetheless, the Concert Hall added, Candlebox unwittingly helped usher in the post-grunge era; along with Bush, the band showed how the more challenging aspects of grunge could be ironed out and polished into a sound that mainstream rock radio could embrace without reservation.

Candlebox was formed in Seattle in December 1991 by

singer/guitarist Kevin Martin and drummer Scott Mercado. Initially calling the band Uncle Duke, they added lead guitarist Peter Klett and bassist Bardi Martin (no relation to Kevin) and changed the group's name to Candlebox, after a line in a Midnight Oil song. Their demo tape found its way to Madonna's Maverick label, which quickly resulted in a record deal in 1992.

Candlebox's self-titled debut was released in 1993, and while the first single, "Change," began to build them a following, it wasn't until 1994 when the follow-up, "You," appeared, that Candlebox really started to take off. "You" gave the band a breakthrough hit on mainstream rock radio, which set the stage for the success of "Far Behind." "Far Behind" was a major hit on both mainstream and alternative radio, and also made the pop Top 20; its exposure helped Candlebox climb into the Top Ten on the LP chart and eventually sell over three million copies.

Candlebox returned in 1995

with their second album, "Lucy," and the lead single, "Simple Lessons," which earned some rock radio airplay, and the album itself went gold but barely missed the Top Ten. In 1997, founding member Mercado left the band and was replaced by original Pearl Jam drummer Dave Krusen. Candlebox's third album, "Happy Pills," appeared in 1998 and marked a return to the more basic sound of the band's debut. "It's Alright," "10,000 Horses," and the title cut all landed some radio airplay. Krusen departed in 1999, as did Bardi Martin; they were replaced by Shannon Larkin and Rob Redick, respectively, but the group disbanded the following year.

The original lineup of Martin, Klett, and Mercado re-formed for a handful of shows in 2006 to support the release of Rhino's Best of Candlebox compilation. The overall positive reunion stirred rumors of a new studio album, culminating in 2008's "Into the Sun." In 2012, the band inked a deal with AudiNext/Fontana, who released their fifth studio



Photo courtesy of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

album, "Love Stories and Other Musings." In 2015, Klett and Mercado announced they were leaving Candlebox to devote more time to their other project, Lotus Crush. A few months later, Kevin Martin and Krusen unveiled a new edition of the band, featuring new guitarists Mike Leslie and Brian Quinn, and bassist Adam Kury. This lineup went into the studio to record a new album, and "Disappearing in Airports" was released in April 2016.

Since releasing its first LP, "No Bounds," in 2014, the Concert Hall said State to State has established itself in Los Angeles as flag bearers of atmospheric rock, a landscape forged by bands like Radiohead and Interpol. The band has played sold out shows at the

Troubadour, as well as residencies at The Hotel Cafe and The Viper Room. July 29, 2017 found the band at the world-famous Roxy Theater in Hollywood with a sold-out crowd for the release of its new single, "The Shifter," from the upcoming EP, "Clearlake Sessions." Since its release, "The Shifter" has received national airplay from major radio stations all over the U.S. and climbed the charts of LA's KROQ's Locals Only Countdown all the way to No. 1.

Doors for the show in Ponte Vedra open at 7 p.m., with the show starting at 8 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Offices, ticketmaster.com and by phone at (800) 745-3000.

St. Augustine musician releases new EP

St. Augustine-based musician Billy Buchanan of Persevere Entertainment Group is releasing his latest EP, "ShagShuffleShimmyShakeSwing: Vol 1," on Jan. 12.

According to Persevere Entertainment Group, the album is "an authentic homage to the pioneers of soul and early rock from the 50s and 60s." The lead single, "The Pioneers," is a celebration of the music of Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Ray Charles and Sam Cooke, said Persevere Entertainment Group, and will take listeners back to a time of juke joint, jump jiving grooves that still move the heart and soul, and make you want to get up and dance.

"As an artist, my highest aspiration is to celebrate 50s and 60s soul and early rock artists and to educate my audience on these artists' ginormous contribution to the musical landscape," said Buchanan. "Their influence is undeniable on my new EP, "ShagShuffleShimmyShakeSwing: Vol 1." Celebrate and Educate! That's what it's all about for me."

Buchanan has scheduled release parties for his new EP on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 8 p.m. at Blue Jay Listening Room in Jacksonville Beach and Friday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. at San Sebastian Winery in St. Augustine.

Along with recent TV appearances on River City Live and Jacksonville Buzz TV, Buchanan also performed multiple shows for the IKEA Jacksonville Grand Opening, and will be performing at the



Photo courtesy of Hype PR

brand new One Daytona (epicenter of hotels, shopping, entertainment and more next to the Daytona Speedway) in Daytona Beach on Dec. 23 with his band, Billy Buchanan & his Rock 'n Soul Revue, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Buchanan currently resides in St. Augustine as a fulltime entertainer and songwriter, performing 200 TO 250 shows a year. He also mentors, consults and develops aspiring artists through his music company, Persevere Entertainment Group.

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Photo by Benjamin Naim

John Bogle (from left), Zachary Sheffer, Eric Linder and Cody Sheider participate in Nease's signing day Dec. 20, as Linder's family watches him sign with the College of Central Florida.

Nease athletes sign letters of intent to play at collegiate level

By Benjamin Naim

Nease High School students John Bogle, Eric Linder, Cody Sheider and Zachary Sheffer signed their letters of intent at a Dec. 20 ceremony to live their dreams and play collegiate sports.

Bogle signed with East Carolina University and Sheffer signed with Louisiana State University (LSU), where both will play football.

Linder signed with the College of Central Florida and Sheider signed with Gordon State College, where both will play baseball. Each athlete delivered a short speech at the podium after signing amid friends and family.

"I just want to thank everyone for taking the time today to attend our signing day," baseball pitcher Eric Linder said at the event held at the Nease Performing Arts Center. "I want to start off by thanking God for blessing me with the opportunity to play the great game of baseball ... I'd like to thank the coaching staff at the College of Central Florida for the opportunity to play and live my dream at the collegiate level."

Linder also credited his teammates for coming together and winning their first state championship in 2017.

Sheffer, a tight end who is graduating a year early to enroll at LSU in January, described signing day as a "dream come true" for him because he grew up an LSU fan.

"I just want to thank God for giving me the gifts to be able to go on and play college football," Sheffer said. "I want to thank all my coaches and teachers for helping me get there, and the guys that helped me train ... I want to thank the students for always coming to all the games and cheering us on, and I want to thank my family."

Later, Bogle thanked his teachers and coaches for their support and role in helping him grow as a football player.

"I'd like to thank my teachers for helping me work and always being there for me and my coaches for always being there when I tore my shoulder out," he said. "It's just been a blessing to have all of you guys here with me, so I'll miss you all and thank you."



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KEEPING UP

By **Barbara Boxleitner**
Special to the Recorder

Quinn Carey has earned a starting spot for the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo men's basketball team.

The Ponte Vedra High School graduate is in his first season at SUNY Geneseo. He transferred after playing two years for Roberts Wesleyan College, where his 12.2 scoring average last year ranked second on the team.

The junior guard was a reserve during SUNY Geneseo's first four games and had at least 12 points in three of them. He posted season highs of 24 points and three rebounds in the third game.

But the 6-foot-3-inch Carey started the next six games and had 20 points in a win over Potsdam.

Through 10 games (5-5), his 12.7 scoring average ranked third on the team.

Football

Southeastern University senior linebacker **Will Tillo** was named to the All-Mid-South Conference Sun Division second team. In 10 games, the Bartram Trail High graduate had 63 tackles, which was second on the

squad, as well as two sacks and two fumble recoveries.

Another from the Bears, wide receiver **Romello Bentley** had three receptions for 9 yards in three games for Stephen F. Austin State.

Redshirt senior **Kyle Chung** started at right offensive tackle for Virginia Tech in its loss to Oklahoma State in the Camping World Bowl. The former Shark started all 13 games this season.

Men's swimming

Ponte Vedra Beach resident **James Costello** placed fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke for Trinity College against Wheaton and Wellesley colleges. The freshman was a part of the 200-medley relay team that finished third.

Women's basketball

Nova Southeastern University junior **Megan Piggott** started two of the first 10 games. The former Shark averaged 7.3 points and 3.4 rebounds, both fourth on the team. She had a season-high 17 points against West Alabama.

Ponte Vedra resident **Katie Cramer** had a season-high eight points for Saint Vincent College against Illinois Tech. The forward also had a season-high two rebounds.

Send updates about area athletes to **Barbara Boxleitner** at jdanddoc@gmail.com.



Don Gilmore (from left), Jeff Adams, Larry Stark, Randy Nader, Kevin Glynn were elected 2018 officers for the Jacksonville Area Golf Association.

Photo courtesy of JAGA

Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) elects officers for 2018

The Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) elected its 2018 officers on Dec. 13, at its final directors meeting of the year at Deerwood Country Club.

The 2018 officers are:

Don Gilmore (Golf Club of Amelia Island) – President: Retired president and CEO, Otterbein Senior Lifestyles of Lebanon, Ohio.

Randy Nader (Sawgrass Country Club) – Administration: Former owner of Nader's Pest Raiders, a Jacksonville-area pest control firm.

Jeff Adams (TPC Sawgrass) – Vice President, Tournaments: Retired staff director of the PGA TOUR's communica-

tions department.

Larry Stark (Jacksonville Beach Golf Club) – Secretary: Retired CSX sales executive.

Kevin Glynn (PGA member) – Treasurer: Southeast Sales, Club Prophet Systems. Former JAGA Scholarship recipient and graduate of Jacksonville University.

Appointed to serve in their respective capacities again in 2018 were Barney Poston of Hidden Hills Country Club (executive secretary), Jack Morehead of NAS JAX (assistant treasurer) and Arch Copeland of Deercreek Country Club (JAGA webmaster).

For more information about JAGA, go to jaxareagolf.org.

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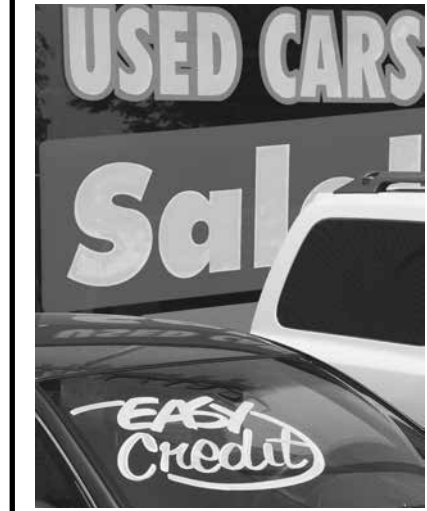
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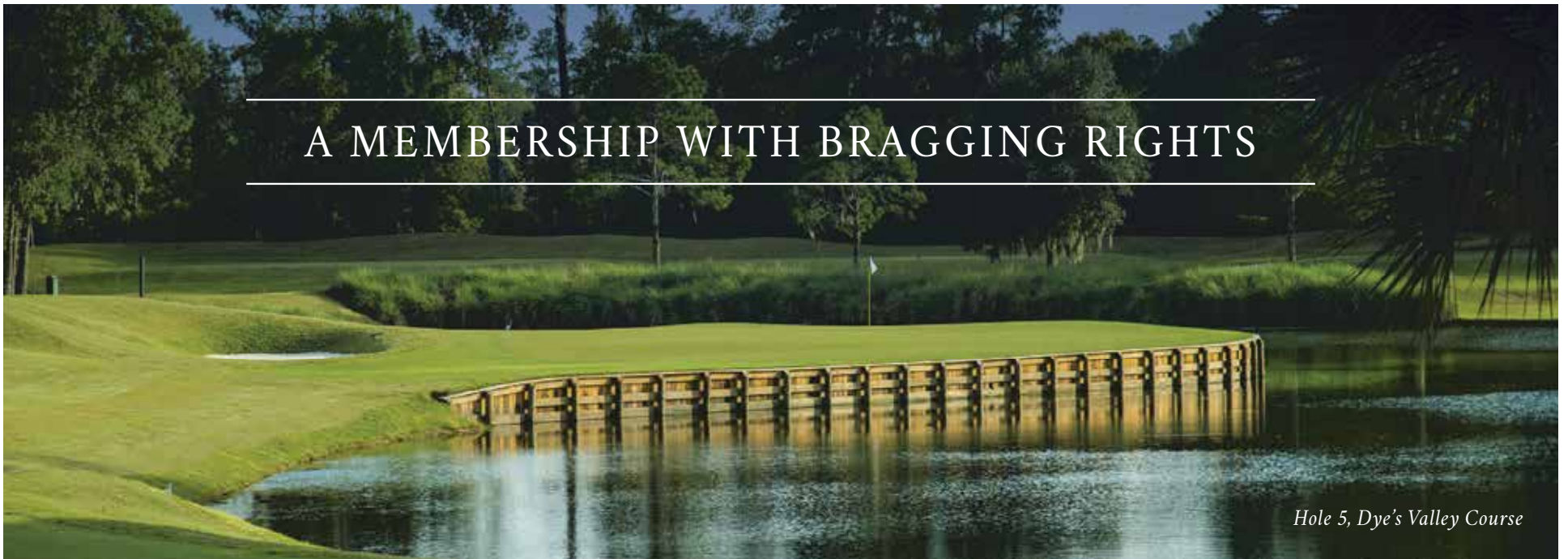
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