

Ponte Vedra Recorder



November 23, 2016
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75 cents

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PonteVedraRecorder.com



Business Weekly

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Sharks eliminate Ribault

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Beaches Chapel Concert

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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.**



Visit our website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	B	B	E	S	S	A	C	B	E	M	A	
L	A	R	V	A	P	R	O	M	U	S	I	C
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6	5	4	8	3	1	7	9	2				

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

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

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

Several readers correctly identified last week's photo as TacoLu. Winner of the random drawing was **Danelle Kensbock** – congratulations! You may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during regular business hours.



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

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi there! We are two kittens named Sydney (black and white female) and Tokyo (Grey and white male) and we are both 12 weeks old and looking for a new home! We were brought to the pet center as strays because we were all alone in the outdoors with nobody to care for us. As these animals were strays there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit us today here at the Pet Center! #35253/35256



DOG OF THE WEEK



I'm Dora a 2-year-old brindle and white pup who is looking for a new home to call my own. I was brought to the pet center as a stray and would love to be part of your family. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit us today here at the pet center! #35020

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

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



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Recorder offices closed for Thanksgiving

The Ponte Vedra Recorder's offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Recorder will re-open Monday,

Nov. 28. The Recorder wishes everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with the blessings of the season.

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The Nights of Lights Park & Ride Shuttle is a free service offered by the City of St. Augustine to enhance the Nights of Lights experience for residents and visitors alike and is possible because of the cooperation of the St. Johns Co. Administration and St. Johns Co. Health Department.

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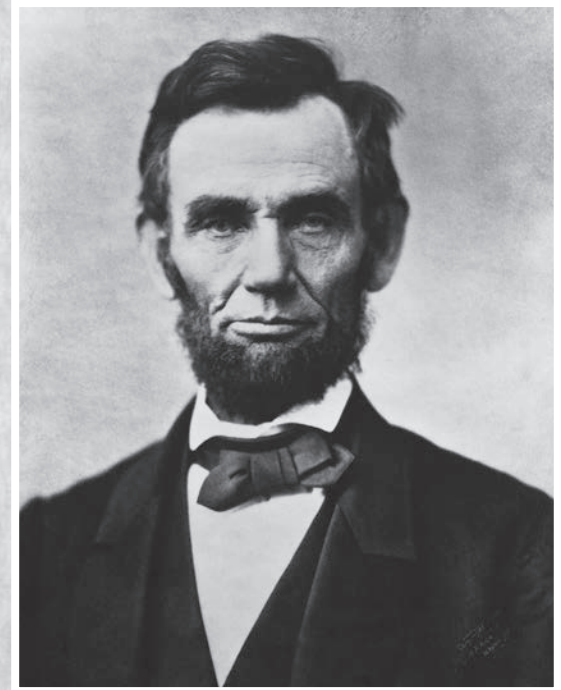


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A PROCLAMATION

By the President of the United States of America

It has pleased Almighty God to prolong our national life another year, defending us with His guardian care against unfriendly designs from abroad and vouchsafing to us in His mercy many and signal victories over the enemy, who is of our own household. It has also pleased our Heavenly Father to favor as well our citizens in their homes as our soldiers in their camps and our sailors on the rivers and seas with unusual health. He has largely augmented our free population by emancipation and by immigration, while He has opened to us new sources of wealth and has crowned the labor of our workingmen in every department of industry with abundant rewards. Moreover, He has been pleased to animate and inspire our minds and hearts with fortitude, courage, and resolution sufficient for the great trial of civil war into which we have been brought by our adherence as a nation to the cause of freedom and humanity, and to afford to us reasonable hopes of an ultimate and happy deliverance from all our dangers and afflictions:



Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do hereby appoint and set apart the last Thursday in November next as a day which I desire to be observed by all my fellow-citizens, wherever they may then be, as a day of thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God, the beneficent Creator and Ruler of the Universe. And I do further recommend to my fellow-citizens aforesaid that on that occasion they do reverently humble themselves in the dust and from thence offer up penitent and fervent prayers and supplications to the Great Disposer of Events for a return of the inestimable blessings of peace, union, and harmony throughout the land which it has pleased Him to assign as a dwelling place for ourselves and for our posterity throughout all generations.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this 20th day of October, A.D. 1864, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-ninth.

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN
BY THE PRESIDENT**

MSD board, county officials plead for patience, cooperation on dune restoration

By Jon Blauvelt

Ponte Vedra Beach residents growled in protest after Billy Zeits, assistant director of the St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Department, told Municipal Service District (MSD) board meeting attendees that a full-blown beach renourishment project would require a study and years of engineering to complete.

“You’re telling me what we can’t do and why,” exclaimed resident Teresa Bennett. “We need to hear what we can do now.”

Zeits and St. Johns County building official Howard White attended the MSD meeting to do just that and summarize the county’s recovery efforts following Hurricane Matthew and address beach dune restoration.

“We’re getting a lot of movement – movement I’ve never seen before,” said White regarding cooperation with agencies like the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Fish & Wildlife Commission. “But it takes time, and I just ask for your patience. If you go in there like a bull in a china shop, I can promise you there’s nothing that’s going to happen.”

White said the county has completed around 60 percent of the overall damage assessments, and the number of homes tagged as damaged – approximately 3,000 when the assessments first started – has decreased.

The Building Services Division has issued more than 60 permits to residents attempting to shore up their dunes with temporary armoring, White said, which can be as simple as sand bags or as sophisticated as wood sheet pile. The DEP is also issuing emergency permits that allow for more flexibility in the height or material of the armoring, as well as the amount of space it can be set seaward from the structure.

Unless Florida’s emergency proclamation is extended further, residents must apply for these emergency permits by Dec. 2.

Outside of these individual permits,



Photos submitted by Kitty Switkes

A home on Ponte Vedra Boulevard has lost 40 to 50 feet of its dunes due to Hurricane Matthew.

though, the county doesn’t have a comprehensive beach restoration plan, said Zeits to the frustration of the meeting attendees.

“We don’t really know what that would mean,” said Zeits. “We’ve never seen any impacts like this, and we don’t know how we would fund something like that.”

Meeting attendees inquired about state and federal funding, and MSD chairman Gary Jurenovich said the MSD doesn’t qualify because of the priority points that are established for projects like this one. The federal government uses a formula when it pumps sand onto beaches, said Jurenovich, and that formula is based upon the number of public beach accesses and public parking spaces included within the

designated area. The Ponte Vedra Beach MSD doesn’t meet the necessary threshold for either category.

Consequently, Jurenovich made a plea to the meeting attendees.

“I need everyone to tell the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) the same story,” he said. “We need the county to help us somehow. You have to write to your congressman/woman, state senators and representatives.”

White made a similar request.

“I think you have Gary as your representative, and then you can add to that by virtue of contacting your BCC members and your local representatives,” said White. “That’s the way it works. But just

to demand that the county is going to pay for this tomorrow, that’s not realistic.”

Ryan Carter, vice president of Carter Environmental Services in St. Augustine, also attended the meeting in addition to other private consultants and contractors to discuss a voluntary beach restoration project that is already in progress.

“Do we know if anyone is going to come up with money to do the dune restoration?” questioned Carter. “No. If you want to do something, it has to be voluntary.”

Carter said the county has contracted

MSD continues on Page 7

Homeowners along Ponte Vedra Boulevard are still picking up the pieces after Hurricane Matthew damaged their stairways, back porches and most importantly, their dunes, which serve as the first line of defense against impending storms.



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As executive director of the Friends of the GTM Reserve, Ellen Leroy-Reed works with the board of directors to drive the mission of the organization, working with Friends members, volunteers and the GTM Research Reserve staff.

Ellen Leroy Reed

By Jennifer Logue

What are your primary duties and responsibilities as executive director of the Friends of the GTM Reserve?

My primary duties are to build our revenue streams, take care of our Friends members, liaise with the GTM Research Reserve staff members on their research and programs, and oversee the administration of the organization. I have the pleasure of working with an incredibly dedicated board of directors who provide the strategic visioning for the Friends of the GTM Reserve.

How did you come to live on the First Coast?

As with many families on the First Coast, I have the Navy to thank for making North Florida my home. I was the wife of a submariner stationed at NSB Kings Bay in Georgia so Jacksonville was our big city. About 10 years ago, we made the decision to leave Saint Mary's and relocate to Jax. Since that time, I became involved with the sustainability movement in the region and got deeply involved with environmental issues facing our region.

How did you become involved with the Friends of the GTM Reserve?

My passion is for the sustainability of our community – economically and environmentally – so I knew my place was with an organization whose mission aligned with my passion. After working in various other sectors such as development, health care and veterans' issues, I knew my true home was in a place like the Reserve so when a colleague mentioned the Friends were looking for their first executive director, I threw everything I had into showing the board I was the right person for the job. I am so grateful they agreed.

You have an extensive background in nonprofit management. What are some of the charities for which you've worked and how has that experience prepared you for your new role?

I am honored and humbled to have worked with some of the best nonprofit organizations in the country, including Wounded Warrior Project, the American Heart Association, the Navy League and the U.S. Green Building Council. Each organization taught me valuable lessons that I have brought to the Friends of the GTM Reserve. My time with the U.S. Green Building Council taught me the people of North Florida care deeply about our precious natural resources and are willing to give their time and treasure to protect it. Having worked with both large and small nonprofits, I have learned to think globally while acting locally, and that the most successful nonprofits operate with both sound business principles and a singular commitment to the mission.

What are the primary goals of the Friends organization?

Our primary goal is constant – support the research and programs of the GTM Research Reserve so our community can make science-based decisions about stewardship and preservation. We do this by providing needed funding, rallying passionate volunteers and championing the cause in the community.

Development is a big concern for many local residents. Is the Friends group involved in efforts to preserve local land against future development?

As the manager of over 74,000 acres between Ponte



Photo by Jasmine Marshall

Vedra Beach and Palm Coast, the GTM Research Reserve is dedicated to land conservation and the study of its precious natural and cultural resources.

Many Ponte Vedra residents relocate to North Florida because they treasure the beauty and recreation our community offers so it is important that these resources are forever protected.

With that, the Friends are always looking for ways we can support land conservation and help those interested in contributing land in lieu of development. At the same time, we recognize that development will happen, so the Research Reserve provides training for developers, planners, contractors and other stakeholders in developing land responsibly.

As a matter of fact, we are holding a Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development workshop on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. We would love those stakeholders to join us.

What do you enjoy most about living on the First Coast?

The people. There isn't a city I've visited or lived in that can beat the kindness and generosity of our neighbors here on the First Coast. I'm proud to have raised my children here because they have absorbed that culture of service and have taken that into their adult lives. I look forward to seeing the First Coast's next generation take up where we have left off and build a better, more sustainable community.

MSD

Continued from 5

and granted permission to A.J. Johns Inc., a Jacksonville-based construction company, to use the parking lot at Mickler's Landing Beach as a staging area to

store sand that will then be distributed to individuals' respective homes to rebuild the dunes.

At the meeting, Carter said only 10 residents had signed up for the project so far, which would make it very expensive for those select homeowners. He suggested that meeting attendees form a commit-

tee to own the project, and drive its cost down.

"Who's championing this dune restoration?" asked Carter. "I'm a private consultant. I'm not paid to do this. You guys need to form a committee as soon as possible. You need to make sure that what dune restoration is being done is competitive."

Jurenovich said he plans to address

dune restoration at the top of each future MSD meeting because it's that important. He also pledged to speak with the BCC to see what can be done, and he reminded meeting attendees of the severity of the hurricane and just how recently it occurred.

"It just happened to us five weeks ago," he said. "This is unprecedented. This has never happened to us before."

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PVPV Rawlings Elementary School digs into garden curriculum



Photos provided by Eileen Zebroski

Cathy Newton and Youth Garden Coordinator Eileen Zebroski, both master gardeners and members of Ribault Garden Club, help children plant snapdragons and salvia. Not pictured: Volunteers Bernie Golczynski, Mary Silas and Debbie Safford. Adult volunteers planted the beginnings of the kindergarten butterfly beds and the children then added to them with flowers. Among them were black-eyed Susans, tropical milkweed, native tuberosa and herbs such as parsley and chives.

Master gardeners and Ribault Garden Club members Martha Weed (kneeling), Cathy Newton, Eileen Zebroski with school garden volunteer Doreen Halvorsen



By Jasmine Marshall

Both the kindergarten and second grade courtyards of PVPV/Rawlings Elementary School were enlivened with color Nov. 10, when the community came together to install a new butterfly and vegetable garden.

Youth Garden Coordinator Eileen Zebroski called the help of the adults gathered “invaluable” as a collection of Dad’s Club members, school volunteers and Ribault Garden Club members came together for the cause. The event saw the installation of 10 new 4x4 garden beds and one new 4x48 bed stuffed with a variety of vegetables and butterfly-attracting flora.

The efforts were brought on by necessity; over the summer, several of the raised beds that formerly occupied the courtyard unfortunately perished. According to Zebroski, everyone involved felt compelled to assist in not only replacing and replanting them but in contributing to the food education of young children.

“Many children today have no idea where their food comes from, so we teach them,” Zebroski said of the garden-based curriculum. “We will use the garden to teach them about butterflies, certainly – but we’ll also use it to explore food for our tables, the interdependence of plants and animals and the vital role of pollinators in our gardens and for our grocery selections.”

Among the foods currently planted are beans, radishes, lettuce, peppers and cauliflower. Zebroski says the crops will be planted based on appropriate season weather, and she expects to help the children plant peas, lettuce and spinach in the spring.

The act of gardening itself is a teaching method, she noted. Alongside discussions of plant anatomy, germination and photosynthesis, Zebroski plans to introduce students to insects commonly found in gardens such as bees, dragonflies and ladybugs. The process helps the children learn about the relationship between bugs and food they consume.



Plants ready to go into the garden. Flowers such as cassia, snapdragons and climbing aster were among those planted.

“(Learning this) also fosters a strong sense of ownership of ‘their’ garden beds,” she said. “We have found that it’s important for the children to just work in the garden and get a bit dirty or wet, and to taste what they have grown themselves. They often will try foods that they never would have tasted at home.”

The efforts have been collaborative. Funds for the garden beds were provided by the Foundation for Public Education in Ponte Vedra and The Ribault Garden Club as sponsors of the garden program, and volunteers are set to go to PVPV/Rawlings each month to help the kindergarten and second grade students plant, weed, water and harvest the food they’ve grown. Through themed workshops, the children will learn topics that help them form relationships with their food and the environment from which it comes.

Although the gardening sessions don’t replace science and environmental education, Zebroski’s hope is that they’ll shape up to be lasting lessons for the children involved.

“We are trying this year to really emphasize gardening and going outside and working with the soil,” she said. “And we offer an opportunity to learn this by doing it in a way that is not offered anywhere else.”



PVPV/Rawlings School Dad’s Club members Danny Chu (left) and Tom Baker shovel dirt for the new garden beds. Not pictured: Dad’s Club members Paul Volen and John Stephens.

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Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Above: Darryl Young, director of culinary at The Palms at Ponte Vedra, prepares the turkey and trimmings for residents and families at the Thanksgiving luncheon on Nov. 17.

Left: Anita Loy, Pastor Bob Loy, Gloria Caffey and Matty Caffey enjoy the Thanksgiving luncheon.

The Palms at Ponte Vedra holds Thanksgiving Luncheon

The Palms at Ponte Vedra assisted living and memory care community hosted its second annual Thanksgiving luncheon for the residents and their families Nov. 17.

Approximately 150 people attended this year's event for a traditional Thanksgiving meal consisting of turkey, potatoes, stuffing, pie and more. Attendees also enjoyed music played by pianist and guitarist George Brackens.

"It's a time to come together and be thankful," said Barbara Matteson, executive director of The Palms at Ponte Vedra. "It's also a time to thank the families for trusting us with their loved ones."



Richard Muller, John Stuke, Phyllis Stuke, Clara J. Taylor and Bob Taylor at The Palms at Ponte Vedra Thanksgiving luncheon.



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Museum chapel concert brings the blues to the beach

By Jennifer Logue

Acclaimed blues guitarist James Armstrong had them dancing in the aisles Nov. 14, when the California-based musician performed at the Beaches Museum & History Park as part of its Chapel Concert Series.

Armstrong set the tone for the evening when he made his entrance by strolling up the center aisle of the historic chapel, playing his guitar while accompanied by his band, already on stage. But while that band includes members from Chicago and St. Louis, Armstrong made it clear he was no stranger to a beach community.

“I grew up in Santa Monica, California,” he told the capacity crowd. “I’m the only blues man who ever surfed.”

Taking full advantage of the chapel’s superb acoustics, Armstrong performed a number of original songs interspersed with anecdotes and stories about their composition. His song “Bank of Love,” for example, was inspired by a beautiful teller Armstrong spied one day while waiting in line at the bank. Another tune not yet recorded was written on the back of a nap-

kin in a coffee shop when he thought he’d forgotten his bride’s birthday.

And the humorous ballad “Grandma’s Got a New Friend” recounts Armstrong’s attempts to win over his wife’s granddaughter when the couple began dating.

Armstrong also paid musical tribute to a number of blues greats, including John Lee Hooker.

“I knew John – he was very reserved,” he said. “He was very quiet – he never smiled – but he was a master at what he did.”

He also honored the late B. B. King. “There are so many artists around the world that he inspired.”

Armstrong’s blues concert was the penultimate offering in this concert series, which will conclude Dec. 19 with 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. performances of “Celtic Christmas.” Tickets may be purchased online at www.beachmuseum.org.

“The museum is just one of the wonderful assets of our community,” said concert series committee member Tim Ellis. “The folks there are doing a fantastic job of preserving our history and heritage for the community.”



Blues musician James Armstrong performs in Jacksonville Beach Nov. 14 as part of the Beaches Museum & History Park’s Chapel Concert series.



Photos by Jennifer Logue

Chapel Concert Series Committee Member Tim Ellis and Beaches Museum Executive Director Christine Hoffman



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Bolles School announces first quarter President's List recipients

Journey Wise, Grace Igel, Jack Swinson and Bear Schickel are the recipients of President's List honors at The Bolles School.

Head of School Dave Farace awarded each student a medal and sent a letter home to the students' families notifying them of the honor.

Journey Wise has been a steady volunteer at the Northeast School of Special Education since Grade 9, both through Bolles Buddies and on her own. While she was one of many students who joined Bolles Buddies, she distinguished herself by earning its highest service award and taking her commitment to higher levels. For years, the school has manufactured dog treats, selling them at local markets to raise money for the school. Wise wanted to find a way to raise money that would be able to involve the students at the school, and she spearheaded "Buddy Beads." Through this program, she has coordinated with the director of the school, ordered special pendants and other jewelry-making material and taught dozens of students how to make special bracelets. Her next step is to sell the bracelets at local markets.

Igel and Swinson were recognized for the "exemplary job" the students performed on orientation day and in the months leading up to the event. They began planning for orientation day in March of the 2015-2016 school year and worked diligently over the summer on organizing a new program that involved 73 student volunteer ambassadors. They created a sign-up for volunteers, oversaw the making of signs for new students and put together planners, schedules and nametags to make the day run smoothly. The new format of the new student and freshman orientation included two new activities, and these two students were instrumental in their success.



Bear Schickel made a difference in an outreach program by teaching chess at the Mandarin Library, where he traveled one Saturday a month to work with children interested in learning more about the game. When the library approached Bolles about the idea, he met with the librarian, researched the needs and helped guide a group through the approval process to get the program started. The librarian describes this honoree as "a wonderful young man and a great representative for Bolles who is, kind, patient with the kids and a good teacher."

The First Quarter Honors Convocation begins with an announcement of the quarter's President's List recipients. Selected students demonstrated servant leadership "above and beyond" the ordinary. A faculty committee considers the nominations from faculty, staff and students. In addition to having passing grades and exemplifying the Bolles Values Statement, President's List winners must have made a "significant contribution beyond the level of performance expected of the Bolles student to create a positive impact in an area of service to the school or in the community."

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Ponte Vedra High School marching band participates in first state competition



Ponte Vedra High School's Ocean of Sound Marching Band participated in the state competition for the first time Nov. 12, joining 10,000 other musicians from across the state at the event held in Tampa.

Ocean of Sound performed in the 4A Division, a category defined by the number of wind instruments (57-80) in a school band.

Director Jermaine Reynolds reminded everyone that this year was a learning year, and to not expect to battle with the top ranked bands.

"I've been to the FMBC State Competition 17 years in a row between playing in high school, attending in college and then through directing over the past several years," Reynolds said. "I knew this was going to be a huge challenge but I thought it would be an invaluable learning experience for our band."

Co-Captains Melanie Suppa and Daniel Wiggins, senior clarinet and snare drum players, respectively, said that both watching and performing in the largest arena of their band careers was an amazing moment.

"Marching at state was incredible," Suppa said. "All of our hard work throughout the season paid off and we had the best run of the year at the most important competition of the year. The whole band walked off feeling a sense of pride. Seeing the excitement on Mr. Reynolds' face made us realize how far we had come together as a band."

Wiggins agreed. "My favorite part of state was the release at the end of our ballad," he said. "Hearing it resonate through the Tropicana Dome and the excited response we received from the crowd made the past four years of work all worth it."

Ocean of Sound placed 12th in its division with a score of 70.95. The top school in the 4A division was Gainesville High School, with a score of 84.95.

"I am so extremely proud of every member of this band," Reynolds said. "They have worked very hard on improving the show all season. They played their best program of the year and to do that at states is a major accomplishment. They sounded great, marched well and the color guard had their best show, too. It was a great day for Ponte Vedra High School."

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Photos by Robert Leverock

Nease High School students inducted into National Honor Society

Allen D. Nease High School recently welcomed more than 100 top students into the National Honor Society, formally inducting the students in a ceremony held Nov. 17.

Felipe Quinones, president of the school's NHS chapter, welcomed students and guests before joining with the chapter's officers to conduct a candle lighting induction ceremony. One by one, chapter officers stepped forward to light candles signifying knowledge, leadership, scholarship, character and honor. New chapter members then joined together in reciting the National Honor Society pledge before being presented with certificates honoring their induction and the academic, extracurricular and community service achievements that contributed to their recognition as a National Honor Society member.

Founded in 1921, the National Honor Society is the premier organization recognizing excellence among high school students, with chapters in all 50 states.

Students inducted during the Nease High School ceremony included: Julia Albers, Lauryn Albold, Carissa Ali, Michelle Allsup, Nils Anders, Hiba Aslam, Angela Ayoub, Varsini Balamurugan, Riley Balazic, Gregory Ball, Luke Berger, Jacob Berna, Rohan Bhargava, Lena Caramagna, Katherine Carlo, James Carpenter, Yara Chehade, Theodore Cheng, Tomas Cort, Scott Cummings, Gabriella Dalton, Mackenzie Davis, Bobbi Donagher, Riley Dormer, Katie Dykstra, Karl Edge, Brianna Edwards, Isabella Florio, Manye Ford, Samuel Franzini, Taina Fuentes, James Gallagher Jr., Colin Garner, Jesse Gatewood, Alice Gou, Chasen Gibbs, Hannah Gilbert, Nathan Giles, Andrew Goodwin, Kseria Garelk, Yu Fei Han, Melanie Hare, Maci Harrel, Sarah Hayes, Sara Hingson-Rodriguez, Marven Hogg, Paige Hopper, Brianna Howard, Jacob Hunt, Ethan Iagan, Isabelle Jacobi, Asha Jama, Julia Jordan, Dawson Jubin, Sheha Kapil, Lachlan Kline, Hunter Kobin, Jonathan Kurlan, Chaz Lachina, Galal Lasheen, Johan Lee, Joseph Leites, Jonathan Lemos, Tyler Leonard, William Lessig III, Nicole Labaczewski, Katharine Logue, Danielle Love, Sara Loving, Brandon Luke, Gerald Ma Huang, Jules Maddalena, Ashwin Manesh, Sydney Mayer, Sean McCalfrey, Robert McCloskey, Clayton McCool, Alessandra McDaniel, Christopher McDonough, Karmryn McEwen, Laura McLeod, Matthew Miel, Robert Mols, Mary Kate Maloney, Marc Moreira, Kiara Marisseau, Marco Mosqueda, Halie Murta, Philip Mylet, Tiffany Nguyen, Leanna Noel, Daniel O'Donnell, Matt Okiewicz, Ryan Ong, Constance Oswald, Devin Pagana, Katie Pakenham, Antonio Palumbo, Joseph Pappaceno, Shivani Patel, Bailey Pattison, Alyssa Pearson, Marco Perera,



Photo by Jennifer Logue

Officers of the Allen D. Nease High School chapter of the National Honor Society prepare to induct new members.

David Pulin, Harmon Rambo, Daniela Rivera, Victoria Rivera, Erika Romanczuck, Julian Sanchez, Anna Sava-Matthews, Aditi Shandlya, Aneesh Shinkre, Arbelyn Short, Cameron Stanley, Kyle Szymanski, Paxton Threatt, Jonathan Valyou, Sierra Vidales, Truong Yo, Abigail Watson, Kelsey Witmeier, Halie Witmeier, Halie Wright and Dina Zakaria.

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<p>Nights of Lights The historic city of St. Augustine comes to life yet again with its famed Nights of Lights celebration. More than 3 million lights will illuminate the city nightly through Jan. 31, alongside holiday music and the lighting of the city's own Christmas tree. Among the lighted attractions are the Plaza de la Constitucion, Flagler College and the Lightner Museum. For more information about shuttles and parking, visit www.floridahistoriccoast.com/nights-lights.</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity volunteers Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County is currently seeking qualified homeowners. Habitat does not give away homes for free. Instead, homeowners pay an affordable monthly mortgage payment and Habitat helps build them a simple, decent place to live. For more information on volunteering, donating or qualifying for a Habitat home, visit habitatst-johns.org.</p> <p>Annual Activity Member Become an Annual Activity Member at The Players Community Senior Center. Membership includes discounts on fee-based classes, designated events and coastal travel along with complimentary participation in a wide variety of scheduled activities. Call Darlene Mahany at (904) 280-3233 for more information.</p> <p>Council on Aging Closure The St. Johns Council on Aging St. Augustine locations (River House and Coastal Community Center) will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, in observance of Thanksgiving. Hours of operation for River House are from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on Friday.</p>	<p>Downtown Dazzle The Jacksonville Children's Chorus (JCC) will present its second annual downtown holiday celebration by illuminating the outside of its downtown office, located at 225 East Duval St., with festive lights synchronized to recorded songs of the season performed by JCC. Holiday, Christmas and Hanukkah songs will be broadcast on 94.5 FM radio for onlookers to enjoy. Downtown Dazzle begins Friday, Nov. 25 and continues through New Year's Eve. Each night, 12-minute presentations will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude at 9:30 p.m. The synchronized lights are designed by Darren Hufty, who, along with Miller Electric, brings the building and the downtown block to life. For more information, contact Carolyn Audije at carolyn@jaxchildrenschorus.org.</p> <p>Christmas Tree Lighting The Jacksonville Landing and Sleiman Enterprises present the 30th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The holiday season officially kicks off at the landing Nov. 25 at 6 p.m. with the lighting of more than 78,000 LED lights and 150 ornaments on its 56-foot tall Christmas tree. Featuring live music, a fireworks display over the St. Johns River and a limited-edition ornament for the first 200 guests, this event will also see a nightly synchronized light show and Arthur Crofton from The Morning Show on 96.1. For more information, visit www.jacksonvillelanding.com.</p> <p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets Fridays at 9 a.m. at Watson Realty Corp., 615 Highway A1A S. in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. For more information, call Gloria at (904) 635-6103, visit www.pvpng.com or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</p> <p>Coastal Wine Market Wine Tasting Coastal Wine Market will host a Friday wine tasting Nov. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p>	<p>Enchanted Christmas Village The Keeler Property will be alight with Christmas Nov. 25 through Dec. 31 with the opening of the Enchanted Christmas Village. Featuring more than one million Christmas Lights, the village brings together an immersive holiday experience for First Coast families. Guests can enjoy breakfast with the Claus family Nov. 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and visit several attractions on the property, including a nativity scene, Santa's vacation home, ice sculptures, Santa's workshop and more. To learn more and to purchase any day passes or event tickets, visit www.jacksonvillechristmas.com. The Keeler Property is located at 17255 Normandy Blvd in Jacksonville, Fla.</p> <p>Budweiser Clydesdales The world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales pay a visit to the Jacksonville Anheuser-Busch Brewery this November. On Saturday, Nov. 26 from noon to 2 p.m., join the Clydesdales for Hitch Day. The brewery is located at 111 Busch Dr (Dunn Ave) in Jacksonville, Fla.</p> <p>'A Christmas Story' Alhambra presents "A Christmas Story," the tale of nine-year-old Ralphie's mission to find a genuine Red Ryder BB Gun despite the oft quoted warning, "You'll shoot your eye out!" This classic will be brought to life by Alhambra's cast through Dec. 24. Tickets can be purchased online at www.alhambrajax.com. Alhambra Theatre and Dining is located at 12000 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville, Fla.</p> <p>IMAX Theater "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" will be screened at World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater daily through Dec. 15. Admission is \$13 for adults, \$12 for students, senior and military, \$10 for children ages 3-12 and free for children under 3. The theater is located at One World Golf Place, St. Augustine. For more information, call (940) 940-4123.</p>	<p>Kids Free November at MOCA MOCA Jacksonville welcomes families to enjoy "Kids Free November." Throughout the month, the museum will allow up to five children from 3 to 12 years of age to receive free admission with a general admission paying adult. Explore MOCA's fifth-floor Art Explorium, where children can learn about artistic techniques, materials and processes through exhibits such as The Art Garden, Freeze Frame and Pixel Pictures. MOCA is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.</p> <p>WinterFEST at Adventure Landing Jacksonville's annual WinterFEST celebration returns to Adventure Landing for its sixth year with a collection of holiday activities for the entire family. The theme park has transformed its Shipwreck Island Water Park and wave pool into a winter wonderland. Featuring attractions such as Blizzard Bluff Village, Crystal Creek Lodge, Santa's Workshop and Hologram Lights, WinterFEST runs through Jan. 8. For ticket pricing and operating schedule, visit www.jaxwinterfest.com. Adventure landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd.</p> <p>Deck The Chairs Deck The Chairs returns to Jacksonville Beach's Sea Walk Pavilion for its third year in support of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps of Jacksonville Beach. This holiday celebration features lifeguard chairs aglow with Christmas lights in addition to the festivities, music and food trucks the Pavilion is known for year-round. On Nov. 27, the showcase officially opens with "Light the Beach" from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This year's free event will also debut a light show every night at 6 p.m.</p> <p>Collection Tour Join the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens on Sundays for a guided tour of its permanent collection. The tour is free with the cost of admission. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p>

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<p>Archaeology Works From 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., the Florida Public Archaeology Network and the Southeast Branch of the St. Johns County Library will take an in-depth look at archaeological materials and the science behind them. Participants will get to try their hand at the same analysis techniques used by professionals. This event will take place at the Southeast Branch Library located at 6670 U.S. 1 South in St. Augustine. Contact Emily Jane Murray at emurray@flagler.edu or (904) 392-7874 to RSVP.</p> <p>Free Line Dancing Classes The Ponte Vedra Womens Club will offer free line dancing classes at the Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library Monday, Nov. 28 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 29 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Dances taught will include the Cupid Shuffle, Bikers' Shuffle, Electric Slide, Macarena and more. Contact Denise Goldberg at dzboss1@hotmail.com to RSVP or for more information. The library is located at 101 Liberty Boulevard in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Caregiver Support Group The Players Caregiver Support Group meets every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. at The Players Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Kimberly Weir of Heartland Hospice facilitates a weekly discussion of current concerns and issues of caregivers. For more information, call (904) 280-3233.</p> <p>Travel Training Program The Council on Aging's Travel Training program is designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. Residents interested in expanding their transportation options or who would like to increase their confidence as a bus rider can receive assistance from trained volunteers in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging at (904) 315-6505 or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p>	<p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday sponsored by VyStar Credit Union at the Cummer Café. Every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on the Cummer Café patio, take in the sunset while listening to local musicians with beer, wine, or artfully-inspired tapas for sale at the Café. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group is a program designed for those with memory changes who like to stay active mentally, physically and socially while allowing caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. This program is offered weekdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ashford Court, 1700 The Greens Way in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 568-8174, or email life_enrichment_group@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Medicare/Medicaid Help Dick Wallis is available for people interested in help with Medicare or Medicaid. He can be reached by appointment on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Partner's Office at River House, 179 Marine St. For questions or appointments, call 209-3655.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club Meeting The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call club President Janeene Hart at (904) 412-5409 or email jwhart1208@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Well-being Wednesday Free well-being classes will be held at the Adele Grage Cultural Center during and after the Mid-Week Market in Bull Park. This event now features free Vinyasa Yoga by Kristen Huth. In addition to her Sunday classes at the Adele Grage Center, Huth teaches the community classes for yoga lovers of all levels. Instructors and speakers are encouraged to contact the department of recreation and special events at (904) 247-5828 for more details about providing the community with Well Being information/classes.</p> <p>Wine Down Wednesday Table 1's Wine Down Wednesdays are back with \$15 wine sampling and half price appetizers from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Guests can also enjoy the live music stylings of Javier Naranjo starting at 6 p.m. Table 1 is located at 330 AIA North in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Caregiver Appreciation Day The Council on Aging invites all caregivers to join them Wednesday, Nov. 30 for a day of relaxation, pampering and socialization with other caregivers. Guests will enjoy smoothies and snacks, receive hand massages and manicures and learn about meditation, humor therapy and other stress relief techniques. This free event will take place at the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center, located at 1048 A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For additional information, call (904) 297-0061.</p> <p>Mental Health Recovery Support Free mental health support is available to the public facilitated by Georgia/Florida Certified Peer Specialist Whitney Bolin. Sessions are by appointment only Monday through Friday; call (770) 403-4991 or email whitneybat76@gmail.com. Bolin also facilitates a mental health recovery group at Flagler Hospital from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday.</p>	<p>'What is a Photograph?' Join MOCA Jacksonville for a book club discussion of 'What is a Photograph?' Exploring the "intense, creative experimentation" of photography as it has evolved since the 1970s, this book club session includes an hour-long tour of MOCA's "Retro-spective: Analog Photography in a Digital Word" and delves into the ways the medium has transformed the ways photos are taken and developed. For more information and to purchase tickets, which include a drink and snack, visit www.mocajacksonville.unf.edu.</p> <p>Yoga for Survivors at the Y Share a restorative experience as an experienced yoga instructor certified by the Christina Phipps Foundation guides cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, and others with range of motion and pain limitations through a gentle and safe yoga practice. This free event is open to the community. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. This event will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center located in the Ponte Vedra YMCA at 170 Landrum Lane. Classes run Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 at 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>River House Christmas Extravaganza This festive holiday shopping experience will take place at River House, 179 Marine Street on Thursday, December 1, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It features a selection of Christmas decorations, art, jewelry, books, purses and more. Guests can enjoy Christmas shopping at River House and as well as a visit to the River House Café.</p> <p>Holiday Artisan Faire The Holiday Artisan Faire is set to take place from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Atlantic Beach's Adele Grage Center. The indoor/outdoor event will feature more than 20 artists of visual art, mixed media and jewelry, live entertainment with strolling violinist Beverly Chapman and free food and beverages. Among the featured artists are Bill and Jon Slade, Susan Carr, Kimberly Young and more. Beachside Buggies will be available nearby to transport visitors to and from the event. For more information, visit the event page at www.coab.us/index.aspx?nid=483.</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 jasmine@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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Sunday, December 4th | 5:00-9:00
\$25.00++ Adults | \$6.25++ Kids 6-12

Brunch With Santa
Enjoy brunch with Santa Claus as he visits us all the way from the North Pole!
Advance reservations required
Sunday, December 11th | 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
\$52.00++ Adults, \$20.00++ Kids 6-12

For complete information on our dining and social events, visit our website at http://www.tpc.com/sawgrass-dining. For more information or to make a reservation in NINETEEN or for a Social Event, please contact the dining room at 904.273.3238.

PV2-LV33176

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Ponte Vedra Recorder
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Bolles 'Between Iraq and a Hard Place' team recognized at World Quest

A group of Bolles School juniors earned honorable mention at the 2016 Academic World Quest forum held Nov. 10 at the University of North Florida.

Three Bolles teams prepared for the event since September under the guidance and sponsorship of Dr. Danton Kostandrithes, who spent six weeks working with students before and after school to prepare for the competition. Students Gracie Surface, Asha


Anderson, Olivia Morello and Vathsan Margram won honorable mentions for their high score and their creative team name – "Between Iraq and a Hard Place."

The team's finish is the best overall finish yet by Bolles at the highly competitive event. The World Quest competition tests students on their knowledge of global issues such as human trafficking, food and water resources, youth employment and current events.




Photo courtesy of The Bolles School

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Source: Real Value of Joining a Local Chamber of Commerce
Shapiro Group, 2012.

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Business Weekly

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Holiday Real Estate Showcase

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Economist: No recession on the horizon, but 2017 may bring inflation

By Jennifer Logue

Economists don't foresee a recession happening in 2017 or 2018, but inflation may prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates in the coming year.

Those were a few of the economic assessments shared by Dr. Lawrence Yun at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's quarterly Economic Development Council breakfast last year. Yun – the chief economist and senior vice president of research for the National Association of Realtors – contended that the zero rate of inflation seen in recent years was actually the result of lower



Dr. Lawrence Yun

Photo by Susan Griffin

2017 continues on Page 20



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PV2-LV33090

Meet this week's hot properties at Egrets Cove in Jacksonville.

Three great new homes ready for quick move-in • Priced to sell and loaded with upgrades

1-story, 2,344 sq. ft., 3 bdms., 2 baths **\$342,990**

This lovely waterfront home features 10-ft. volume ceilings and hardwood flooring. The gourmet kitchen offers a double oven, glass stovetop, 42-in. upper cabinets and quartz countertops. The master bath showcases tile flooring, dual vanities, a large garden tub and separate oversized walk-in frameless shower with tile surround. Relax on the spacious extended covered patio. **Homesite 33**

13190 Christine Marie Ct., Jacksonville, FL 32225 From I-295, take Exit 48/Atlantic Blvd. heading east. Turn left on Girvin Rd. to community 3 mi. ahead on the left. (904) 596-6760

1-story, 2,161 sq. ft., 3 bdms., 2 baths **\$325,990**

This stunning open floor plan features tile flooring throughout, carpeting at bedrooms and convertible flex space ideal for a dining room or office. The upgraded kitchen boasts granite countertops, maple 42-in upper cabinets, stainless steel appliances and a double wall oven. Unwind after a long day on the covered patio. **Homesite 45**

1-story, 2,344 sq. ft., 4 bdms, 2 baths **\$317,990**

This beautiful open floor plan showcases volume ceiling and tile flooring. The gourmet kitchen includes granite countertops, a free-standing glass stovetop and separate oven. The master suite offers tray ceilings, two walk-in closets and a connecting bath with tile flooring, dual vanities, a garden tub and separate oversized walk-in frameless shower. Entertain family and friends on the covered patio. **Homesite 21**

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PV2-LV33126

2017

Continued from 19

gas prices, which offset increases in the price of food, college tuition and other key indicators to keep inflation at bay. He doesn't see that continuing for much longer, however.

"In order to have another year with no inflation, gas would have to be \$1 a gallon," Yun said, predicting that the nation could see inflation of 3 to 4 percent, prompting the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates.

In a presentation that reviewed a number of economic indicators – such as lifetime wealth, homeownership rates, new housing starts and increases in jobs – Yun noted that St. Johns County has bucked the trend of more significant declines in those areas seen in other parts of the country.

"The level of growth (in St. Johns County) is very unique – one of the bright stars in the whole country," he said. "St. Johns County has been very immune."

Election predictions

Noting that real estate data closely reflects the overall economy, Yun posited that President-elect Donald Trump's election victory wouldn't have come as such a big surprise to some media pundits had they put more faith in real estate data than in political polls. For example, in Colo-



Photo by Susan Griffin

Flagler Hospital President Joe Gordy (center) receives the Fred Schroeder EDC Member of the Year Award from EDC Chair Victor Raymos (left) and Schroeder's son, Dirk Schroeder.

rado, Yun said – where home prices and jobs have both increased in recent years – voters went for Clinton. "People there were saying, 'We like the status quo.'"

In Pennsylvania, however, the data was in stark contrast to the political polls. "Every single poll had Pennsylvania going for Clinton," Yun said. "But one look at the economic data clearly pointed to a large percentage of dissatisfied people in

Pennsylvania."

Moreover, while data shows that lifetime wealth is at an all-time high, a deeper dive into the numbers shows that most of those financial gains were experienced by the 10 percent of the population with money in the stock market; the remaining 90 percent of Americans haven't benefited, he said.

"From the middle class point of view, for the past eight years there's been

no gains and you're just spinning your wheels," said Yun, adding that the U.S. homeownership rate is at its lowest point in 50 years, with those under 35 being particularly underrepresented. That dissatisfaction among young adults, he said, correlated to the support Socialist Bernie Sanders enjoyed among younger voters.

"People under 35 were saying, 'What the heck, America? I am willing to try something completely different,'" Yun said. "What does that say about future voting patterns?"

As the U.S. economy prepares for the uncertainty of a new president, Yun said, there is a chance that President-elect Trump's pledge to lower taxes and cut regulation will prompt businesses to start spending and investing in their companies again, triggering job creation and overall economic growth.

"Increased business spending could kick in and we could have sustained, positive economic activity," he said. "But if it's only a short-term measure, we'll see a larger budget deficit that could drive higher interest rates."

Chamber Award

A special highlight of the EDC breakfast was the presentation of the Fred Schroeder EDC Member of the Year Award to Flagler Hospital President Joe Gordy. The award was presented by Schroeder's son, Dirk Schroeder, and Victor Raymos, chair of the chamber's Economic Development Council.

BUSINESS BRIEFS**Ameris Bank food drive benefits 10 Northeast Florida food banks**

Ameris Bank's 7th annual company-wide Helping Fight Hunger food drive initiative collected more than 39,500 non-perishable food items locally that were donated to 10 food banks in Northeast Florida.

The Helping Fight Hunger food drive initiative allowed for a food bank in every town with an Ameris Bank location to receive the donation of goods collected at the local Ameris Bank branch. In total, Ameris Bank collectively gathered more than 825,000 food items through the initiative.

In addition, Ameris Bancorp, the parent company of Ameris Bank, will contribute a monetary donation to each local food bank that received contributions during the food drive. Last year, Ameris Bank collectively donated a total of \$100,000 to local food banks.

"The bank's Helping Fight Hunger initiative is our opportunity to help eradicate hunger and food insecurity in Northeast Florida and help make a difference for those who need it most," Market President Kendall Spencer said. "We are committed to helping local organizations that provide nutritious meals for those in need."

According to Feeding America, more than 46 million people in America struggle with hunger, including 12 million children and 7 million seniors.

Turning Points in America to produce directory of veteran-owned small businesses

A nonprofit organization is producing a new directory that aims to help small businesses owned by U.S. veterans.

Turning Points in America will produce the first Veterans Small Business Directory that will be made available in both print and online formats. Inclusion in the directory is free to all veteran-owned small businesses, which must also pledge to prioritize the hiring of both U.S. veterans and U.S. citizens.

Veteran business owners may complete their directory registration online at the Turning Points in America website: <http://turningpointsinamerica.org/veterans-small-business-directory/small-business-application>.

Tax-deductible donations to support the

directory or Turning Points in America may also be made on the website.

Ponte Vedra Beach among cheapest cities to insure a car

Ponte Vedra Beach is among the most affordable cities in which to insure a car, according to a study by personal finance company ValuePenguin.

According to the study, the average premiums in Ponte Vedra Beach are \$2,027, or 18 percent below the Florida state average. Florida is one of the most expensive states for car insurance, with a state average of \$2,479. The study also found that drivers in Southern Florida pay up to 90 percent more than North Florida drivers, with drivers in the most expensive city – Hialeah – paying 3.3 times more than residents of Niceville, who pay the lowest premiums.

SBA approves \$24 million in disaster recovery loans for Hurricane Matthew damage

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved more than \$24 million in low-interest disaster loans for businesses and residents in Florida affected by Hurricane Matthew from Oct. 3-19, 2016. The deadline to file an SBA disaster loan application for physical damage is Dec. 16, 2016. The deadline for economic injury applications is July 17, 2017.

"Currently, 661 disaster loans

have been approved in the amount of \$24,036,200 for affected survivors," said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA's Field Operations Center East in Atlanta. "We are pleased to get these loans approved so residents in the disaster area can start to rebuild and resume their normal lives. I encourage anyone who has not submitted an SBA disaster loan application to do so before the deadline."

SBA disaster loans are available to businesses of all sizes as well as many private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters to cover uninsured losses from Hurricane Matthew. Interest rates are as low as 4 percent for businesses, 2.625 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 1.563 percent for homeowners and renters. Loan terms can be up to 30 years.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, applicants should register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or download the FEMA mobile app. If online or mobile access is unavailable, applicants should call the FEMA toll-free helpline at (800) 621-3362. Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>, or receive assistance at the local Disaster Recovery Center located at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce offices at 1 News Place, St. Augustine.



Photos by Susan Griffin

The Donna Mancini team: Terry Hawkins, Stephanie Brumback, Donna Mancini, Mike Mancini, Steve Burns and Lori Gunst

Donna Mancini Interiors & Flooring hosts 'Chamber After Hours'

Donna Mancini Interiors & Flooring hosted an "After Hours" cocktail reception for members of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce last week.

Held Nov. 16 at the Donna Mancini showroom on U.S. 1 South in Ponte Vedra, the event featured complimentary hors d'oeuvres and refreshments

while enabling local business and community leaders to make business connections.

Guests also had an opportunity to learn more about Donna Mancini's wide range of interior design and renovation services that include everything from window treatments and flooring to cabinetry, builder selections and more.



SJC Chamber/Ponte Vedra Division Executive Director Lin Jones and Terri Zioerjen



By Michael Hannon
Special to the Recorder

The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors recorded 19 residential sales in Ponte Vedra (32081) and Ponte Vedra Beach (32082) for the week of Nov. 8 – Nov. 15, 2016.

RECENT SALES

Single Family Homes – 32081

\$268,000	34 Fawn Gully Ln	3B/2B
\$206,990	28 Pindo Palm Dr 10-56	3B/2B/1HB
\$285,971	322 Park Lake Dr	3B/2B
\$346,435	151 Paradise Valley Dr	3B/2B
\$350,203	218 Coconut Palm Pkwy	3B/2B
\$362,113	246 Cobbler Trail	2B/2B
\$424,509	322 Tavernier Dr	4B/3B
\$436,846	109 Whisper Rock Dr	4B/3B/1HB
\$468,000	117 Magnolia Beach Trail	4B/3B
\$480,000	525 Southern Oak Dr	5B/4B/1HB

\$510,000 143 Austin Park Ave 5B/3B/1HB

Condominiums – 32082

\$270,000	31 Sea Winds S	2B/2B/1HB
\$348,000	9847 Sawgrass Dr E	3B/2B
\$389,900	136 Ponte Vedra Colony	3B/3B
\$395,000	435 N Ocean Grande Dr	3B/3B

Single Family Homes - 32082

\$203,500	133 La Pasada Cir N	2B/2B
\$360,000	693 Sand Isles Cir	3B/2B/1HB

\$465,000	357 Crossroad Lakes Dr	4B/2B
\$551,500	153 Indian Cove Ln	4B/3B/1HB
\$590,000	121 Montura Dr	5B/3B

MLS reported +/- 20 sold real estate transactions this week. The list above illustrates representative sampling of reported sold transactions. Property information is not guaranteed. © 2016 MLS and FBS

Have real estate questions? Email them to have your question answered in a future column. Submit questions to mh@michael2020.com.

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Intracoastal Waterway

Expertly designed waterfront Estate in Harbour Island which includes a 60' boat slip. This 5-bedroom home is over 9,000 square feet and includes a separate waterfront guest cottage. Features include chef's kitchen, library, theater room, billiard room, spacious living areas, wine cellar and first floor master suite. Gated 4 car motor court garage. Large screened lanai with summer kitchen overlooking pool/spa and spectacular waterway views. \$4,295,000



Waterfront with 60' boat slip--Harbour Island

This 4 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath, 5900 sq. ft. home was custom built with poured masonry walls, barrel tile roof, saturnia stone floors, and high end quality features throughout. Includes a media room, separate billiard room, office, gourmet kitchen, and first floor master suite. Enjoy incredible views of the yacht basin and Intracoastal waterway. A perfect home for entertaining family and friends. \$1,999,995

PV2-LV33171



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PV2-LV33117

HOLIDAY REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE



Photos by Susan Griffin

Dostie Homes staff members Richard Dostie, Sam Clauson, Angela Andres, Rick Dostie, Chris Dostie, Alaina Record, Sam Schneider and Susan Pyles at the grand opening of the Ranch at Twenty Mile in Nocatee

Home builders host grand opening of The Ranch at Twenty Mile

Home builders David Weekley Homes and Dostie Homes held a grand opening event for Realtors Nov. 15 at The Ranch at Twenty Mile, a new neighborhood in Nocatee's Twenty Mile community.

Site agents showcased the Waters and Thoreau models, which are the first homes to be built in the community. The Thoreau model is 3,536 square feet with four bedrooms, three-and-a-half bathrooms and a three-car garage, while the Waters model offers 3,460 square feet with three bedrooms (including a retreat and study), three-and-a-half bathrooms and a three-car garage. Properties in the 52-home neigh-

borhood will start in the high \$500s and feature a variety of home designs, most with preserve and water views.

Located in St. Johns County in Nocatee's north-eastern corner off Valley Ridge Boulevard and Nocatee Parkway, Twenty Mile offers residents easy access to Nocatee's amenities and Town Center and features an Old Florida style with oak trees and split-rail fencing. The community is zoned for St. Johns County schools, and a new K-8 school is currently under construction adjacent to the community.



Heather Douglas and Jennifer Puff-Lutz check in Realtors at the grand opening of The Ranch at Twenty Mile in Nocatee.



The Waters model home at The Ranch at Twenty Mile in Nocatee



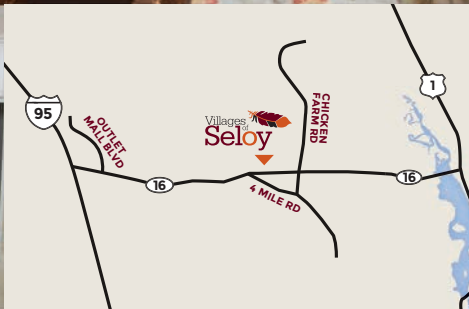
The Thoreau model home at The Ranch at Twenty Mile in Nocatee

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PV2-LV33152

HOLIDAY REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE

Drees Homes names Paulsen Jacksonville president

Drees Homes has promoted Mark Paulsen to Jacksonville Division president.

In his new role, Paulsen will oversee all aspects of Drees' Jacksonville Division operations, including sales, administration, production, warranty, product design, land acquisition and development. Prior to this appointment, he served as Midwest region production manager for the company.

Paulsen joined the company in 2001 as a builder in its Dallas Division. Following the company's purchase of Harmony Homes in 2005, he was promoted to Jacksonville construction manager and subsequently

Midwest region production manager, working from the company's corporate headquarters in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky.

"Mark was instrumental in helping to bring the Drees culture and philosophies to this new Drees division, and I am confident that he will continue to serve as a dedicated leader to the Jacksonville division," Southeast Region President David Hausfield said. "Over the course of his career, I have been impressed with Mark's depth of knowledge, desire to succeed, passion for the industry and his dedication to The Drees Company."



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HOLIDAY REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE

Berkshire Hathaway welcomes new Realtors



ALONSO

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently welcomed Realtors Carmen Alonso, Lindsay Viering and Michele Segars to its Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office.

Alonso is a native of Puerto Rico who moved to Florida in 1980.

"I love Jacksonville," Alonso said. "It's special that we can experience the four seasons without the snow!"

Alonso knows the Jacksonville real estate market well, and is particularly familiar with properties available in Southside, the Beaches, Mandarin and St. Johns County. She also has been involved in international volunteer work, assisting children with



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SEGARS

HIV in Africa and with native Indians in the Amazon.

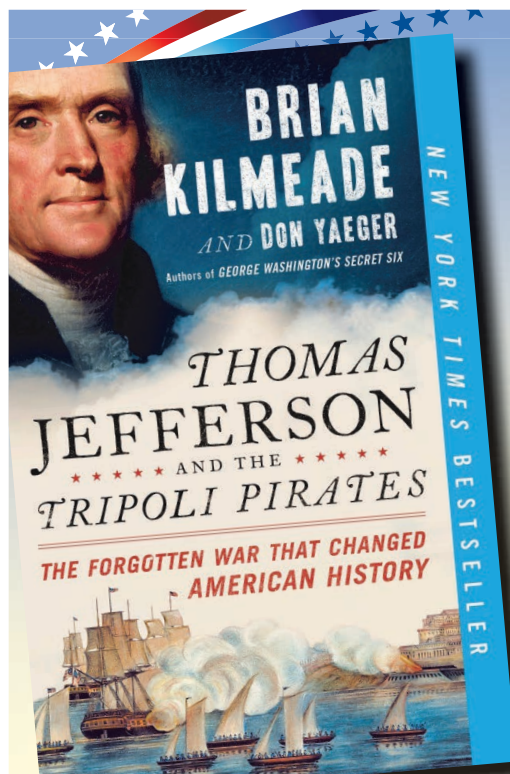
Fluent in Spanish, Alonso dice, "Me encanta ayudar a mi comunidad hispana obtener sus sueños de comprar casa por primera vez o' darles un consejo completamente gratis. Si necesita vender o comprar su casa, también referir me sus amigos puede comunicarse a mi celular (904) 508-3521."

Viering has been selling real estate in Ponte Vedra for the past nine years, but her roots in the town go much deeper. Growing up in Ponte Vedra in the 1970s, she remembers the area as a sleepy little beach town. Prior to joining Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR, she was a real estate agent at The Agency at Ponte Vedra, a small local real estate firm.

Segars has more than 20 years of experience in the luxury real estate market. She previously enjoyed a successful career in New York as a certified gemologist from the Gemological Institute of America, and later became the senior merchandiser at Mayor's Jewelers in

Coral Gables, managing \$50 million of fine jewelry inventory. Prior to joining Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR, she worked for a luxury property management company in Ponte Vedra Beach as the lead sales and leasing agent.

A lifelong equestrian, Segars enjoys practicing dressage, a sport that she's performed in since childhood.



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HOLIDAY REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE

Pineapple Corporation hosts opening event at Pablo Creek Reserve

Luxury home builder the Pineapple Corporation recently celebrated the completion of a modern Spanish courtyard estate in Jacksonville's Pablo Creek Reserve with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting event attended by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce representatives.

Guests attending the private open house enjoyed hors d'oeuvres by Ruth's Chris Steak House, drinks and the opportunity to view the company's high-quality homes.

"We are thrilled so many in the community could join us to celebrate the completion of this one-of-a-kind luxury home," President Spencer Calvert said. "We are extremely pleased that we received such a positive response as it relates to the thoughtful floor plan design, sophisticated level of finishes and overall architectural integrity."

Located at 5300 Chandler Bend Drive, the custom home features five bedrooms, six-and-a-half baths and 5,067 square feet of living space designed with flexible indoor and outdoor areas for living and entertaining. The Pineapple Corporation prices the home at \$2,179,000.

Pablo Creek Reserve, an exclusive gated residential community, is located near Mayo Clinic, the St. Johns Town Center and the beaches of Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra.



Representatives from the Pineapple Corporation and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony following the luxury home builder's completion of a modern Spanish courtyard estate in Jacksonville's Pablo Creek Reserve.



Debi Kopp, Drew Kopp, Keely Kopp and Lori Adams attend the Pineapple Corporation's ribbon cutting event in Jacksonville's Pablo Creek Reserve.



Jill Moore, Kathy Wiegmann and Cindey Nordman enjoy hors d'oeuvres by Ruth's Chris Steak House and drinks.

Photos by Susan Griffin

Trailmark hosts 'Bubbly, Boil and Brew' event

TrailMark recently hosted a "Bubbly, Boil and Brew" event in the master-planned community located near World Golf Village.

In addition to a Low Country Boil, refreshments and entertainment, guests were able to tour the community's newly completed Welcome House, Amenity Center and Lakeside Camp House.

Attendees also toured the community's three decorated model homes from D.R. Horton and Landon Homes. Both builders have several move-in ready showcase homes under construction. Homes are priced from the mid-200s.

"TrailMark offers a state-of-the-art

amenities center with a resort-style pool, playfields, fitness center and one-of-a-kind Lakeside Camp House where residents can gather to create memories to last a lifetime," said GreenPointe Communities Vice President of Land Development Chris Kuhn. "Our community offers the freedom to live life connected off the beaten path, but close enough to enjoy the very best of Northeast Florida."

Located at 2799 Pacetti Road in St. Augustine, TrailMark is located within the top-rated St. Johns County School District. The community also offers easy access to I-95, Jacksonville and St. Augustine.



Guests attend the "Bubbly, Boil and Brew" event at the TrailMark Amenity Center.

Photo courtesy of TrailMark

HOLIDAY REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE

Allegro Senior Living showcases work of Sisler Johnston Interior Design

Allegro Senior Living in Fleming Island showcases the work of Sisler Johnston Interior Design. The Jacksonville interior design firm recently provided interior refreshments to Allegro's common areas, including the entry and reception area.

"We are thrilled with the new look of our lobby and common areas," said Al-

legro Executive Director Joseph Cassiba. "The enhancements by Sisler Johnston Interior Design complement the warm and inviting setting our residents and their families enjoy at Allegro."

Sisler Johnston's redesign work refreshed Allegro's entry, reception area and living room seating area. The firm also

designed a new bistro space. New interior design selections included flooring, furnishings, lighting and finish selections.

Located at 3651 US Highway 17 in Fleming Island, Allegro Senior Living offers independent living, assisted living and memory care.

"Allegro Senior Living in Fleming

Island is an exceptional community that provides residents with vibrant surroundings and inspired living," said Judith Sisler Johnston, president of Sisler Johnston Interior Design, noting that her firm understands the special design considerations unique to residential environments for mature adults.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Thank you for your confidence and trust, and for sharing your lives with us. We are available over the Thanksgiving Holiday, happy to show you our listings in Marsh Landing, The Plantation, Sawgrass Country Club and other neighborhoods. We hope to help you in real estate by putting our years in the market to work for you!

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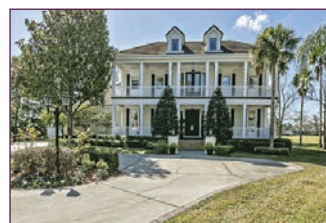
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HOLIDAY REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE

Markland Manor House opens

Hundreds of guests attended the recent grand opening of the Markland Manor House amenity center.

Attendees enjoyed food and drink from Anthony's Catering as they toured the Manor House and six model homes. They then relaxed in pool-side cabanas and Adirondack chairs by the fire pit while guitarist Ace Winn performed.

Inspired by the historic architecture of St. Augustine, the Markland Manor House is the centerpiece of the community's amenities. The first floor includes a gathering room, card room, several large television, and a coffee bar for residents. The second floor is dedicated to residents' health and wellness, with an array of Life Fitness strength and aerobic equipment, free weights and a yoga/spin studio equipped with an "on-demand" fitness class system. The elevated location of the fitness room provides views of the pool grounds and expansive central lakes.

The adjacent resort pool, meanwhile, has a zero-entry area, lap lanes and fountain jets, and is framed by private cabanas, shaded pergolas and lounge areas on all sides. Beyond the pool, and beside the 30-acre lake network, is a fire pit and event lawn where residents and friends can gather to enjoy community concerts and share stories.

Residents and guests can also play tennis by the lake on two hard-surface tennis courts which have been adapted for pickle ball use as well. Numerous neighborhood parks are spaced throughout the neighborhood so that young children can play "sandlot" games of soccer and football within earshot of home. The central playground features a Kompan "Explorer Dome" and the grand lawn for a variety of field sports.



Photos courtesy of Markland

All of the amenities within Markland, as well as nearby shops, are connected by a series of linear parks and sidewalks that enable residents to walk and bike in their travels or they can use a golf cart on the roads within the community.

"I saw the plans for Markland when I visited Palencia a while ago, but they did not do it justice," said Lisa Vernon of Keller Williams Real Estate. "To see it all built is just magnificent."

Debbie Pappas of All County added, "Having the main amenity center available to future residents as their homes are being built makes it easier for Realtors to convince potential buyers to move into the

community."

Hines took an unusual approach in the planning and development of Markland and rezoned the property from over 800 homes down to only 345 homes.

"By limiting the number of homes, we have been able to create a unique offering in St. Johns County," Managing Director Walter O'Shea said. "Residents will enjoy more access to the amenities in Markland than in much larger planned communities. They will have more use of the pool, fitness equipment and the tennis courts, as there are less people competing for these facilities."

The reduction in density has also allowed the developers to offer larger lots to home-

buyers, he added.

"The added lot depth and width will allow builders to offer homeowners the ability to have a home, a pool and still have a backyard for the children to play," he said. "We hope that Markland responds to families, couples and individuals who want an amenity-rich lifestyle but want to do so in a setting where you see more familiar faces and get to know your neighbors."

Located on International Golf Parkway east of I-95, Markland features six home builders offering a variety of home plans ranging from \$300,000 to more than \$700,000.

Shearwater holds 'Not-so-Lazy Sailboat Race'

Shearwater residents participated in the first-ever "Not-So-Lazy Sailboat Race" Nov. 5, joining together to design, make and race sailboats around the master-planned community's Lazy Bird River.

Families met in the Kayak Club amenity center to select building materials – such as Styrofoam, popsicle sticks and construction paper – to design unique sailboats.

Located off of 210 West in St. Augustine, Shearwater offers new homes with access to a host of amenities, including resort-style and lap pools, tennis courts, the Lazy Bird River, fitness lodge, Kayak Club and more.



Photos courtesy of Shearwater

Above: Shearwater kids and parents construct sailboats out of Styrofoam, sticks and other materials.

Left: Full-time Lifestyle Director Dylan Read places sailboats in the water at the starting line for Shearwater's Not-So-Lazy Sailboat Race. Dylan works with families directly to organize programs and events for all residents to enjoy.

HOLIDAY REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE

BBX Capital breaks ground on Beacon Lake

BBX Capital Real Estate recently celebrated the groundbreaking of Beacon Lake, a new community in northern St. Johns County consisting of 1,280 single-family homes and 196 townhomes spread over approximately 630 acres.

“We are thrilled to introduce Beacon Lake to Northeast Florida,” said Bruce J. Parker, managing director of BBX Capital Real Estate. “BBX Capital Real Estate’s goal is dedicated to developing outstanding communities with exceptional quality homes and world-class amenities.”

Located on the south side of County Road 210 between U.S. Route 1 and Interstate 95, the community’s centerpiece is the 43-acre Beacon Lake, which will feature a clubhouse overlooking the water, a crew house and a launch area. Additional features of the community will include a junior Olympic-size pool; a splash park and fun pool; tennis courts and play fields; a fitness center offering aerobics and spinning, free weights and a yoga studio; and a dog park.

Beacon Lake’s builder team is anticipated to include Dream Finders Homes and ICI Homes. They plan to offer a variety of home designs showcasing a coastal vernacular architectural style. Single-family homes and townhomes are estimated to range from 1,800 square feet to 4,000 square feet and priced from the high \$200,000s to the \$500,000s.

Construction of the Beacon Lake amenity center and model homes, which are zoned for the St. Johns County Public School District, is currently scheduled to begin in 2017.



Cathy Johnston, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce board chair, speaks at the Beacon Lake groundbreaking event.



Bruce J. Parker, managing director of BBX Capital Real Estate, speaks at the Beacon Lake groundbreaking event.



Batey McGraw, Cathy Johnston, Andrew Meran, Bruce J. Parker, Seth Wise, Tom McCall and Kelly Barrera at BBX Capital Real Estate’s Beacon Lake groundbreaking event in northern St. Johns County

Photos by Susan Griffin

McGarvey to develop Ocean Ridge in St. Augustine Beach

McGarvey Residential Communities is developing Ocean Ridge, a new community in St. Augustine Beach that the company says will reflect a commitment to conserving Florida’s natural resources.

“For the past 17 years we have been known as a significant steward for preserving the distinctive beauty that lies in the splendor of St. Augustine Beach’s native features, while creating desirable neighborhoods,” President Jay McGarvey said. “Ocean Ridge will be no exception.”

Located on Anastasia Island at Mickler Road and 11th Street, Ocean Ridge will blend a Florida beach-style architecture in a neighborhood with lake views and a private swim club located blocks away from the beach. Riverside Homes, Landon Homes and SH Design are creating new floor plans and designs as well as offering semi-custom and custom homes for the pristine single-family home sites.

“From its inception, the original intent



MCGARVEY

and design for the community was to create a unique, environmentally sensitive neighborhood,” McGarvey said. “The three builders in the community share that vision for Ocean Ridge.”

With an oak canopy and hilly topography, Ocean Ridge will offer residents the benefits of treed lots and sea breezes while maintaining the innate beauty of one of the last planned communities in St. Augustine Beach, he added.

McGarvey’s other St. Augustine Beach communities include Sea Colony, Sea Grove, Anastasia Dunes and Beach Haven in Flagler County, all of which the company says, were created with a desire to respect open space, maintaining the topography and landscaping with native plant material.

“As a company, we are dedicated to



Photos courtesy of McGarvey Residential Communities

building communities that will be here for years to come, that both celebrate and maintain as much of the original character of the land as possible with graceful

landscaped streets, native grasses and trees, and spaces to relax and gather,” Chief Financial Officer and Development Partner Dinah Robertson said.

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 - Aerobic/yoga/spin studio with classes "on-demand"

Six Model Homes Open Daily

Homes from \$300's to over \$700's

*Best wishes for a holiday season filled
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Early Black Friday website offers a jump on holiday shopping

Is a new TV on your holiday shopping list? Best Buy is offering a Toshiba 49-inch Ultra HD HDTV for only \$199.99 on Black Friday.

That's just one of the many specials serious shoppers can scope out in advance at EarlyBlackFriday.com. The website collects all the Black Friday sale flyers for some of the biggest retailers so shoppers can do their homework and prepare for the Christmas shopping Olympics that occurs each year on the day after Thanksgiving.

"We're seeing this year that retailers have switched from offering 1080p resolution HDTVs to 4k Ultra HD HDTVs for their doorbuster deals," EarlyBlackFriday.com's Jon Vincent said. "Since the quality of the TVs has increased, we noticed that the sizes offered this year are slightly smaller compared to last year at the same price point."

Big bargains

Other stores offering hot bargains this Black Friday include:

Target: an Xbox One S 500 GB Minecraft or Battlefield 1 Console Bundle with a \$40 Target gift card for \$249.99

Kohl's: A variety of small Hamilton Beach appliances – including a

coffee maker, slow cooker, griddle and slow cooker – for \$9.99 each; Kohl's also is offering 50 percent off all toys from Fisher-Price, Playskool and other popular brands.



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Photos by Jasmine Marshall

ABOVE: Mariposa Founder and Creative Director Livia Cowan

LEFT: Mariposa Founder and Creative Director Livia Cowan (far right) speaks with long-time admirers and sisters Tina Schneider (left) and Holly Cosentino.

Artist brings whimsy, ecological consciousness to Sawgrass Village

By Jasmine Marshall

Pineapple Post opened its doors for another premium artist Nov. 17, welcoming Mariposa Founder and Creative Director Livia Cowan to the Sawgrass Village storefront for a personalized gift event.

Known for her use of earth conscious techniques, recycled materials and elegant design, Cowan joined Pineapple Post owner Susan Hamilton as they ushered in guests for an afternoon of wine, appetizers and free engravings. Cowan first fell in love with the craft during a trip to Mexico 30 years ago. After returning to her home in Massachusetts, car stuffed with recycled glassware, Cowan took to her parent's garage-turned-design-studio to get to work.

Today, her collections of crafted dinnerware, serving platters, picture frames and gifts line shelves all over the country, counting Pineapple Post alongside the likes of Bloomingdales— and the appeal, Cowan says, is wide-reaching.

“I think the reason Mariposa is able to resonate with customers everywhere is because of the imagery,” she said. “We use a lot of cute, relatable iconography with our products that are reflective their own interests and lives ... things that will mean something to them personally, no matter where they are.”

Cowan also noted the ambiguity of the



line, whose neutral colors, unpretentious metals and hammered appearance often straddles the line between classic and contemporary, simple and elegant. The collection of soft polished aluminum and marble serving platters, serving utensils cleverly crafted into nautical shapes and sculpted pearl pieces that adorn the gift store's shelves are particularly popular amongst young brides and millennials.

According to Hamilton, that versatility

made Pineapple Post the perfect home for the founder's collection. The line of aluminum and recycled glass pieces sculpted into the likeness of seashells, palm trees and starfish was particularly appealing to Ponte Vedra-based Mariposa admirers.

“There's a lot of reasons I think (Cowan's line) appeals to people,” Hamilton said. “But I think one of the biggest draws is the materials and the designs; we don't have many artists who use this

nautical iconography anymore, and people here really care about being earth-friendly. That's extremely important to Livia and it's important to our customers.”

Cowan herself cites those ecologically-conscious methods she's known for as inspiration.

Beginning with the first batch of items handcrafted from Coke bottles towed from her first trip to Mexico to the lightweight, specially colored clay she and Mariposa sculptor Michael Updyke are considering for an upcoming collection, that eco-friendly tag is one she carries with pride.

“I think the reason it's so important to me is because ... for me, using environmentally friendly materials is a way we can make the day today beautiful,” she said. “The first materials I used (at Mariposa's inception) were recycled glass, it's how I got my start. And it's something I believed in very deeply.”

That belief is one Cowan hopes she's able to pass on to her customers through the design and functionality that make each piece.

“I do try to create things that people can see themselves in, and things that won't negatively impact the environment that they're made in,” she said. “And I feel so fortunate that ... I'm able to work with and for people with those same ideas.”



Photo courtesy of Coastal Wine Market

ABOVE: Expressionist artist Jonay di Ragno (right) with a Ponte Vedra resident at the "Meet the Artist" session Nov. 12.

LEFT: Revolver Wine Co. winemaker and proprietor Bryan Page (center) with Allen Horne and Steve Lourie of Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room at the "Meet the Winemaker" event Nov. 14 in Nocatee

Coastal Wine Market & tasting room holds 'Meet the Winemaker' and 'Meet the Artist' events

Coastal Wine Market & tasting room in Nocatee recently hosted Revolver Wine Co. winemaker and proprietor Bryan Page and expressionist artist Jonay di Ragno for its "Meet the Winemaker" and "Meet the

Artist" events.

Page, who is based in Napa Valley, provided samples of five of his wines at the Nov. 14 event, including Vine | Vein Cabernet, Page Red Blend and Petite Ver-

dot. Guests received 10 percent off Page's tasting wines, in addition to his autograph on the bottle.

According to his website, Page describes the style of his wine as "an elegant mouth feel with edgy flavor profiles." He began making wine nearly 20 years ago after taking a trip to Bordeaux region in France, where he fell in love with the region's wines. After the tour concluded, he returned home to California, where he worked at several restaurants and appren-

ted at a number of Napa Valley wineries with the goal of creating his own wine label. He founded Page Wine Cellars in 1997.

di Ragno, who visited Ponte Vedra Nov. 12 for the event, is a self-proclaimed "alchemist" inspired by the beauty of nature and his Mediterranean roots in Spain. His goal, he says, is to express everyday life through his artwork, which is inspired by the works of Gorky, De Kooning, Vicente, Picasso, Rothko and CY Tomblly.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Page signs one of his wine bottles for a customer.



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PV2-LV3089



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PVB Division Holiday Merriment Party

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 7 / 5:30- 7:30 p.m.

Location: Cutter & Cutter Fine Gallery

Info: St. Johns County's premier networking event will feature great door prizes, hors d'oeuvres, drinks and live music by Ryan Crary. Bring your spouse or friend and come celebrate with us this special evening of enjoyment & holiday merriment at the Cutter & Cutter Fine Art Gallery, located in Sawgrass Village.

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PV2-LV33085

Nocatee Welcome Center Spotlight

By Jasmine Marshall

The Nocatee Welcome Center is the first stop for anyone looking to find out more about the master-planned community. The office provides resources such as interactive maps, tours and information about living in Nocatee. The most important resource, however, is the Welcome Center staff, who help newcomers get oriented. Each month, a different member of the Welcome Center team will be featured in this space.

This month's featured representative is Heather Douglas, a Nocatee Welcome Center member of four years. Douglas hails from Atlantic Beach and hosts Nocatee's weekly 'Walk-Through Wednesdays.'

Are you originally from the area?

I am a fifth-generation Jacksonville native. I was raised in Atlantic Beach and graduated from Episcopal School of Jacksonville. I have lived in Nocatee for five years with my husband Scott and son Hudson.

You have been with the Nocatee Welcome Center for four years – what's been the most memorable experience you've had?

I have been blessed to meet so many wonderful people from around the country during my employment. Something that never gets old is hearing from a resident that I had influenced their decision to purchase in Nocatee. That is something I take great pride in and will carry with me forever.

How did you get your start at the Welcome Center?

I love that memory! An email was sent to all

the residents stating they were looking for an energetic, enthusiastic resident that wanted to share their love of Nocatee with prospects. I had been staying home with my son for four years, but that sentence struck a nerve in me and I couldn't pass on the opportunity to interview. I luckily won them over with my enthusiasm for Nocatee!

What has your experience taught you about the area?

As a resident, I never realized all the intense behind-the-scenes work that goes into making Nocatee such an amazing community. Every event, social media post, neighborhood layout, Greenway Trail and amenity is carefully thought out, with every life stage in mind.

What are the most rewarding aspects of your job? The most challenging?

I have said for years this is the best part-time job! From the developers to the builder site agents to Resident Services employees, it feels like family. I am truly living the Nocatee lifestyle of work, live, play. The only challenge is I can't meet every prospect and tell them why this is such a well thought out, amazing community.

What do you like to do in your downtime?

I spent the last year running our fitness trails, training for my first marathon, and recently I've started riding my bike daily throughout Nocatee. On fall weekends, we are either hosting memorable tailgates at Gator football games or smoking BBQ for friends and family. Spending time with my family is my priority!



Photo courtesy of Nocatee

Heather Douglas conducts tours of Nocatee to help prospective homeowners learn about the community's amenities.

Noctoberfest lights the night

Nocatee's 2016 fall event merged Oktoberfest and Nocatee on Tap into one evening of beers, brats and tunes Nov. 12 with Noctoberfest.

From 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., guests enjoyed a festive night of food and the live stylings of DJ Jonathan and the German band

One Step Ahead of the Law as they provided a soundtrack of traditional German music for the crowd gathered at Splash Waterpark.

Nocatee provided a wide variety of specialty seasonal brews and specials for the 21 and over event.



Photos courtesy of Nocatee



There's no getting around it: dementia is hard on everyone involved. But it is possible to lessen the load. We're here to help with a progressive approach to assisted living for memory loss that redefines the traditional approach to memory care, bringing peace of mind to everyone in your family.

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SHORT TAKES

Civil War Discussion Group

The monthly meeting of the "Understanding The Civil War" Discussion Group will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the Anastasia Island Branch Public Library located in the Seagrove Subdivision on RT A1A South. The topic will be "The Betrayal of Reconstruction." This meeting is open to the public.

For more information, email Charlie Smith at smithc32@bellsouth.net.

Nease High School Chorus to perform at River House

The 85-member Nease High School Chorus will perform a complimentary

program of holiday music at River House, located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine on Dec. 7. Beginning at 10:30 a.m., this award-winning chorus program is open to the public.

Sandbar Santas

Join the Council on Aging for the 15th annual Sandbar Santa Charity Fish Fry, Wednesday, Dec. 14 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at The Sandbar Pub, 7025 A1A South. The menu consists of fried fish with trimmings for \$10 and will feature celebrity bartenders. All proceeds from the fish fry and all tips will go to the Council on Aging to provide a special Christmas for low-income elders in the area. For information, call Jeannie Berger at (904) 461-4671 or Jane Faybik at (904)



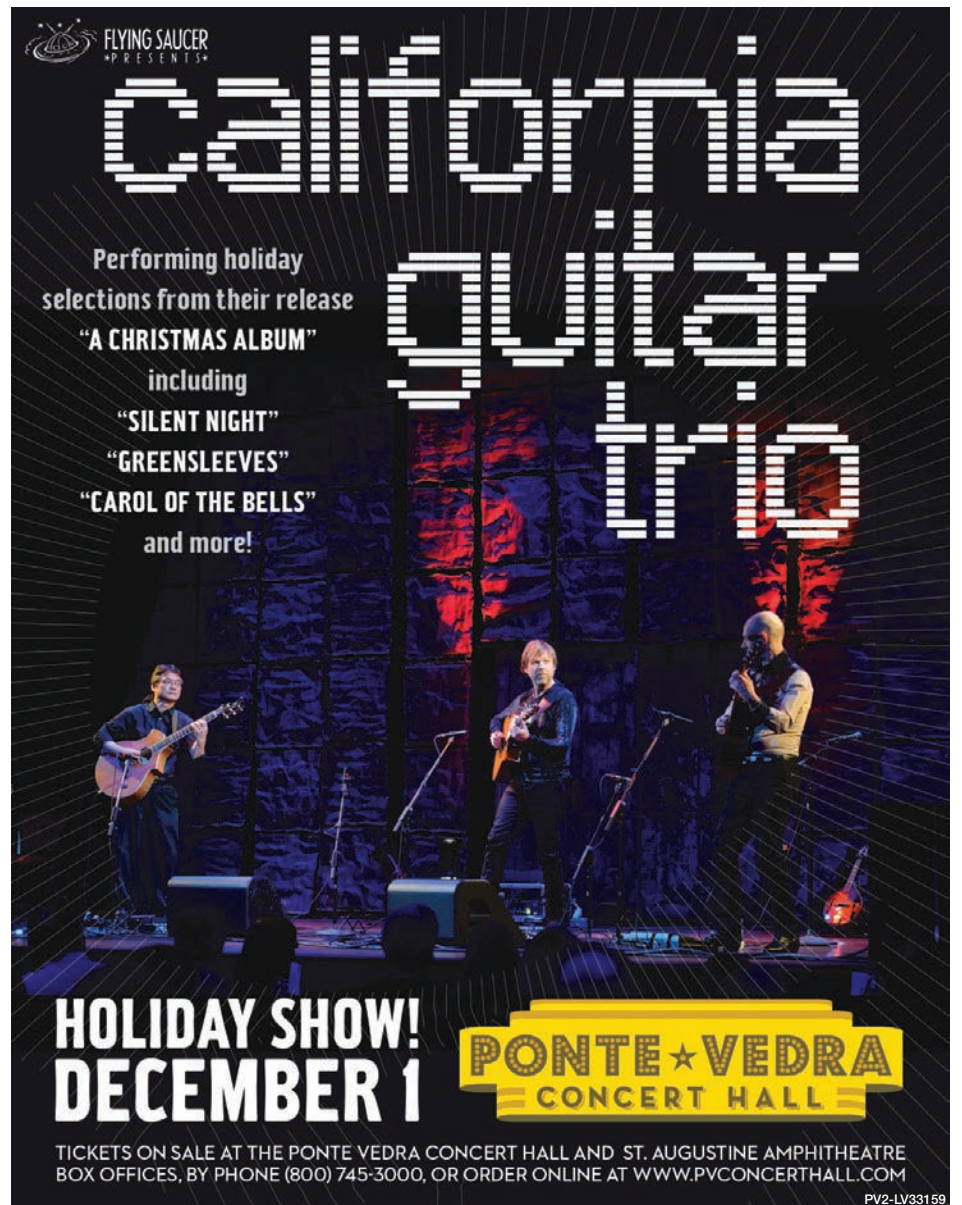
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PV2-LV33114

Happy Thanksgiving! The Season of Gratitude



Harry Pappas
Columnist

Two old friends met each other on the street one day. Harry looked neglected, almost on the verge of tears. His friend, Casey, asked, "What is wrong with you, Harry? You seem distraught."

"Three weeks ago, my uncle died and left me \$40,000," Harry replied.

"That is a lot of money," reacted Casey.

"But, two weeks ago, a cousin I never knew died, and left me \$80,000," grumbled Harry.

"Wow, it appears that you are very fortunate," smiled Casey.

"You don't understand, Casey! Last week my great-aunt passed away, and I

inherited \$250,000."

"Then, why on earth do you look so glum?" questioned Casey.

"This week . . . nothing!"

Talk about taking things for granted! I suggest that one of the main reasons that people, like Harry in the above story, lose their enthusiasm in life is because they become ungrateful for what they have. In other words, they take their current circumstances for granted, often forgetting it can disappear suddenly. For example, I believe far too many businesses focus on, and pursue, the next new customer while often neglecting their loyal clients. Therefore, I suggest that these companies heed the following narrative...

"You know me; I am a nice person. When I get lousy service, or bad advice I never complain or criticize. I would never think of making a scene. Instead, I just pack up my bags and leave. Of course, I

could give you a piece of my mind and possibly feel better, but it is better just to leave quietly and never come back. You see, a nice client like me, multiplied by others like me, can bring your business to its knees. There are plenty of us, and when we feel that we are taken for granted and not appreciated, we simply go to one of your competitors."

Thanksgiving is a special time of year when we all should reflect on the people and things we appreciate. As a reader and perhaps an advertiser, you have my deepest and heartfelt appreciation for supporting The Ponte Vedra Recorder in one way or another. Thank you for allowing me to come into your home twice a month to share what I hope is a worthwhile read. I sincerely wish that Thanksgiving is the start of a delightful holiday season for you, and the prelude to a brighter, prosperous, and peaceful time ahead.

Harry Pappas Jr. CFP®, Managing Director- Investments, Master of Science Degree Personal Financial Planning Certified Estate & Trust Specialist™, Certified Divorce Financial Analyst™
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THEME: HOLIDAY MOVIES

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ACROSS

- Group of pupils
- Fossil fuel
- Dust arachnid
- Abdominal muscle, pl.
- Grass bristle
- Like a ballerina
- Deflect
- *She played wife and mom in 21 Across
- Lazybones
- *It happened on 34th Street
- *Nicholas Cage's "The ____ Man"
- Wednesday's child issue?
- Mouthful, swallowed
- ____ Francisco
- ____ Verde National Park
- Adorn the halls with holly, e.g.
- Singer Tori
- Jailbird's home
- Tax of one tenth
- Popular e-reader
- DNA half
- Inmate's weapon
- Loose-fitting top
- "____ and sound"
- Performed alone, pl.
- Madison Square Garden and STAPLES Center, e.g.
- Snouts or beaks
- *"____ Takes a Holiday" with Basil Rathbone (1930)
- Inoffensive manner
- Long time
- *Jim Carrey's green grump
- *Holiday movie time traveler
- Courtroom excuse
- Bo Peep's follower
- Bus commuter
- Object of Tiny Tim's affection
- Corn piece
- Twig of a willow tree
- Aquatic snakes
- Pastrami partner
- Proceeds

DOWN

- Pack like sardines
- Denim innovator
- Maple, to a botanist
- Scarecrow stuffing
- "The Goldbergs," e.g.
- Arc de Triomphe, e.g.
- Leave speechless
- Big mess
- Between mini and maxi
- Short for "it will"
- He plus she
- "Ever" to a poet
- Marine gastropod
- Olden day blood-drawing equipment
- Priest's vestment
- Like a knight in shining armor?
- *Billy Bob Thornton's was bad
- Love, to Napo-

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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.

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| 27. Nobody | 49. Pollen ____ |
| 29. ____ Candies, chocolatier | 51. Feeling at a funeral |
| 31. Treat without respect | 54. Holiday feeling |
| 32. ____ vs. pathos | 56. Hustle and bustle sound |
| 33. Popular cook-off dish | 57. Tar to feathers |
| 34. *"Home Alone" main character | 58. Tiny river |
| 36. *Jim Carrey's was green when he stole Christmas | 59. Wading bird |
| 38. *It's wonderful? | 60. Dried up |
| 42. Three-masted vessel | 61. Norse deity |
| 45. Tabby's favorite | 62. Turned to the right |
| | 63. Makes mistakes |
| | 64. Gobbled up |
| | 66. *"Jingle All the ____" |



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SHORT TAKES

209-3687.

A Campfire Story: A King is Coming!

Christ Episcopal Church will present an original Advent Musical by Rachel Kamps-Huffman this December. The campfire tale lets audiences listen in on a well-known story from the angels' point of view – how can a king be coming to their little town of Bethlehem? Which king, and when will he come? Listen to the angels sing when they know – lo and behold – a king is coming! “A Campfire Story: A King is Coming!” will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in the church parish center’s second floor performance area, located at 400 San Juan Drive in Ponte Vedra. Admission is free, but the church will be collecting toiletries and diapers at the door for friends at St. Mary’s Mission and Young Life.

Zoo Lights

Jacksonville Zoo and Garden’s Zoo Lights returns for the holiday season with thousands of LED lights, moving sculptures, lighted treats and animal silhouettes. This show includes work by student-artists from the University of North Florida, a fairy village and a lighted train in addition to carousel rides and a 4-D theater. Zoolights runs from Dec. 9-11 and Dec. 16 through Jan. 7. The event will not be open Christmas Day.

To learn more about show times and

ticket prices, visit www.jacksonvillezoo.org/zoolights.

St. Augustine Winter Spectacular

Experience the magic and excitement of the newest holiday production in the nation’s oldest city at “St. Augustine Winter

Spectacular!” This original production features different scenes that comprise a family-friendly, entertaining storyline following a child’s journey during the holidays. Scenes will feature new and familiar characters in a variety of genres including ballet, tap, jazz, modern, acrobat-

ics, kick line and musical theatre numbers. This event will be performed at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College on 14 Granada St., St. Augustine. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (904) 471-4946 or visit www.staugustinewinterspectacular.com.

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Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton

#8 Hal Swan runs for tough yardage against Ribault.

Sharks eliminate Ribault

By Jerry Norton

One year ago this month, the Ponte Vedra Sharks football team was hoping to compete for the state football championship – until they met the Trojans from Ribault in the first round of the playoffs. Those hopes were dashed when quarterback Nick Tronti suffered a broken collarbone and Ponte Vedra went on to lose the opening round playoff game to the Trojans.

Fast forward to last Friday night at the Shark Tank. Ribault was again the foe and the Sharks were looking for revenge. This time the outcome was indeed quite different. Ponte Vedra extracted a large measure of revenge by eliminating the Trojans from the playoffs with a convincing 35-32 win – a game that was not really as close as the final score might suggest.

For the better part of the game, the Sharks were in complete charge. The Trojans found themselves trailing 28-6 late in the third quarter; then 35-18 with just two minutes left to play.

Absent a miracle, the Sharks were on

their way to the regional finals against Rickards High School of Tallahassee. The Trojans, however, did everything they could to pull off that miracle – but the hole they had dug for themselves proved to be too deep and the time remaining too short.

With a minute left to play, the visitors had narrowed the gap to 35-24, but still needed two more scores to avoid defeat. A successful on-sides kickoff was quickly converted to a touchdown, to keep any miracle hopes alive. Now trailing 35-32 – in order to pull off the shocker – Ribault would need to execute yet another successful on-sides kickoff and score again, all with just 16 ticks left on the game clock. Not a realistic scenario. When the Sharks recovered the final on-sides kick, Tronti's kneel-down on the next play preserved Ponte Vedra's victory.

As has been their habit this season, the Sharks scored first. Tronti engineered a 55-yard drive culminating in Hal Swan's



#20 Noah Solaun looks on as Cole McCormick intercepts a Trojan pass. McCormick had two interceptions in the game and three in the last two games.

SHARKS continues on Page 42

DETROIT 26, JACKSONVILLE 19



Photos by Rick Wilson/Jacksonville Jaguars

Jaguars wide receiver Marqise Lee (11) caught four passes for 52 yards and his first touchdown of the season, a three-yard scoring reception. Allen Robinson also caught a TD pass from Blake Bortles.

Mistake-prone Jaguars fall to Lions 26-19 for fifth straight loss

By Mike Bonts

Lions punt returner Andre Roberts scored on a 55-yard run in the first half of a 26-19 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday at Ford Field. The hosts didn't score again until late in the game but it proved to be enough.

Jacksonville QB Blake Bortles threw for 202 yards and two touchdowns but was also intercepted twice as the Jaguars fell to 2-8. Bortles has been picked off 13 times this season.

"They made more plays than we did – and made more big plays," said Jacksonville Head Coach Gus Bradley

said. "We just didn't make enough plays to come up with a win."

Running back Chris Ivory rushed 17 times for 39 yards but caught six passes for 75 yards. He totaled 104 yards. The rest of the team earned 181.

The Jaguars finished with 285 total yards and 16 first downs. Jacksonville held the Lions to 277 total yards.

"Two and eight – it's tough," Bortles said. "It's difficult. It's challenging. It's not where anybody wanted to be, but I think it's a special group of guys in there that when things aren't going

well they're able to put their heads down and go to work."

Bortles hooked up with Allen Robinson for a score. Wide receiver Marqise Lee caught four passes for 52 yards and his first touchdown of the season, a three-yard scoring reception.

It was the third consecutive Jaguars loss in which they outgained a playoff-contending opponent.

Roberts score made up for an earlier miscue.

"Obviously, you love to see a guy bounce back that way," Lions coach Jim Caldwell said. "He's shown the ability to do that on a

number of occasions. He doesn't shy away. Some guys will wilt in that situation and continue to make mistakes and compound them one after another. Andre's able to get over it quickly and do something big for you later on."

Jaguars punter Brad Nortman was forced to kick out of his end zone. After Roberts fielded the ball, he ran to his right and down the sideline for the final 10 yards with 11:13 remaining in the half.

"The game's four quar-



The Lions beat the Jacksonville Jaguars 26-19 on Sunday, extending a streak in which every Detroit game this season has been decided by seven points or fewer.

JAGS continues on Page 43

Sharks

Continued from 40

8-yard plunge. Earlier the Sharks had what appeared to be a 31-yard field goal, but officials ruled the ball had hooked around the right upright.

The Trojans' ensuing possession was short lived as Andrew O'Dare intercepted a pass to give the ball back to Tronti at the Ribault 43-yard line. Moments later, however, the Trojans returned the favor, intercepting a Sharks' pass at their own 14 as the first quarter ended.

After the teams exchanged punts, the Trojans were the beneficiaries of a roughing the punter penalty. With a first down at their own 37, they still failed to move the ball and lined up to punt again.

This time they benefited from a bad snap that was turned into a first down in Ponte Vedra territory. A fine diving catch earned them a first and goal at the Shark 5-yard line. A touchdown resulted but the PAT hit the upright and fell short leaving

Ponte Vedra in front 7-6. In hindsight, this missed PAT along with two others later in the game would prove very costly for Ribault.

The Sharks wasted little time answering the Trojan score. Jake Maguire pulled in a Tronti pass for 18 yards, then Swan gained 11 more on a screen pass. JD Pirris and Marshall Few then made key receptions on the drive catching passes for 32 and 20 yards to give the Sharks a first and goal at the Ribault five. Tronti called his own number to finish the drive and PV led 14-6 at half time.

Ponte Vedra's defense took over following the second half kickoff when JB Shepherd picked off a Trojan pass to give the Sharks the ball at their own 20. They moved to their third touchdown, when Swan broke free on runs of 28 and 22-yards and Pirris gained 12 on a completion. Tronti again sneaked for the score and the Sharks led 21-6.

Ribault could not convert on their next possession and were again forced to punt. Another bad snap allowed Ponte Vedra's

Duncan Van Kouteren to tackle the kicker for a big loss. With a first down at the visitors' 31, Hal Swan took matters into his hands (feet), with consecutive runs of 3, 4 and 35 yards. The Sharks now held a 28-6 lead with two and a half minutes left in the third quarter.

Ribault closed the gap to 28-12 but again failed on their two-point PAT. Peter Merlini and Jacob Reeves made the defensive play on the conversion attempt.

The Sharks played conservatively on the next series and chose to punt on a fourth and four inside Ribault territory. The Trojans were penalized for clipping on the punt return and wound up with the ball on their own two and a half yard line. Ponte Vedra's Cole McCormick intercepted a desperation third-down pass by Ribault and returned it for a Shark touchdown and a 35-12 advantage.

Ribault would answer with a touchdown at the nine-minute mark but again failed on their two-point conversion.

From here on the Sharks played a prevent defense and McCormick came up

with another interception, his third in two games. A couple of Shark first downs ran time off the clock and when Ribault got the ball back with less than three minutes they trailed 35-18. They would score again but again miss the 2-point conversion attempt. The three missed PATs turned out to be the difference in the ball game.

After the game, Tronti admitted his team was looking for revenge.

"Last year's loss was a bitter disappointment and it drove us to work harder, to get better," said the senior quarterback.

Tronti has passed for 2,548 yards with 161 completions in 248 attempts. Hal Swan, who is also having a brilliant season, finished the game with 198 yards on 34 carries and has 1017 rushing yards to his credit for the year.

Ponte Vedra will host Rickards on Friday, Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the District 5A regional final. The Raiders are 8-1 and have scored 417 points while allowing 210. The Sharks stand at 11-0, having scored 457 points and allowing 221.



Fall HOME IMPROVEMENT

Homeowners know that maintaining a home can be a year-round job. No home is immune to wear and tear, and homeowners who want to protect their real estate investments should try to stay two steps ahead to ensure their homes do not succumb to the elements or become outdated and unappealing to prospective buyers.

Fall has become a season that is synonymous with home improvement, but homeowners need not wait until the leaves begin changing colors to start planning their next projects. The following are a few items homeowners can add to their fall home improvement to-do lists.

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Jaguars

Continued from 41

ters,” Bradley said. “There are plays throughout that game that were going to look at and wish we had back. We all just need to take a look at it, because there are plays throughout that need to get corrected.”

Roberts contributed another long gain as a wide receiver, catching a 44-yard pass from QB Matthew Stafford.

“He’s a talented player and obviously made a big play on special teams today with a great return, and had a big 44-yarder down the sideline,” Stafford said. “He’s an extremely fast guy, explosive player. He’s really made some big-time clutch plays for us this year.

The Jaguars’ defense failed to stop Detroit on a long drive that took 15 plays and covered 69 yards. The drive ended with a 43-yard field goal by kicker Matt Prater that gave Detroit a seven-point lead with 22 seconds remaining.

“That’s unacceptable on our part,” said Jags linebacker Paul Posluszny. “It felt like defensively we played well all game, but at the key time in the fourth quarter we have to find a way to get off the field and get the ball back to our offense. That’s not the way we want to finish a game.”

The Jaguars continue on the road Sunday at Buffalo to face a Bills team that won 16-12 over Cincinnati.

Walking wounded: The injury rundown from jaguars.com... Jacksonville cornerback Aaron Colvin sustained a chest injury and a concussion in the first quarter and did not return because of the concussion. Tight end Mercedes Lewis sustained a first-quarter calf injury. Left guard Patrick Omameh sustained a first-quarter foot injury and returned briefly but left the game after that. Running back T.J. Yeldon sustained an ankle injury in the second quarter. Defensive end Jared Odrick sustained a foot injury in the second half and returned, and wide receiver Arrelious Benn left in the second half with a concussion.

FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT

ROOF INSPECTION

Less precipitation tends to fall during the warmer months than during the late fall and winter. As a result, homeowners may not be aware of leaky roofs until autumn has come and gone. But waiting until winter to inspect the roof can prove disastrous, as weather conditions will not be conducive to inspection and increased precipitation may result in potentially costly damage. Leaky roofs can be easily identified by looking for water stains on interior ceilings. Once you see a stain, you can climb onto the roof to identify the location of the leak and fix it before winter rains and snowfall turn the problem into something much larger. Inspect your ceilings for signs of leaking after a strong rainfall, and then address any leaks immediately.

clogged gutters make great nesting areas for insects or critters. Always stand on a ladder when cleaning gutters, wearing gloves to remove items by hand and dropping leaves and debris into a trash can below. Standing on the roof and leaning over gutters greatly increases your risk of injury. If the gutters are clear when you first examine them in early fall, you can wait until later in the season to give them a complete and thorough cleaning. Once you have finished clearing the gutters, you can use a hose to run water through them and the downspouts to confirm everything is functioning properly.

WINDOW AND DOORWAY INSPECTION

Before temperatures start dropping once again, homeowners will want to inspect their windows and doorways for leaks. Over time, cracks can develop around windows and doorways, and while such cracks are rarely noticeable when the weather outside is warm, they can be quite obvious and very costly if they remain unsealed come the start of winter. Cold air can enter a home through cracks around windows and doorways, and many homeowners who don't suspect leaks may

respond by turning up the thermostats in their homes. That can prove quite expensive over a full winter. Choose a windy autumn day to place a hand by windows and external doorways in your home to see if you can feel drafts. If you can, seal these cracks as soon as possible.

PATIO CLEANUP

Patios are popular hangouts during spring and summer, and that can result in a lot of wear and tear. Once you store patio furniture for

the winter, inspect your entire patio to determine if it needs any refurbishing. While certain patio projects may be best left for spring, you can still clean any stained areas around the grill and look for cracks in the sidewalk that need to be addressed.

Preparing for fall home improvement projects ahead of time can help homeowners complete projects in a timely manner and ensures they won't be forced to brave the winter elements when refurbishing their homes.




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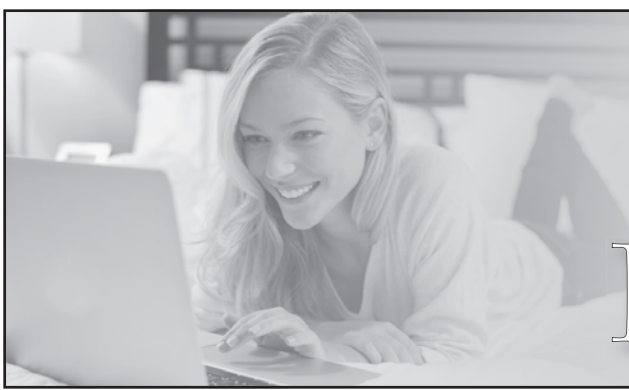


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AAA: 48.7 million Americans to travel this Thanksgiving

AAA projects that 48.7 million Americans will journey 50 miles or more from home this Thanksgiving, an increase of 1 million travelers compared to 2015. This represents a 1.9 percent increase over 2015, and the most Thanksgiving travelers since 2007.

This year's increase in Thanksgiving travel is spurred by improvements in the economy during the second half of the year, AAA says, including rising wages, increased consumer spending and overall strength in consumer confidence. Despite

incremental increases in the national average price of gasoline during the past few months, AAA estimates U.S. drivers have saved more than \$28 billion at the pumps so far this year compared to the same period last year.

"This is the most traveled holiday of the year, and as usual, there is an emphasis on road trips," said Joseph J. Richardson Jr., president and CEO of AAA – The Auto Club Group. "If you are one of the 43.5 million people on the road, we urge you to be patient in traffic and limit distractions

while behind the wheel."

AAA says nearly 90 percent of holiday travelers will drive this Thanksgiving despite the slight increase in gas prices. The national average price for a gallon of gasoline is \$2.17, or 12 cents more than the average price on Thanksgiving Day in 2015 (\$2.05). In Florida, the current average price of \$2.15 is 7 cents more than last year's holiday (\$2.08). AAA says if prices dip below last year's levels, regular unleaded will be the cheapest since 2008, when the national average was \$1.85 and

Florida's average was \$1.91.

With so many drivers on the road for the holidays, AAA expects to rescue more than 370,000 motorists due to dead batteries, flat tires, lockouts and other road emergencies. AAA recommends that motorists check the condition of their battery and tires and pack emergency kits in their vehicles before heading out on a holiday getaway. Members can download the AAA app for iPhone, iPad and Android, visit AAA.com or call 1-800-AAA-HELP to request roadside assistance or more information.

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