



# Recorder

Happy Thanksgiving!



The Recorder is coming out a day early this week due to the holiday.

November 22, 2017  
Volume 47, No. 47  
75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

## CLYDESDALES KICK OFF THE HOLIDAYS



The Budweiser Clydesdales visited the Anheuser-Busch Jacksonville Brewery and Tour Center this past weekend and will also be in town this week. Read the Recorder's holiday events calendar on page 10 for more information.  
Photo by Benjamin Naim

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Ponte Vedra Volleyball State Champs  
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## Send us your news

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

E-mail submissions to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com)

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



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## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

B	A	S	S	O	H	E	M	B	A	C	H	
I	C	H	O	R	E	R	A	D	E	C	O	R
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4	5	7	1	3	6	9	8	2				
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5	4	3	6	9	2	8	7	1				
9	6	1	8	4	7	2	3	5				
7	8	2	3	5	1	6	4	9				

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

## WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

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

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

16 readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Napoli's Pastaria sign. Good job, everyone! The winner of the random drawing was **Paul Coronato**. Congratulations, Paul – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



## ADOPT A PET



### CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Bean, and I am a 2-year-old male cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center by my owners because they could no longer care for me. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #40313



### DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Molly, and I am a 2-year-old Rottweiler mix who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray, which means there

may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #40069

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

## St. Johns County Pet Center

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



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

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PV2-LV4487

# Christ Church preschoolers participate in Thanksgiving Feast and Pageant



**By Benjamin Naim**

Christ Episcopal Church Preschool held its annual Thanksgiving feast and pageant Nov. 20. Preschoolers dressed as American Indians at the feast and Kindergarteners dressed as pilgrims. Parents, friends and family looked on as the youngsters enjoyed their Thanksgiving lunch. For more information on Christ Church, visit [www.christ-episcopalchurch.org](http://www.christ-episcopalchurch.org).

Photos by Benjamin Naim



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# COLLECTION



### BREAKERS

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Fully-furnished oceanfront condo in Ponte Vedra Beach. This first floor unit is walking distance to the Cabana Club & The Lodge, with a spacious open floor plan, 3 bedrooms, including a master suite overlooking the ocean, 3 baths, an eat-in kitchen, fabulous glassed-in Florida Room, living room with built-ins, 2 garage spaces, plus storage room. MLS 907047

**Barbara Maple | 904.280.2829**  
[BarbaraMaple@WatsonRealtyCorp.com](mailto:BarbaraMaple@WatsonRealtyCorp.com)



### SAWGRASS CC

**\$995,000**

Spectacular lakefront home with 4 bedrooms, a large yard and water to golf views in Sawgrass Country Club. This home has been substantially renovated to open up the floor plan. The chef in the home will love the open kitchen with Sub-Zero and GE Monogram appliances. The pool area was updated in 2016, including the pool interior, new travertine deck and pergola's. MLS 908793

**Murray Beard | 904.465.2784**  
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**Elise Beard | 904.463.7774**  
[EliseBeard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com](mailto:EliseBeard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com)



### SEAVIEW PARK

**\$869,000**

Well-maintained stucco home on double lot with easy walk to the beach! Kitchen & family room overlook private gardens & putting green. Interior features include hardwood & Spanish tile in gathering rooms, new "wood-look" tile in bedrooms, new paint, flat ceilings with new fans & light fixtures & a beautiful stone wood-burning fireplace in formal living/dining room. MLS 909141

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# St. Johns County School Board unanimously approves rezoning plans

By Samantha Logue

At a Tuesday, Nov. 14 meeting, the St. Johns County School Board voted unanimously to approve the school district's proposed attendance zoning changes for the 2018-2019 school year. A response to the growing problem of overcrowding throughout the district, the changes have been the subject of controversy since they were first announced earlier this year.

The approved plans include zoning for two new K-8 schools, currently dubbed "KK" and "LL," and will mainly impact elementary and middle school students. Some changes will include rezoning Nocatee's Willowcove neighborhood from Valley Ridge Academy to the new KK school and the removal of all Nocatee neighborhoods from Alice B. Landrum Middle School's attendance zone, among others. (The complete 2018-2019 attendance zoning plan can be viewed on the St. Johns County School District website at

www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/zoning.)

On Nov. 9, Superintendent Tim Forson notified St. Johns County parents of the addition of a grandfathering provision to the district's proposal, which will allow current sixth- and seventh-grade students in rezoned neighborhoods to stay at their current schools until they move on to high school. Because of the provision, the new K-8 schools will instead open for grades K-6, and subsequently add seventh- and eighth-graders over the next two school years.

"This proposal will provide educational, social and emotional stability during pivotal transition years for these students," Forson said.

While that provision seems to have appeased some parents, however, others are still voicing concerns.

"My community and myself do not feel like we've had an open dialogue," said Nocatee resident Denver Cook, who intends to run for St. Johns County School Board

next year. "These rezoning processes happened quickly, short-term, with minimal time for us to provide input or even come together and have conversations in our communities to develop what might be better plans for us, our neighbors and our children. ... We need to do this differently."

Kelly Barrera, the school board representative for District 4, said she felt that the district had done all they could to create an open dialogue with the community.

"I appreciated the time and effort district staff took to analyze community feedback received through several group and individual meetings, school district town hall meetings, public comments at school board meetings and workshops and email and written communication as relayed to school board members," she said. "I also responded to parents via email, phone and in face-to-face meetings to answer questions, connect them to specific departmental district staff and to listen to their concerns."

As for the zoning changes, Barrera added that the addition of the grandfathering provision was a result of research and feedback received from the community, and that she felt it was good compromise that would remove the possible negative impacts of uprooting middle school students too frequently. Although she expressed regret that Nocatee's Willowcove neighborhood would no longer be zoned for Valley Ridge Academy, Barrera said that overall, she thought the approved plans were the district's best step forward in combating the increasing issue of overcrowding throughout St. Johns County schools.

"With the current explosive growth in our area, by moving incrementally, we can build the school community as the school population grows in size," she said. "It will allow the students, teachers, staff and administration to settle into the school and focus on deliberate practices and extracurricular opportunities for those students as their grade range expands."

## Save Guana Now gets assist from area artist

By Paris Moulden

Many of artist Eugene Quinn's paintings show off the beauty and serenity of the Guana Nature Preserve, and he's helping an area nonprofit group try and keep it that way.

Quinn hosted a fundraiser at his Coquina Studio Gallery last week in Jacksonville Beach with a portion of his proceeds going to benefit the Save Guana Now project, which aims to stop planned development at The Outpost, a 99-acre parcel of land that has been a designated conservation area since 1984.

Quinn said he was inspired to help the group after meeting Save Guana Now co-founder Nicole Crosby, and because of his fond memories of childhood trips to the area.

"It was the first time I learned to paint on location," Quinn said of his oil paintings at the Preserve. "I honestly didn't appreciate it as much as I do now."

Quinn grew up in New Jersey and would spend summers at the Beaches and Ponte Vedra when his parents would come down for golf trips. He relocated to the Beaches area around three years ago and opened his Jacksonville Beach gallery about a year ago, drawing inspiration from the ocean and scenery surrounding Northeast Florida.

"There's so little left that isn't developed," Quinn said of finding untouched landscapes, which is why the Guana Preserve holds a special place in his heart.

Efforts by the Ponte Vedra Corp., a subsidiary of Gate Petroleum, are underway to



Artist Eugene Quinn paints a scene at the Guana Preserve. Quinn donated a portion of proceeds from his art sales to Save Guana Now during a fundraiser last week.

Photo courtesy of Save Guana Now

try to get 76 acres of The Outpost rezoned for residential use, along with a planned proposal to add more than 60 new homes to the area.

According to Save Guana Now's website, the Outpost has "significant historical value and meets important ecological criterion that warrant its protection."

Crosby said Save Guana Now is trying to halt this change and planned development for a myriad of reasons, most notably the invasion of wildlife that inhabits the land and traffic issues and safety concerns for residents already in the area.

"First of all, from an environmental standpoint, it's very important, because the Outpost property is almost completely surrounded by the Guana Preserve," Crosby said. "Therefore, if it's developed, there will be great fragmentation of wild space, which is known to be one of the leading causes of decline of animal populations."

Crosby also pointed out other negative impacts like the potential of contamination

of Guana Lake and traffic concerns.

"They want to put this on the end of a dead-end road," Crosby said. "There are already about 130 homes on that road, and they want to add 66 more homes. That's going to add approximately 600-plus trips per day on that road. It's going to add to congestion that already exists on Mickler's and A1A."

Crosby said Save Guana Now understands The Outpost is private property, but that the group wants to make sure the land is treated properly.

"We're saying abide by the law, which is that you can't build on conservation land," Crosby said. "They feel they have a legal basis to build on the land, and we firmly believe they do not."

Both PVC and Save Guana Now are awaiting a public hearing to be set.

For more information on Save Guana Now, visit [saveguanainow.org](http://saveguanainow.org). For more information on Eugene Quinn's art studio, go to [coquinajax.com](http://coquinajax.com).

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Volunteer hosts needed for international high school students

Educational Homestay Program (EHP), a nonprofit division of Education First (EF), is bringing international students to Ponte Vedra this summer to study English and experience the American way of life, and the organization is currently looking for homes for these students.

Coming from Italy, Spain, France, Russia and Austria, the students will be visiting in July 2018 and will be under the supervision of the EF program staff during the work day. The 14- to 17-year-old students attend language classes in the morning and participate in a variety of organized and educational activities and field trips.

Hosts provide a bed, meals and transportation to and from the drop-off point from which students will be transported to their classes and activities.

Visit EF Jacksonville, Florida on Facebook to view photos from July 2017. Contact Amy Boyter at (904) 662-3070 or email [efamy14@yahoo.com](mailto:efamy14@yahoo.com) for more information.

#### Roscoe Boulevard Bridge opens after Hurricane Irma repairs

The Roscoe Boulevard Bridge between Landrum Lane and Canal Boulevard is now open after repairs were made due to significant damage caused by Hurricane Irma. St. Johns County would like to thank residents for their patience throughout this project.

#### Recorder holiday hours

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Ponte Vedra Recorder will close its office Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24. The Recorder will resume normal business hours on Monday, Nov. 27. Happy Thanksgiving!



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

**Dr. Ryan Makar and Joe Mitrick of Baptist Medical Center Beaches, Pink Ribbon Golf Classic co-chairs Joanne Ghiloni and Nancy Morrison and Jackie Joy and Dr. Dawn Mussallem of Mayo Clinic-Jacksonville display the check total of \$262,000, a record amount raised by the Ponte Vedra fundraiser.**

## Pink Ribbon Golf Classic raises record \$262,000

By Jon Blauvelt

The 11th annual Pink Ribbon Golf Classic raised a record total of \$262,000 for breast cancer research and related services.

Co-chairs Nancy Morrison and Joanne Ghiloni announced the total Nov. 16 at Underwood's Jewelers alongside representatives of Mayo Clinic-Jacksonville and Baptist Medical Center Beaches, the recipients of the proceeds.

"We're just so proud of this," said Morrison about the Ponte Vedra fundraiser. "We're so proud to be able to give this to Mayo and Baptist."

In turn, the hospital representatives expressed their appreciation.

"It's with gratitude that I thank you all for your ongoing support over the last 11 years," said Dr. Dawn Mussallem, the director of the integrative medicine program at Mayo Clinic-Jacksonville. "I almost get emotional when I go to these events because I get to see these women face-to-face. It's just so touching to see what we're doing for them."

Mussallem explained that the Pink Ribbon proceeds will help Mayo continue its breast cancer research efforts. She said her specific research focuses on improving the quality of life for breast cancer patients, and also addresses how to prevent the disease from occurring in the first place or recurring. She said Mayo offers its breast cancer patients with different therapies to improve their quality of life, but sometimes patients can't afford them. The Pink Ribbon funds help mitigate that, she said.

Jackie Joy, the senior program coordinator for the breast cancer research program at Mayo, echoed Mussallem's gratitude.

"I just really wanted to reach out and

say thank you so much," she said. "This money is able to change the lives of so many people around us."

Speaking on behalf of Baptist Medical Center Beaches, Dr. Ryan Makar said fundraisers like Pink Ribbon are vital to his team's work. Over the past year, he said Baptist has used the Pink Ribbon proceeds to increase patients' satisfaction and their overall experience at the hospital. He specifically noted that the funds have been used to improve waiting rooms and purchase more comfortable and respectable gowns for patients.

As for the future, Baptist Medical Center Beaches President Joe Mitrick said Pink Ribbon proceeds are contributing toward a new surgical services building that will open in May 2018. According to the Pink Ribbon website, the funds will also help Baptist purchase a second mammography unit.

The check presentation to Mayo and Baptist followed a David Yurman trunk show at Underwood's. 10 percent of the event proceeds benefitted the Pink Ribbon Golf Classic.

"I want to thank Pink Ribbon for letting us be part of this wonderful event for many, many years," said John Rutkowski, general manager of Underwood's Jewelers in Ponte Vedra Beach. "I've never worked with a board who worked so hard to make an event happen."

The Pink Ribbon Golf Classic commenced this year with a Tee Off Cocktail Party at Marsh Landing in early October. The fundraising continued with the area's only all-women charity golf tournament at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Oct. 12 that included over 100 female participants. For more information on the Pink Ribbon Golf Classic, visit <http://pinkribbonjax.org/#>.

## \$50,000 in jewelry, heirlooms stolen from Ponte Vedra Beach house

By Jon Blauvelt

A Ponte Vedra Beach couple is recovering after approximately \$50,000 in jewelry, family heirlooms, cash and other valuables were recently stolen from their home on Poinciana Way.

"Just to know people were in my house was a very scary feeling," said Patti Billingsley, whose home was burglarized Thursday, Nov. 9. "I felt very violated. I know I'll never replace that jewelry."

Billingsley left her home around 2:30 p.m. and returned at 6 p.m. After preparing and eating dinner and reading, she realized that multiple drawers in her bedroom and bathroom and a jewelry box had been ransacked and that jewelry was missing. Among the stolen items were Billingsley's 58-year-old wedding rings, her husband's diamond wedding ring, his father's wedding ring, a 24-carat watch, a charm bracelet that her husband gave to her at the beginning of their marriage and a number of other pieces that Billingsley collected over the years.

"These memories will never go to my children or grandchildren," said Billingsley. "Those memories will never be able to go down the line. That's another sad part."

Billingsley's husband told the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO) that an envelope containing \$3,000 was also taken from his closet. Billingsley additionally noted that her purse, containing two credit cards and her driver's license, was taken, as well as her collection of sterling flatware.

The Billingsleys said to SJSO that they routinely left the front door unlocked and did so on this occasion. Deputies said there were no signs of

forced entry and that all other entrances to the house were locked.

Billingsley said, at first, she was embarrassed about leaving her door unlocked. But nearly two weeks after the burglary, she said she's talked to several Ponte Vedra residents who have recently experienced a similar situation, many of whom, she said, locked their doors and live in gated communities. In these situations, she said the burglars used tools like a crowbar to enter the home.

"Just because the door was unlocked, that wasn't going to keep them away," she said.

Billingsley commended SJSO following the burglary, saying that deputies have been routinely patrolling her area in Old Ponte Vedra Beach. SJSO is still searching for the burglar.

Moving forward, Billingsley said she's learned to be more aware and careful, yet she's unsettled by the fact that sometimes there's little you can do to prevent such burglaries from happening.

"There's no precautions you can take," she said. "You just need to be aware and be careful. That's a scary thing."

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*Cliff Nelson is the Jacksonville division president for Mattamy Homes who lives in Ponte Vedra Beach with his family.*

## Cliff Nelson

By Jon Blauvelt

### Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I'm a Minnesota native who went to school in Vermont. I have had the opportunity to live in New England, California, Virginia, Southeast Florida and for the past four-and-a-half years, Ponte Vedra Beach.

During the first 10 years of my professional career, I worked for two different manufacturers that supplied building products to both commercial and residential construction companies. In 1999, I went to work for Centex Homes and spent nearly nine years working for the nationwide homebuilder in Southeast Florida and Richmond, Virginia. In 2009, I took the role of vice president of operations for the Mattamy Homes division in Minnesota. In 2013, I was promoted to division president and transferred to Mattamy's Jacksonville division.

I've been married for almost 24 years, and we have three children.

### What are your primary roles and responsibilities as Jacksonville division president for Mattamy Homes?

I'm accountable to run and grow Mattamy's business in Jacksonville – everything from identifying new land opportunities to ensuring our homeowners have the best experience throughout the process, and everything in between. Increasingly, my job also is about ensuring we hire, develop and engage the most talented people.

### What is the most rewarding part about your job?

Helping our team members succeed in their roles; helping our customers realize their dreams of home ownership and helping build an exciting future for the company in Jacksonville.

### Are you working on any exciting projects that you want to share with our readers?

Mattamy acquired the RiverTown master planned community from the St. Joe Company in 2014. RiverTown is located in Northwest St. Johns County, on the St. Johns River. Since the acquisition, our team has gone through an extensive and rigorous re-branding effort in order to re-launch RiverTown. Our aspiration is to grow the community into one of Northeast Florida's premier residential destinations. We "launched" RiverTown in February 2017 and since then we haven't looked back. RiverTown has neighborhoods, amenities and lifestyle to suit all types of people in and around Northeast Florida.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

### What are some of the biggest challenges today in the development world?

Finding the right people to join our team. Mattamy has a unique and special culture, and it's not for everyone, so great care is taken during the recruiting and hiring process to ensure the right fit within our company.

Dealing with trade shortages is also challenging. The housing recession that occurred almost 10 years ago took its toll

on the trades we depend on to build our homes. Many workers left the industry to find work. When housing started to rebound, those people had new jobs, in new industries and weren't interested in coming back to homebuilding. We work closely with vendors, technical schools and colleges, encouraging young people that careers in homebuilding are rewarding and prosperous.

In addition, finding new land is a challenge. In order to grow our business in

Jacksonville, we are constantly looking for and analyzing land that we can develop and build into thriving communities. We have a supportive owner, who wants us to grow, and we have access to capital when we find the right opportunities.

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

I enjoy being near the beach and all the outdoor activities Northeast Florida has to offer.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

# A tribute to my grandfather



**Jon Blauvelt**  
Editor

**By Jon Blauvelt**

The Ponte Vedra Recorder lost one of its most avid readers and vital sources earlier this month: my grandfather, John Robert (Bob) Mance.

The larger than life, almost mythical man I knew as “GrandBob” died on Nov. 10. He was a Ponte Vedra resident since 1987, living on Solana Road until 2005, when he and my grandmother, Mary Mance, moved to Vicar’s Landing. As my family writes in his obituary, which is also displayed on this page, Bob Mance was “a true life force whose strength of character, modesty, intellect, honesty, integrity, loyalty and family protectiveness, will forever be carried forth by all the people he touched in his vibrant and full life.”

My grandfather loved this golf-centric, beach town, and the people who it comprises — so much that he frequently called me over the past year with story ideas for the Recorder.

“Do you know this about THE PLAYERS Championship,” he would ask. “Are you aware of this upcoming community meeting? You should do a story on this person.”

Not too often is a journalist like me lucky enough to receive tips from his grandfather. I treasured those calls, and will remember them for the rest of my life.

Bob Mance was a life-long supporter of journalism and consumer of news. For as long as I knew him, he started each and every day reading the Wall Street Journal and Florida Times-Union, and recently the Ponte Vedra Recorder on a weekly basis. Over the years, our family frequently received newspaper clips from him on topics that were relevant to our lives, which he consistently took interest in, using journalism as a way to find common ground with those he loved.

My grandfather also loved sports, a passion that I’ve proudly shared with him throughout my life. He especially loved watching the PGA Tour and the Jaguars. Now, each time I drive to TPC Clubhouse or EverBank Field, I think of him and reflect on how special it is that I now have the opportunity to cover the sports and the teams he most enjoyed.

Two days after his passing, I thought it was only fitting that the Jaguars beat the Los Angeles Chargers in dramatic, overtime fashion. My girlfriend Hannah said he now has the “best seat in the house.” I couldn’t agree more and like to think he’s rooting for the Jaguars from that seat, as the team sits atop the AFC South and vies for a home playoff game.

I saw my grandfather for the last time about two weeks before that Jaguars overtime thriller. When I entered his room, he was in a deep, deep sleep. Attempting not to wake him, I briefly and quietly sat next to his bed, squeezed his hand and told him I loved him. I was about to walk out the door when I remembered something important — a tradition I carried out each time I visited.

I walked back to his bedside and dropped off the most recent edition of the Recorder, which I’m confident he’s reading comfortably and peacefully today.

## OBITUARIES



**John Robert Mance**

### John Robert Mance

John Robert (Bob) Mance of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, left our world, his beloved Mary, wife of 65 years, and his loving family on Nov. 10, 2017. Bob Mance, born on April 29, 1928, was a true life force whose strength of character, modesty, intellect, honesty, integrity, loyalty and family protectiveness, will forever be carried forth by all the people that he touched in his vibrant and full life. Bob Mance was the son of John Christopher Mance, a Latvian immigrant and founder of Mance Corporation, New York City Mechanical Contractors, and his mother, Virginia Frances Mance, who Bob helped into her next life at the rich age of 99.

1st Lt. John Robert Mance was honorably discharged from the United States Army shortly after he married Mary Elizabeth Deckers at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in 1952. The family grew in Mount Kisco, Dobbs Ferry, Ossining and finally Chappaqua, New York. Though always putting family first, Bob carried on the Mance family business until 1986. Bob and Mary Mance were members of Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Briarcliff Manor, New York, for over 40 years. Retirement to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1987 capped off this marvelous journey, which included 25 years for Bob and Mary as members of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. Bob did enjoy his golf. In 2005, Bob and Mary became residents of the Vicar’s Landing retirement community, where Mary still proudly resides today.

Bob was predeceased by his younger brother David and his youngest son Russell, who were both gone too soon. Surviving him are the love of his life Mary; daughter Kimberly Blauvelt (Scott) of Murrysville, Pennsylvania; and sons Craig Mance (Jody) of Brewster, Massachusetts, and Douglas Mance (Laura) of Tucson, Arizona. The next generation, with whom Bob also shared his wisdom and love, include Chris Blauvelt (Maribel), Kyle Blauvelt (Kristen)

and Jon Blauvelt; Kristin Laplante (Nate), Kelly Loveday (Adam) and Julie Main (Alex) and Jessie Zugeran (David), Andrea and Carly Mance. He and Mary were just beginning to influence seven great grandchildren, with more on the way.

We will all miss the intense interest that Bob Mance shared in our lives, but we know with confidence that his advice and mentoring over the years have prepared us all very well to continue on without him. Please stay in touch with the family for future, informal gatherings and remembrances. Rest assured that Bob Mance had a proud, fine run.

### Walter Irving Bates II

Walter Irving Bates II died peacefully in his sleep Oct. 14, 2017, in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was born Dec. 23, 1932, in Meadville, Pennsylvania, to the late Edward Irving Bates and Elinor Van Scoten Bates. He was preceded in death by his loving companion of 27 years, Linda Rael.

Walter graduated from the Mercersburg Academy in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, where he served in the student senate, as head chapel usher and as marshall of the field and sergeant-at-arms in the Washington Irving Society. He graduated from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where he was a varsity swimmer and baseball player. While attending Duke, Walter spent his junior year abroad at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France. During the Korean War, he served in the Army and was stationed in Germany. Walter graduated from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Arizona. He worked in marketing for international corporations, including Phelps Dodge Corporation and the Singer Corporation, in various corners of the world, from New York City to Honolulu, to Lima, to Mexico City, to Santiago and to London. He was also a serial entrepreneur, having created and pioneered several businesses in his career, from video surveillance to cable engineering, and lastly a Duke basketball sports fax service.

Walter was an avid reader and passionate traveler of the world. Burma captivated him as he took passage on a boat that went up and down the Irrawaddy River. He was an amateur golfer, tennis player and rider who played polo and rode in foxhunts. He adored playing bridge and gin rummy. A political junkie, he watched news programs and read editorials online. Walter was mischievous, witty and debonair; he loved to tell a great story; he was always ready for a party and

was never one to say “no” to a vodka martini well-chilled, one olive, straight up. He was associated with the Unitarian Church throughout his life. He took great pride in his family and stayed close to his two brothers, John “Jack” Bates and Edgar “Ted” Bates. At family events, the brothers would break out in song together to celebrate the occasion.

He is survived by his first wife, Virginia Avery Reich; his second wife, Jacquelyn Dwelle Bates; his children, Edward Avery Bates, Lauren Bates Galleher, Jacquelyn Bates Richardson (Maurice), Edward Irving Bates II (Anne-Laure) and his grandchildren, Hunter Galleher, Phoebe Galleher, Annabel Bates, Léopold Bates and Théodore Bates.

Services will be private with the ashes to be lovingly returned to the Seine River in his beloved Paris.

### Jack Cheek

Jack Cheek Jr., 83, died Nov. 15, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com.

### John Cooney

John Joseph Cooney Jr., 80, of Atlantic Beach, died Nov. 14, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Marjorie Luke

Marjorie Miller Luke, 99, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Nov. 19, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Sandra Mathews

Sandra L. Mathews, 74, of Jacksonville Beach, died Nov. 12, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Leonice Modugno

Leonice W. Modugno, 92, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Nov. 16, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Cecile Ostermann

Cecile Ostermann, 97, of Atlantic Beach, died Nov. 17, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Carol Tibbetts

Carol O. Tibbetts, 89, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Nov. 10, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com.

Miss Ponte Vedra Beach **Natasha Gisela** (left) stands with Miss Teen Ponte Vedra Beach **Olivia Fonville** before a fundraising event last Friday in Jacksonville Beach.

Photo by Paris Moulden



# PVB pageant holder uses platform to help others

By Paris Moulden

Having the title of Miss Ponte Vedra Beach provides a platform to help others, and Natasha Gisela doesn't take that lightly.

Gisela, who will compete in the Miss Florida U.S.A. pageant next month, acted as the master of ceremonies for the Cocktails for a Cause fundraiser Friday night at Seachasers in Jacksonville Beach. The event raised money to help 2-year-old Kat, who is battling leukemia and is being treated at the St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Gisela said the cause was particularly important to her because she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer shortly after graduating high school.

"Unfortunately, cancer brought us together, so now we're just beating cancer together," Gisela said.

Gisela was asked to assist with the benefit by her hair sponsor Hair Diva Lounge, which found out about Kat through her grandmother, who is a Hair Diva client. Hair Diva Lounge partnered with Beach Soul to organize Friday's fundraiser.

The pageant title holder also feels passionately about her own cause, "Confidently Healthy," which promotes health in

mind, body and spirit.

The pageant queen said promoting a healthy body image is near and dear to her heart. Gisela went from a size 18 to a size 4-6, but said she wants women to embrace overall health and to be comfortable in all shapes and sizes.

"Being beautiful is not all about appearance," Gisela said. "It's about being confident, and the confidence comes from within and that confidence is health."

Gisela will compete in the Miss Florida U.S.A. pageant Dec. 14-17 in Tampa, and thinks the fact she's a first-generation Floridian would make a win even more special.

"That's why I want to represent Florida on a national stage," Gisela said. "I told my mom the other day, 'I've been to 20 countries and there's nothing better than the Southern sky,' and she said, 'That's because this is home.'"

She also feels her title as Miss Ponte Vedra Beach was meant to be. Gisela's grandmother was from Pontevedra, Spain.

"Ponte Vedra Beach, we're known for our hospitality, we're known for our love of golf, we're known for our beaches, and for me, as a title holder, I see the beauty in that," Gisela said. "To represent this community, I'm truly honored."

## LIFETIME OPPORTUNITIES.



### OPEN HOUSE DATES

**Lower School (PreK-5)  
Open House for Parents**  
Ponte Vedra Beach Campus  
Nov. 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.  
Ponte Vedra Beach Campus  
Jan. 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

**Lower School (PreK-5)  
Open House for Parents**  
Whitehurst Campus  
Jan. 10, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

**Middle School (6-8)  
Open House for Parents**  
Bartram Campus  
Jan. 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

**Upper School (9-12)  
Open House for Parents**  
San Jose Campus  
Dec. 8, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.  
San Jose Campus  
Jan. 5, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

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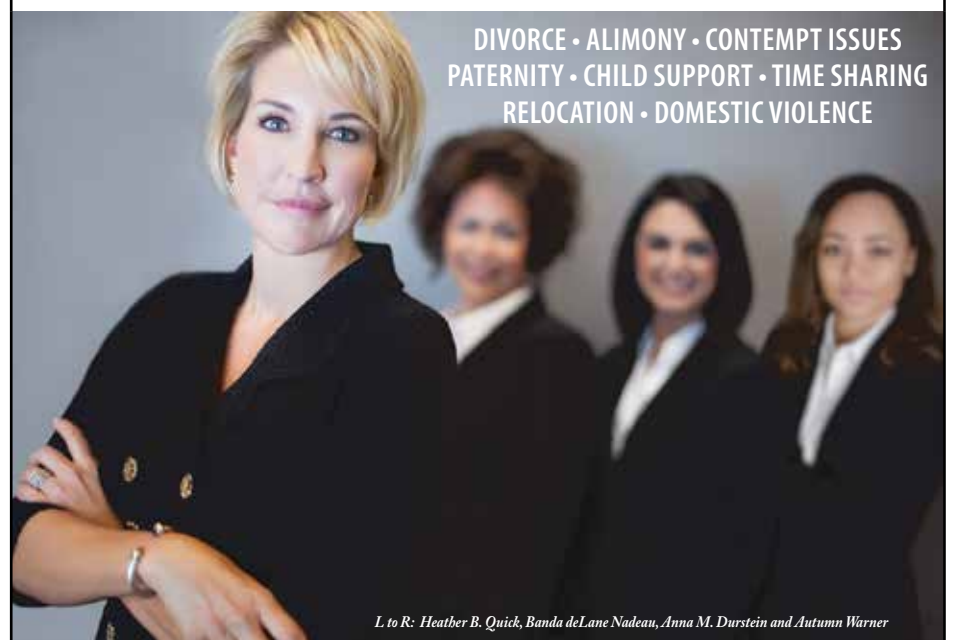
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# First Coast residents and visitors enjoy Nights of Lights kick off



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Dan Seydlorsky, Hollen Mccann, Jaiden Bruner and Diana Seydlorsky



Jessica Rodenhauer, Chase Riedman and Diane Capozzi



Stella, Gina, Gordito and Joe Beck

## By Jon Blauvelt

Hundreds of St. Johns County residents and other visitors gathered in Downtown St. Augustine Nov. 18 for Light Up! Night, the ceremony that commences Nights of Lights in the Ancient City.

Soon before 7 p.m., the decorative lights switched on, as well as the Christmas tree at the Plaza de la Constitución, transform-

ing St. Augustine into a holiday masterpiece once again. Visitors at the event enjoyed live music and other performances leading up to and after the ceremony.

Nights of Lights was named one of the 10 best holiday lighting displays in the world by National Geographic in recent years. The holiday tradition will continue through Jan. 31.

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### OPEN HOUSE



#### Sawgrass Country Club \$550,000

OPEN HOUSE at 52 S. Nine Drive on Saturday, Nov 25th from 12-3pm. Gorgeous, light filled 3BR/2.5BA lakefront home, recently remodeled with wood floors on main level, vaulted ceilings and Plantation shutters. New crisp white kitchen with granite opens to dining and great rooms. Lovely den overlooks deck with wonderful lake views. MLS 903789



#### Marsh Landing Country Club \$675,000

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



#### Seawalk at Ponte Vedra \$849,000

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



#### Old Ponte Vedra Beach \$899,000

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



#### Ponte Vedra Blvd \$1,375,000

Elegantly designed 5BR/5.5BA pool home across the street from the ocean & overlooking Guana Preserve. It's your own slice of paradise! Saturnia flooring, a chef's kitchen that's open to the huge family room with FP & walls of windows to bring in the views. Luxurious owner's suite enjoys both pool & preserve views. Detached guest cottage w/bath. MLS 885088

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# HOLIDAY EVENTS CALENDAR

With the holiday season in full swing, enjoy the following events taking place in our area. Happy holidays from everyone at the Ponte Vedra Recorder!

By Benjamin Naim



## Bruce Allen Scudder's 'Christmas Carole' at Alhambra Theatre & Dining

Everyone loves a story that starts with "once upon a time." Everyone loves a fairy tale with a happy ending. Everyone loves the holidays, that is with one exception, and this is the story of Bruce Allen Scudder's "Christmas Carole." This classic holiday show returns to the Alhambra from Nov. 22 to Dec. 24. The theatre is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. For tickets, call (904) 641-1212 or visit [www.alhambrajax.com](http://www.alhambrajax.com).

## Clydesdales at Anheuser-Busch Jacksonville Brewery and Tour Center

The world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales are returning to the Anheuser-Busch Jacksonville Brewery and Tour Center Nov. 22 and Nov. 24-26 from noon to 2 p.m. Guests will have the opportunity to visit the "gentle giants," meet the hitch team and see the full hitch parade around the brewery grounds with the iconic red wagon in tow. Guests are encouraged to enjoy a complimentary self-guided tour while visiting the Tour Center, which offers an in-depth look at the story of Anheuser-Busch. This event will take place at 111 Busch Drive in Jacksonville. Visit <http://www.budweisertours.com/> for more information.

## Roy's Restaurant Thanksgiving dinner

Roy's will be open Thanksgiving Day and is inviting its guests for a special holiday dinner prepared by local chefs.

Visitors can choose from a Thanksgiving Dinner menu (\$39.95 per person) or Roy's Classic Prix Fixe Menu (starting at \$49 per person). The Thanksgiving menu incorporates fresh flavors with traditional dishes such as the pan-roasted, teriyaki-glazed turkey and sides such as truffle mashed potatoes. Roy's will be open from noon to 8 p.m.; the restaurant is located at 2400 3rd St. S. in Jacksonville Beach. Call (904) 241-7697 for more information.



## Turkey Trot

Starting at the Mickler's Landing parking lot on South Ponte Vedra Boulevard, this race taking place on Thanksgiving day will benefit the YMCA's drowning prevention program Safety Around Water. Registration is open to all; sign-up at [www.firstcoastymca.org/turkey-trot-ponte-vedra](http://www.firstcoastymca.org/turkey-trot-ponte-vedra). This event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

## OH WHAT FUN! at Sawgrass Village

OH WHAT FUN! at Sawgrass Village will take place Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will feature horse-drawn carriage rides, visits from Santa, live music, holiday activities and more. Attendees are invited to play "Stuff Your Stocking" to create a stocking and enter to win one from Sawgrass Village merchants. Fundraising raffles sponsored by the Ponte Vedra Women's Club will allow attendees to win more than \$4,000 in prizes. The "Spirit of Giving" raffles will benefit local charities such as Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM), Gabriel House, Rethreaded and more. Sawgrass Village is located on A1A in Ponte Vedra Beach, 3.5 miles south of J.T. Butler Boulevard.



## Christ Church Nutcracker Ballet

The 22nd Annual Christ Church Nutcracker Ballet presented by Miss Felicia's Dance Program will take place Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at The University of North Florida's Lazzara Theater. Visit [www.missfeliciasdance.com](http://www.missfeliciasdance.com) to purchase tickets. The University of North Florida is located at 1 UNF Drive in Jacksonville.

## The Nutcracker Tea

The Nutcracker Tea will feature excerpts from the 22nd Nutcracker Ballet performance along with a holiday tea. This event will be held Dec. 3 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Conference Center Ballroom; tickets cost \$29 per person and can be purchased at [www.missfeliciasdance.com](http://www.missfeliciasdance.com) or by calling Claire Duffy at (904) 923-0604. The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is located at 200 Ponte Vedra Blvd.

## Hope for the Holidays event

The Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation's Hope for the Holidays event will take place Dec. 7 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Families will have the opportunity to volunteer together at the event, which started six years ago with student volunteers from local schools packing 500 bags for poverty-stricken children. This year, thanks to funds generated during the annual Furyk & Friends Concert and Celebrity Golf Classic as well as donations from PepsiCo, the Foundation will pack over 3,500 bags with canned ham, green beans, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cornbread, cereal and special treats. Visit <https://jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com/> for more information.



## Gingerbread Unveiling

One Ocean Resort & Spa will host the 10th annual Gingerbread Unveiling, a community-anticipated event since 2008, Dec. 4 at 3:30 p.m. Guests are invited to join the team at One Ocean for the reveal of this year's structure. An edible work of art, the life-sized creation is the innovative work of a talented pastry team. The larger-than-life treat will provide plenty of photo opportunities. The event will also feature gingerbread cookies, mulled cider and holiday cheer.

## Christmas lights at the Enchanted Christmas Village

Enjoy Christmas lights at the Enchanted Christmas Village Dec. 1-3, 8-10, 15-17 and Dec. 21-23 from 5 to 10 p.m. Visitors can enjoy a 10-minute Christmas lights show, crafts, local vendors, bounce houses, wagon rides through the Enchanted Trail, photos with Santa, yard games, stage entertainment and more at the Village. This attraction is located at 899 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. Call (888) 486-6413 to purchase tickets, or visit [jacksonvillechristmas.com](http://jacksonvillechristmas.com).

## Apex Theatre Studio Presents 'The Santaland Diaries' by David Sedaris

"The Santaland Diaries" by Apex Theatre Studio will be performed at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Dec. 15-16 at 8:30 p.m. The show has mature language. Visit [www.pvconcerthall.com](http://www.pvconcerthall.com) to purchase tickets; the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.

## Photos with Santa in Jacksonville

Children and their families can enjoy the holiday season with a visit to the Simon Santa Photo Experience at The Avenues Mall and St. Johns Town Center through Dec. 24. Santa will be available to take photos and listen to wishes in the lower level center court at

The Avenues and Santa's new home at St. Johns Town Center across from Nordstrom. For local pet owners, Pet Photo Nights with Santa will take place at The Avenues Dec. 10 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and St. Johns Town Center Dec. 10 from 7 to 9 p.m.



# Five new sculptures added to UNF Seaside Sculpture Park

Five new sculptures created by University of North Florida students were recently unveiled at UNF Seaside Sculpture Park.

The five new sculptures are “Strombus Alatus” by Jen Broadbent; “Infinity Moth” by Victoria Priep; “Crouching Skeletal Figure” by Matt Stanford; “Ipseity” by Gabi O’Toole; and “Cohesion” by Patty Macias.



Photos courtesy of Joanna Norris/University of North Florida

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Thursday, Nov. 23	Friday, Nov. 24	Saturday, Nov. 25	Sunday, Nov. 26
<p><b>Run Turkey Run 5K</b> Start a Thanksgiving tradition by participating in this 5K run or walk on Thanksgiving day at World Golf Village. Participants will receive a medal and t-shirt. The 5K begins at 7:30 a.m. and the fun run begins at 8:30 p.m. Admission ranges from \$10 to \$40. Visit <a href="http://www.ultimatetracinginc.com">www.ultimatetracinginc.com</a> for more information and to purchase tickets.</p> <p><b>Thanksgiving grand feast at The Ritz-Carlton Amelia</b> Celebrate Thanksgiving with an elaborate culinary presentation of traditional Thanksgiving favorites accompanied by live jazz music. The buffet includes citrus poached shrimp, shrimp and grits, roasted turkey, honey glazed ham, beef medallions and an array of desserts. Children can enjoy cookie decorating and holiday-inspired crafts and games. Reserve a spot by calling (904) 277-1100. Tickets cost \$110 per adult and \$45 for children ages 5 to 12, including service charge. This event will take place from noon to 3:30 p.m. Thanksgiving day at 4750 Amelia Island Pkwy. in Amelia Island. Visit <a href="http://www.ritzcarlton.com">www.ritzcarlton.com</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>St. Augustine Community Thanksgiving Day Luncheon</b> This luncheon, taking place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., benefits everyone who has been impacted by hurricanes, personal tragedy or who would just like to have a sit-down meal among friends, neighbors and strangers. Turkey, ham, side dishes, casseroles, vegetarian dishes, desserts, rolls and butter, water and iced tea will be served. The free luncheon takes place outdoors in the St. Augustine Historic District by the Visitor Information Center on Orange Street.</p> <p><b>Thanksgiving feast at First Baptist Church of Orange Park</b> The "Feast of Plenty" Thanksgiving day feast will take place from noon to 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Orange Park. For more information and transportation details, contact Ruth at (904) 214-5120 or visit <a href="http://www.opfirst.org">www.opfirst.org</a>. First Baptist Church of Orange Park is located at 1140 Kingsley Ave.</p>	<p><b>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting</b> Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p><b>Cannon Firing Demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos</b> National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Free exercise program</b> THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center in Ponte Vedra is partnering with the Arthritis Foundation to provide a free exercise program on Wednesdays and Fridays through Dec. 1 from 2 to 3 p.m. The class will feature a low-impact workout proven to reduce pain and decrease stiffness, and gentle range-of-motion exercises suitable for all fitness levels and abilities. Call (904) 280-3233 to reserve a spot. The PLAYERS Community Senior Center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p><b>'Victoria and Abdul'</b> Queen Victoria strikes up an unlikely friendship with a young Indian clerk named Abdul Karim. This film is showing at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe Nov. 24 at 1 and 6:30 p.m. The cinema is located at 36 Granada St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Fall maze at the St. Augustine Aquarium</b> Enjoy a fall maze at the St. Augustine Aquarium with paid admission. To get through the maze, participants will be asked marine-related questions. The aquarium, located at 2045 S.R. 16, is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission costs \$8 for adults, \$5 for youth ages 3 to 12 and free for youth ages 2 and under.</p>	<p><b>'Bamboozled' starring Viktor Zenko</b> This magic show, taking place Saturdays through Dec. 30 at Courtyard by Marriott in St. Augustine, features Vikto Zenko - a magician/ mentalist who will float an audience member above the stage and manipulate a deck of playing cards, among other skills. Seating begins at 7 p.m., and the performance starts at 7:30. Tickets cost \$22 for adults and \$18 for youth ages 17 and under. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.vzmagic.com">www.vzmagic.com</a> or call (904) 342-2550. This event will take place at 2075 S.R. 16 in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Family seining at GTM Research Reserve</b> The GTM Research Reserve will host a family seining event from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Nov. 25. Visitors will learn how to pull a seine net, collect fish and crabs and learn about wildlife habitats; waters and boots will be provided. This program is included with regular admission to the reserve and takes place in the Environmental Education Center at 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. Visit <a href="http://www.gtmnerr.org">www.gtmnerr.org</a> for more information or call (904) 823-4500.</p> <p><b>St. Augustine Amphitheatre farmers market</b> The St. Augustine Amphitheatre farmers market, which takes place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., features fresh produce, baked goods, seafood, handcrafted items and plants along with live entertainment. This event will be held at 1340 A1A S. in St. Augustine. Admission is free.</p> <p><b>'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged'</b> Last summer's comedy hit is back for turkey day weekend at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged" by Apex Theatre Studio will feature Robert Reid, Emily Auwaerter and Jason Nettle. The performance starts at 8 p.m. Nov. 24-25; tickets cost \$25. Visit <a href="http://www.pvconcerthall.com">www.pvconcerthall.com</a> for more information or call the box office at (904) 209-0399.</p>	<p><b>Nights of Lights</b> Selected by National Geographic in 2011 and 2012 as one of the 10 best holiday lighting displays in the world, St. Augustine's Nights of Lights features millions of white lights that create a magical atmosphere in the nation's oldest city. Tracing its origins to the Spanish tradition of displaying a white candle in the window during the Christmas holidays, the lighting reflects the city's history and illuminates the setting for lasting holiday memories. Nights of Lights will run through Jan. 31, 2018 at Plaza de la Constitucion King Street.</p> <p><b>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service</b> Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Santa Claus at the Pirate Ship Black Raven</b> Every weekend through Dec. 24, Santa Clause will appear on the Black Raven pirate ship, which departs on treasure hunt trips at 2:15 p.m. from the St. Augustine Municipal Marina. Visit <a href="http://www.blackravenadventures.com">www.blackravenadventures.com</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>Kayaking and canoeing at Hanna Park</b> Get the entire family outdoors with a relaxing kayak or canoe tour at Hanna Park Wednesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information on pricing, visit <a href="http://www.adventurekayakflorida.com">www.adventurekayakflorida.com</a> or call (904) 404-6177. Hanna Park is located at 500 Wonderwood Drive.</p> <p><b>Museum store Sunday</b> The Sunday after Thanksgiving is a worldwide shopping day at museums and other cultural venues to spotlight the unique shopping experiences and gift giving provided by museum stores. Shop at the Cumer Shop on Museum Store Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. to find special incentives for holiday gift purchasing. Cumer Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p>

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Monday, Nov. 27	Tuesday, Nov. 28	Wednesday, Nov. 29	Thursday, Nov. 30
<p><b>Flagler College Art and Design Department faculty exhibition</b> This exhibition at the Crisp-Ellert Art Museum, located at 48 Sevilla St. in St. Augustine, runs through Dec. 2 and features works by the faculty of Flagler College's Art and Design Department. The artists' bodies of work vary in method and material and encompass painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, video, photography, print and digital design and animation. The Museum's hours are Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.</p> <p><b>WinterFEST 2017</b> Adventure Landing in Jacksonville Beach will transform its Shipwreck Island Water Park into a winter wonderland for the annual WinterFEST celebration. This year's festival runs from Nov. 18 through Jan. 8, 2018. The event will feature outdoor ice skating, an alpine ice slide, visits and pictures with Santa, s'more roasting and other attractions. Additionally, visitors can wind through a snowy village and enjoy window displays, hologram lights and decorations. Adventure Landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd. Call (904) 516-9739 or visit <a href="http://www.jacksonville-beach.adventurelanding.com">www.jacksonville-beach.adventurelanding.com</a> for more information. Adventure Landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd.</p> <p><b>Little Ones storytime class</b> Infants and toddlers can sing songs, bounce along to rhymes and read interactive stories at this Little Ones storytime class, set for Nov. 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 11. This event will take place at the St. Johns County Public Library's Southeast Branch, located at 6670 US 1 S. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Downtown Dazzle</b> The Jacksonville Children's Chorus will present Downtown Dazzle, its third-annual downtown holiday celebration, at 225 E. Duval St in Jacksonville. Downtown offices of the JCC will be illuminated with a holiday light display synchronized to recorded songs of the season broadcast on 94.5 FM. Downtown Dazzle will run nightly through New Year's Eve, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Call (904) 346-1636 or visit <a href="http://www.jaxchildrenschorus.com">www.jaxchildrenschorus.com</a> for more information.</p>	<p><b>Back to Bach</b> St. Paul's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church is hosting Jacksonville Symphony Principal Cello Alexei Romanenko to perform all six of the Bach cello suites. The free event will take place Nov. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at 456 11th Avenue North in Jacksonville Beach. A gala reception will follow the performance in Christopher Lobby. Donations benefit the SPBTS music program.</p> <p><b>Kids Free November at World Golf Hall of Fame &amp; Museum</b> Throughout the month of November, the World Golf Hall of Fame &amp; Museum is offering free admission to children age 12 and under. No coupon necessary. The World Golf Hall of Fame &amp; Museum is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Tapas Tuesday</b> The Cummer Museum of Art &amp; Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.cummermuseum.org">www.cummermuseum.org</a>. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p><b>Giving Tuesday</b> The Council on Aging has joined Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide. Visitors can participate in Giving Tuesday Nov. 28. Call Cindy Walker at (904) 209-3687 for more information.</p> <p><b>Drive thru Christmas lights</b> Jax Illuminations' Drive Thru Holiday Light Show is a one mile drive thru featuring two mega trees, a 300-foot tunnel of lights, custom Christmas scenes and more. Shows take place nightly through Dec. 31 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Morocco Shrine Center, located at 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road S. in Jacksonville. Email <a href="mailto:info@jaxilluminations.com">info@jaxilluminations.com</a>, call (904) 361-6257 or visit <a href="http://www.jaxilluminations.com">www.jaxilluminations.com</a> for more information.</p>	<p><b>Toastmasters Club</b> Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at <a href="mailto:lucyreep@gmail.com">lucyreep@gmail.com</a> for additional information.</p> <p><b>Yoga at church</b> Join St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal for Yoga every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a mat to this yoga class, which is suitable for all skill levels and ages. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Wednesday Market</b> Each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., approximately 60 to 80 vendors participate in the Wednesday Market in St. Augustine Beach. Vendors and artists display produce, prepared foods, local seafood, art, crafts and more, placing an emphasis on home-grown and homemade items. The Market is held at the St. Johns County Pier Park at 350 A1A Beach Blvd, St Augustine Beach.</p> <p><b>'Faces Places' at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe</b> Director Agnes Varda and photographer/muralist J.R. journey through rural France and form an unlikely friendship. This film is showing at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe Nov. 29 at 3 p.m. and 7:15. The cinema is located at 36 Granada St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Laura Lee Smith's 'The Ice House' pre-release event</b> Join St. Augustine writer Laura Lee Smith for a pre-release event for her new novel, "The Ice House," at the St. Augustine Distillery Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. Smith will sign copies of the book (which will be available for sale at the event) and speak briefly about the novel's development. Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome. RSVP at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/lauraleesmithwriter">www.facebook.com/lauraleesmithwriter</a>.</p>	<p><b>Beach Cruisers History Happy Hour: TPC Sawgrass</b> The Beaches Museum's Young Professional group, the Beach Cruisers, will host History Happy Hour Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. with a VIP tour of the Clubhouse at TPC Sawgrass. Attendees will learn about the history of THE PLAYERS and the venue that hosts the event each year. This event is free to Beach Cruisers members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. The Clubhouse is located at 110 Championship Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Yoga for Survivors</b> The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Nov. 30 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit <a href="http://www.baptistjax.com/ymca">www.baptistjax.com/ymca</a> to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p><b>Joe Machi at The Comedy Zone</b> Joe Machi will perform at The Comedy Zone Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Machi, a winner of multiple comedy festivals, came in fourth on season eight of NBC's "Last Comic Standing." He has also appeared on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" and "Red Eye" with Greg Gutfeld on Fox News. The Comedy Zone is located at 3130 Hartley Road in Jacksonville. Purchase tickets at <a href="http://www.comedyzone.com">www.comedyzone.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Holiday book sale</b> Friends of the Library will present a holiday book sale Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Johns County Library's Southeast Branch. The library is located at 6670 US 1 S. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to <a href="mailto:recorderintern@opcfca.com">recorderintern@opcfca.com</a>, post online at <a href="http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com">www.pontevedrarecorder.com</a> using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</b></p>

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# New office park to open in Nocatee Town Center in 2018

New professional offices are opening in 2018 at Nocatee Town Center.

NTC Office, LLC, a venture of Silverfield Group and Morales Group, recently announced the project, which is planned to feature four new buildings totaling approximately 32,000 square feet. Construction will begin this spring with the first building slated to be completed by December 2018.

The new offices will be located just north of Town Plaza Offices at Nocatee, which were also developed by Silverfield Group.

“We are excited to kick off our second professional office project in Nocatee,” said Karl Hanson of Silverfield Group. “After bringing Town Plaza Offices at Nocatee to life, we saw firsthand how residents embraced new service providers opening in

the community.”

The new project will be geared toward medical practices, attorneys, accountants, financial advisors, insurance agents and other office businesses, but will not include any retail stores. The lease-only offices will be designed and built to suit the tenants’ needs.

Additionally, the new office space offers

even more residents the chance to have an office close to home.

“Our goal is to continue to serve the needs of neighborhood services and office space for Nocatee residents in a first-class professional office park that will also be attractive to motorists entering Nocatee’s Town Center area from the Nocatee Parkway,” added Hanson.



Photos by Samantha Logue

The Disc-Connected K9s entertain the crowds for “Pet Lovers’ Day” at Nocatee Town Center.

## Pet lovers converge on Nocatee Farmers Market

By Samantha Logue

The Nocatee community celebrated pets this past Saturday at the Pet Lovers’ Nocatee Farmers Market.

Held at Nocatee Town Center, the monthly market that regularly boasts more than 70 local vendors also featured local pet adoptions, pet vendors and choreographed performances by the Disc-Connected K9s, which are trained frisbee dogs. The Nov. 18 market also had a decidedly holiday theme, with several vendors featuring Thanksgiving and Christmas displays and wares.

An event that is held the third Saturday of every month, the next Nocatee Farmers Market will take place Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and will feature a “Winterfest” theme.

Destiny Drouillard, Lindsay Bryant and Leigh Norton man the Christmas cookie-decorating table at the Crosswater Community Church booth.





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# Business Weekly

New Web.com  
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## Berkshire Hathaway adds six agents to Ponte Vedra/Nocatee offices

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has made several, recent additions to its Ponte Vedra/Nocatee offices.

Jenny Meide, Michael Hannon, Wendy Patton, Amanda Creech, Cyndi King and Hana Hunter are bringing their talents and expertise to the real estate group.

■ Meide has lived and worked in Northeast Florida for more than 30 years, with 15 of those primarily in the Beaches and Ponte Vedra area. During this time, Jenny got her real estate license and has worked closely with Oakwood Building Group, a local custom home building company. Currently, Meide is a fitness instructor at Fit With HIIT in Ponte Vedra Beach and is on the tennis team at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. She and her husband Marcus have two children, Avery and Brady. For more information, Meide can be reached at (904) 607-7996 or at Jenny.Meide@FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

■ Hannon joins Florida Network Realty with more than 35 years of real estate experience, both as a realtor and as a



Jenny Meide



Michael Hannon



Wendy Patton



Amanda Creech



Cyndi King



Hana Hunter

managing broker. His career began in Jacksonville, and has taken him to Ponte Vedra Beach, Atlanta, Naples, Northern Virginia, Aspen, Salt Lake City and back to Ponte Vedra. Hannon is a former president of the Beaches Youth Soccer Association and the president of PVPV Elementary PTO. He is also the founding president of the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation and a decorated Vietnam veteran. For more information, Hannon can be reached

at (904) 436-8103 or at Michael.Hannon@FloridaNetworkRealty.com.  
■ Patton, a longtime local to Northeast Florida and a native Floridian, comes to Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty with more than 30 years of experience in real estate, and a background in relocation, luxury properties and condominium sales. Previously working as a branch manager for a local real estate company, Patton said she made

the move to Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, "... due to the reputation of the brand, the culture of the company and the tools that they offer to their agents." Patton has been married for 21 years and has two daughters, a rescue dog and a rescue cat. For more information, Patton can be reached at (904) 382-0527 or at Wendy.Patton@FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

■ Residing in Jacksonville since 2009, Creech brings a wealth of knowledge of the greater Jacksonville area. In her previous job with the United States Tennis Association, Creech had the opportunity to work closely with more than 30 country clubs in Duval, St. Johns, Nassau, and Clay counties. Along with her move to Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, Creech is focusing on her new brand, "Closing Deals in Heels." She hopes to use social media and direct marketing efforts to grow her business with the young professional

ADDITIONS continues on Page 18

# Beaches Home CONNECTION

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Rendering courtesy of BBX Capital Real Estate

## Beacon Lake: Construction of master-planned community begins in Northern St. Johns County

BBX Capital Real Estate, a division of BBX Capital Corporation, recently announced that construction has begun on the entry monument at Beacon Lake, BBX Capital Real Estate's master-planned community in Northern St. Johns County.

Dicky Smith & Co. is the general contractor, and Basham & Lucas Design Group is the landscape architect for Beacon Lake's main entry. Pre-construction sales are underway.

"We are excited to begin construction of the Beacon Lake entry monument and bring to this area an exceptional new community," said Bruce J. Parker, managing director for BBX Capital Real Estate. "Beacon Lake appeals to a wide range of home buyers, seeking a remarkable neighborhood environment and today's most sought-after lifestyle amenities."

The entry monument will showcase coastal vernacular architectural style using natural elements, colors and proportions to complement the surrounding landscape. The design team drew inspiration for Beacon Lake's coastal style from the community's lake amenities.

Beacon Lake's master plan calls for 1,280 single-family homes and 196 townhomes on approximately 630 acres, more than half of which consists of a dedicated wetland preservation, enhancements and restoration areas. Anchored by a paddle-friendly 43-acre lake, Beacon Lake will offer opportunities for outdoor and indoor recreation.

Neighborhood amenities include an expansive community clubhouse overlooking Beacon Lake with a half-mile view to the southern shoreline. Plans for the clubhouse include spacious entertainment and dining areas inside as well as covered porches and a fire pit outside. The Crew House will provide kayak, canoe and paddleboard storage and a launch area. Residents will also have access to a junior Olympic-size lap pool, a splash park and fun pool, tennis courts and play fields. The fitness center is planned to offer cardio and strength training areas including aerobics, spinning, free weights and a yoga studio.

Beacon Lake's homebuilders, Dream Finders and Mattamy Homes, are offer-

ing a selection of home designs in the community's coastal vernacular architectural style. New homes will range in size from 1,800 square feet to more than 4,000 square feet, and will be priced from the high \$200s to \$500,000. Phase one includes 43- and 63-foot-wide home sites offered by Dream Finders and 53- and 73-foot-wide home sites offered by Mattamy Homes.

Located in Northern St. Johns County, on the south side of County Road 210 between U.S. Route 1 and Interstate 95, Beacon Lake is near shopping, dining, employment centers and area beaches. The community is currently located within St. Johns County Public School District.

Land development of Beacon Lake started last year, and model homes are currently scheduled to open in early 2018. For more information on Beacon Lake, visit [www.BeaconLake.com](http://www.BeaconLake.com).

## 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!

All the best,  
Lauren Spiller,  
Carol Burns &  
Clare Berry



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## SHEARWATER RESIDENTS ENJOY HARVEST GATHERING



Photo courtesy of Shearwater

Residents of Shearwater, the new-master planned community on County Road 210, celebrate a Harvest Gathering to kick off the Thanksgiving holiday. Every resident brought a Thanksgiving-inspired dish for the potluck-style event, which also included live-music from Remedy Tree, a petting zoo, several kid-friendly activities like a bounce house and face painting and various lawn games.

## Jaguars, Dream Finders Homes expand partnership

The Jacksonville Jaguars and Dream Finders Homes announced an expansion of their partnership this month, granting the builder the exclusive naming rights to the Jaguars' practice complex and flex field at Daily's Place.

"Dream Finders Homes continues to be innovative in their approach to home building, and they have brought this same level of innovation to their partnership with the Jaguars," said Jaguars President Mark Lamping. "Among their firsts include a one-of-its-kind stadium home, a \$100,000 "Take it to the House" promotion, theming of a stadium entry gate to look like the façade of a house and now the first home builder to entitle an NFL practice facility. We applaud Dream Finders' passion for their business and commitment to ours."

The Dream Finders Homes Practice Complex includes the three primary practice fields located outside the northwest corner of EverBank Field and will host public practices during the Jaguars' training camp in July and August. The Dream Finders Homes Flex Field at Daily's Place will serve as both an indoor practice facility for the team in-season and provide the Jacksonville community with a year-round community space for events, local sports competitions and other corporate functions.

"We could not be more pleased about the direction of our partnership with the Jaguars, the recent performance of the team and the vision Shad Khan has for our great city," said Patrick Zalupski, CEO and co-founder of Dream Finders Homes. "The opportunity to partner with

an NFL franchise in our home market and support an owner that has demonstrated his commitment to Jacksonville provides us the ability to share the Dream Finders Homes growth story nationally."

Dream Finders Homes began their partnership with the Jaguars in 2014 and became the Official Home Builder of the team in 2015. The partnership has grown over the past four seasons to include the Stadium Home at EverBank Field. The "Take it to the House" punt return promotion has already generated two winners of \$100,000 towards a Dream Finders home. Gate 1, which serves as a main entrance for fans on game day and concert-goers at Daily's Place, adopted an entirely new look in 2017 with a unique façade to mimic the look of a custom Dream Finders Home.

## Ewing Real Estate CEO re-elected as chairman of COJ Planning Commission

Daniel E. Blanchard, the CEO at Ewing Real Estate, has been re-elected as chairman of the City of Jacksonville Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission reviews proposed land use changes, rezonings, requests for exceptions, variances and waivers to the Zoning Code and other matters related to land use and area planning in Jacksonville. The decisions made by the Planning Commission help determine how the Jacksonville community grows in the future.

Blanchard has acted as a consultant advising the City of Jacksonville on its housing and finance-related matters, as well as for multiple national builders and real estate investors. He is active in the industry and community, previously serving as the president of the Northeast Florida Builders Association (NEFBA) and as chairman of the President's Council for the Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA), as well as actively supporting the Builder's Care Charity. He has received the NEFBA Good Government Award and a Laurel Award for Excellence in Real Estate Marketing.

"It is an honor and privilege to serve as chairman of the Planning Commission again and to be appointed by two different mayors," said Blanchard. "We have a very qualified group of commissioners that work hard and make many tough decisions regarding the growth of our community. I look forward to continuing our position of being business friendly and getting behind smart growth as the City of Jacksonville continues to expand in the years to come."

## Additions

Continued from 16

women demographic. Creech plans to mix real estate with fashion to develop a fun and informative blog that will keep women up-to-date on the local real estate market and the latest fashion trends. Creech also spent four years working for the Wounded Warrior Project. For more information,

Creech can be reached at (570) 470-6156 or at [Amanda.Creech@FloridaNetworkRealty.com](mailto:Amanda.Creech@FloridaNetworkRealty.com)

King joins with more than 30 years of experience as a real estate investor and several years of experience as a licensed realtor. Having bought and sold over six homes spanning a 35-year career in professional fragrance, makeup and skincare sales, King is intimately familiar with the real estate process, from sales and purchas-

es to relocation and referrals. In addition to obtaining her real estate license, King has also achieved the nationally recognized Military Relocation Professional Certification (MRP) and the highly acclaimed Graduate, REALTOR® Institute (GRI) designation. For more information, King can be reached at (904) 687-8000 or at [Cyndi.King@FloridaNetworkRealty.com](mailto:Cyndi.King@FloridaNetworkRealty.com).

On the addition of Hunter, Kevin Waugaman, broker/manager of the Ponte Vedra/

Nocatee office, said, "I have great expectations for Hana. Her drive and commitment to excellence are right in line with the service we provide our clients at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty." For more information, Hunter can be reached at (904) 422-6227 or at [Hana.Hunter@FloridaNetworkRealty.com](mailto:Hana.Hunter@FloridaNetworkRealty.com).

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

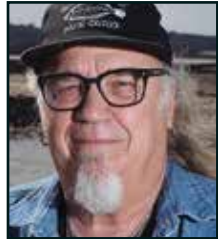
# Berkshire Hathaway to host 'Illuminate the Night' Nov. 30

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty is kicking off the holiday season with "Illuminate the Night," a special event taking place Nov. 30 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Tim's Wine Market in St. Augustine Beach. Clients, business partners and the public are welcome to attend.

The event will feature a short program with Matanzas Riverkeeper Neil Armingeon and Jen Lomberk, who will succeed Armingeon as Matanzas Riverkeeper in December.

"Most notable cities are located near water, and our community has incredibly beautiful and historically significant waterways that support numerous habitats," said Ann King, broker/manager of the company's St. Augustine Beach and Murabella offices. "We are fortunate to have the Matanzas as part of our community, and we look forward to hearing more about the Riverkeeper's efforts to protect and advocate on behalf of this precious natural resource."

Following the program, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices will reveal details about a special holiday event, the inaugural St. Augustine Beach Luminaria with proceeds benefitting the Matanzas



Neil Armingeon



Jen Lomberk



Ann King

Riverkeeper, set for Dec. 17 at dusk.

"Our team cares deeply about the community and is committed to community service," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty broker/executive vice president Christy Budnick. "Giving back to the community in which we live and work is an important component of our company culture."

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, visit [www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com](http://www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com).

Tim's Wine Market is located at the SeaGrove Town Center on State Road A1A in St. Augustine Beach.

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# St. Johns County Chamber salutes veterans in business

By Samantha Logue

Turning tragedies into triumphs isn't easy, but it's a challenge that many U.S. military veterans face when they return to civilian life.

At a "Salute to Veterans" luncheon held Nov. 15 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Ponte Vedra, that point was hammered home by a host of military veterans and representatives from organizations that support them, each with their own story to tell. Hosted by the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the luncheon treated local business and community leaders to several speakers, including keynote speaker Joe Padlo — a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

Padlo, now a business owner and alumnus of Wounded Warrior Project, described how a combination of happenstance and his own hesitation to act had led to the deaths of other Marines, and how living with that knowledge had impacted him.

"I retreated into a place that I hope no one ever has to be in," he said. "It was really bad. My civilian career, everything around me dramatically suffered."

In 2014, influenced by the suicide of another veteran whom he had failed to help obtain a job, Padlo decided it was time for him to take action. He founded what is now called Veterans Elite Services, a commercial and residential cleaning services company



Photo by Samantha Logue

Justin Justice, Tim Crosby, Mollie Malloy, Joe Padlo, Dennis Volpe and David Godwin

that solely employs military veterans.

"I channeled all of those powerful and terrible feelings about my lack of ability to step up, and I turned it into a company," Padlo said, illustrating that failure is often just a stepping stone to success.

Other speakers at the event shared similar stories, detailing the various challenges veterans face while transitioning into civilian life. Speakers included U.S. Navy veteran and Operation New Uniform Executive Director Justin Justice; Tim Crosby of K9s for Warriors; U.S. Army veteran Kevin Sosa of Wounded Warrior Proj-

ect and retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Richard Tryon, who is the senior fellow in international leadership at Hicks Honors College at the University of North Florida and a member of the board at Wounded Warrior Project.

"What the veterans that we serve need is an opportunity to make an impact after the military, and what they're looking for is success after service," Justice said. "What I don't want to be known as is a medically-retired Navy veteran. What I want to be known as is the leader of an organization that cares about veterans."

## SJC Chamber promotes Porter, appoints Everett

To meet its new advocacy and economic development goals, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce recently promoted Bob Porter to director of public policy and appointed Karen Everett as economic development manager.

"Porter and Everett bring strong backgrounds to their new roles; I am excited to make this announcement and know that they will help us advance the goals of the Chamber," said Isabelle Rodriguez, president and CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Porter has brought the Chamber's advocacy and public policy efforts beyond their previously targeted goals and has been a tremendous asset to the Chamber, according to Rodriguez. He has strengthened the Leadership St. Johns Program, reflected in the current class' record number of participants (28).

Porter joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce in 2015 and previously served as executive director and CEO of Paws for Purple Hearts, an organization that trains and places service dogs with wounded warriors suffering from post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain injury



Bob Porter



Karen Everett

during combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has spent most of his career working in Washington, D.C., and his experience includes work as a Congressional staffer, serving as the director of government relations for the law firm of Collier Shannon & Scott and serving as vice president at the international business consulting firm headed by

former Secretary of Defense William Cohen.

Everett has a background in economic development and public relations and communications. She worked for the department of economic development for St. Mary's County in Maryland as the county's lead for business retention, expansion and recruitment. More recently, Everett was a senior account executive for Clockwork Marketing Services in Jacksonville, where she provided public relations services to multiple clients. She will work closely with the St. Johns County Economic Development Department.

"I'm thrilled that Karen Everett is leading our economic development efforts," Rodriguez said. "Everett's experience in economic development, combined with her expertise in communications and public relations, are ideal to carry out the goals in our new three-year plan."

# Have a happy Thanksgiving!



Harry Pappas  
Columnist

By Harry Pappas  
Special to the Recorder

It is Thanksgiving once again, and across our country, millions of people are getting ready for a week of great celebration, which usually means overindulging in the trifecta of food, football and family!

I am sure most of us understand and appreciate that Thanksgiving is the official season of gratitude. I know I have mentioned before, but it is worth repeating: feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. Of all the virtues, I suggest gratitude is arguably the most neglected and least expressed.

In today's money-oriented society, it is easy for us to fall prey to always wanting more, instead of being content with what we already have. I refer to this emotion as "the disease," which often blinds us to what we already have and should be grateful for.

Thanksgiving is that special time of year when we should reflect on all of the people and things we most appreciate. Therefore, I am reaching out to you with this column to say, "Thank you," to the incredible staff at the Ponte Vedra Recorder, its readers, the Ponte Vedra Recorder's financial supporters and especially those that find my narrative to be a worthwhile read.

I do not take my responsibility as your columnist lightly, and I promise to continue to work diligently to make future columns informative, thought provoking and entertaining. In the meantime, I sincerely hope that this Thanksgiving is the start of a delightful holiday season for you and the prelude to a brighter, prosperous and peaceful time ahead.

In closing, I will allow an anonymous quote to provide you with my closing arguments regarding gratitude, "Some people complain that God put thorns on roses while others praise him for putting roses among thorns."

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# Web.com announces development of new global headquarters on Gate Parkway

Web.com Group, Inc., a leading global provider of internet services and online marketing solutions for small businesses, recently announced it will build a new Jacksonville-based corporate headquarters on Gate Parkway that will be developed for occupancy by the spring of 2019.

Located at 5379 Gate Parkway, "Town Center Two" is an 18-acre site that will host a 6-story, 218,700 square-foot office building with parking for 1,200 and an open floor plan with collaborative workspaces to foster greater teamwork, creativity and efficiency.

"Since Web.com first opened its doors in 1997, we have grown from a small Jacksonville startup to a global employer of nearly 3,800 employees, of which nearly 1,000 Jacksonville employees are split between two office buildings with no room to expand," said David L. Brown, Web.com's chairman, CEO and president. "We look forward to soon serving our customers and employees out of a



Rendering provided by Web.com

A rendering displays Web.com's future global headquarters on Gate Parkway.

centrally located headquarters that affords us room for continued growth in Jacksonville."

Web.com's future Gate Parkway home

is likely to include an expansive dining area, fitness center, health clinic and open floor plans for greater flexibility in workplace design. Interior plans will be

finalized in early 2018. Web.com employees also will have access to an outdoor courtyard and pedestrian walkway under J. Turner Butler Boulevard to St. Johns Town Center.

Town Center Two was also chosen for its proximity to shopping and dining options at St. Johns Town Center and easy access to Interstate 95, Interstate 295 and J. Turner Butler Boulevard. In addition to Jacksonville, Web.com operates out of another 28 U.S. markets and in the countries of Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Town Center Two will be developed and owned by VanTrust Real Estate, LLC. Rolland, DelValle & Bradley, Inc. is the architectural and interior design firm; England-Thims & Miller, Inc. is providing civil engineering services and Brasfield & Gorrie is the development's general contractor. Real estate advisory firm Mohr Partners, Inc. represented Web.com in the transaction.

### CROSSWORD

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### THEME: PEARLS OF WISDOM

**ACROSS**

- "No way" partner
- Lending letters
- Basketball star Nowitzki
- "Love," à Paris
- \_\_\_ date
- Infamous Ford model
- Stuff in a tray?
- Romanov's edict
- Bony chest plate
- \*It makes the heart grow fonder
- \*You can't make an omelet without breaking one
- Border
- Prune
- Block of granite, e.g.
- Whacko one
- Eye layer
- Author Murdoch
- Paparazzo's quest
- Common allergens
- \*Sure sign of fire
- Like nay-sayers
- Rid of obstructions
- Done to trouble
- Asian weight unit
- Cold sore, e.g.
- Object of worship
- 9 to 5, e.g.
- Not of the cloth
- Famous frat house
- \*Louder than words
- \*They can't be choosers
- Allocated quantity
- Famous T-Rex
- Cereal killer
- Prodded
- \*"No \_\_\_ crying over spilt milk"
- Recycle, in a way
- H or O in H<sub>2</sub>O, e.g.
- \*"You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's \_\_\_"
- Make tea, e.g.

**DOWN**

- Midday slumbers
- Fail to mention
- Use a whetstone
- Grossly unconventional
- \*Two of these do not make a right
- Genesis man
- Pimple fluid
- \_\_\_ center for help
- Home of Blue Devils
- Ali Khamenei's domain
- CISC alternative
- Genuflecting joint
- Serious quarrel
- Tangerine-grapefruit hybrid, pl.
- Ballerina's do
- Non-living
- \*No such thing as a free one
- Egg cell
27. \_\_\_ Cottontail
- Picture on a coat?
- Not this
- Actor Hill
- Weasel's aquatic cousin
- \*A watched pot never does this
- Hurry up!
- Row of vagrants
- With a jagged margin
- Follows aim and shoot
- \_\_\_ Diego
- They're usually golden or amber
54. Question in dispute
- White heron
- Caribbean color
- Like a short reply
- Burkina Faso neighbor
- Big-ticket \_\_\_
- Duff in Springfield, e.g.
- Flu symptom
- Kate Winslet in "Titanic"
- \*Beginning of a thousand mile journey
- "This land is your land..."

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# Buffalo-based law firm opens Ponte Vedra Beach office

Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP, a Buffalo, New York-based law firm, announced the opening of its new Ponte Vedra Beach office as part of the firm's continued growth. Located at 822 U.S. Highway A1A North, Suite 100, the new firm's newest office will be led by Christopher A. Walker.

"In recent years, the firm has been focused on expanding our legal services to anticipate and meet our clients' needs through the addition of new talent and opening offices in new markets," Managing Partner Kevin J. Cross said. "Chris was an attorney with us prior to his relocation to Florida. We saw an opportunity

to expand our operations into Florida and have him lead our fifth office."

Walker assists companies across the United States with corporate matters, including formations, operations, sales or dispositions, contract matters and sophisticated mergers and acquisitions. He also focuses a portion of his practice on commercial real estate transactions, and has successfully closed on more than \$500 million in real estate acquisitions and financing matters.

Andrew C. Bolender also joins Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman's new office as

an associate. He represents individuals and commercial clients on their corporate and transactional matters, providing services for all stages of the corporate life cycle. Having previously worked for global and regional financial institutions, he has extensive knowledge of banking and financial services laws, regulations and corporate compliance.

In addition to its new Florida office, Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman has offices in Buffalo, New York; Albany, New York; New York City and Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

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# Sports



PVHS baseball players celebrate D1 signings

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

## Ponte Vedra's girls volleyball wins state title



By Jon Blauvelt

Ponte Vedra's girls volleyball team claimed its first state championship in school history after defeating powerhouse Bishop Moore of Orlando Saturday, Nov. 18, at the University of North Florida.

The Class 6A state title match between the Sharks (25-5) and the Hornets (23-8) went down to the wire, with Ponte Vedra ultimately winning 26-24, 13-25, 25-23, 14-25 and 15-11. The victory represented revenge for the Sharks after the team lost to the Hornets in the state title match in 2016.

"It was awesome," said Sharks head coach Robin Mignerey. "More of knowing what a powerhouse Bishop Moore is ... There's a Kentucky commit on the team, a Florida commit on the team. We don't have any of those big superstars. You see that, and we really do look like an underdog. That makes me so much more proud."

Gabby Keller and Paige Johnson each finished with 12 kills for the Sharks, while Lily Kinder and Erika Hendrickson each finished with eight. Kinder additionally contributed four blocks. Sophia Ervanian led the team in digs with 23, and also

Photo by Eric Morris

Ponte Vedra's girls volleyball team celebrates winning the Class 6A state title game against Bishop Moore Nov. 18.

VOLLEYBALL continues on Page 24

## PVHS basketball player Jack Johnson commits to Augusta University

By Jon Blauvelt

Ponte Vedra student athlete Jack Johnson has committed to play basketball at Augusta University in Georgia next year.

The 6-foot-8-inch Sharks senior celebrated his college selection with family and friends at a signing ceremony at Ponte Vedra High School on Monday, Nov. 20. Johnson officially signed with Augusta earlier in November.

"Augusta stuck out to me mostly because of the successful program and how well they're coached, how well they maintain their success," said Johnson, an 18-year-old who plans to play stretch four for the Jaguars. "I'm just really looking forward to it."

Augusta finished 24-8 in the 2016-2017 season. The Jaguars play in the Peach Belt Conference at the Division II level, along with Flagler College in St. Augustine.

In addition to Augusta, Johnson visited Lewis University in Chicago, Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, University of West Florida and University of Tampa. He added that he

ultimately chose Augusta because he enjoyed his interactions with head coach Dip Metress and the Jaguars' players, who he said were "super hospitable" when he visited. Johnson also had the opportunity to meet with Augusta's athletics director, which he said is rare.

"The overall feeling of being wanted was definitely there," said Johnson, who plans to study kinesiology. "They wrote me an offer right on the spot, before I left. They knew how to get things done ... I thought it was the right fit for me."

At the celebratory event on Monday, Sharks head basketball coach Bud Beech said he knew Johnson had potential when he first started for the varsity team his sophomore year. Since then, Beech said Johnson has made huge improvements and has become the best shot blocker he's seen in his 30 years of coaching.

"I'm lucky that I had the opportunity to coach him," said Beech, who also congratulated Johnson on his accomplishments. "Making it to the next level is a big, big deal."



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Jack Johnson (center) celebrates his commitment to play basketball at Augusta University with his sister Lexi, mother Kim and father Mark.

# Volleyball

Continued from 23

added an ace. Eve Beech contributed 15 digs and an ace. Savannah Fowler had 46 assists.

Mignery said her team's depth was a significant factor in the win over Bishop Moore and its success throughout the season, noting that she ultimately had a lineup of 10 girls that could take the court

at any time and make a difference. The Sharks' coach also said the girls learned throughout the season to be patient and wait for the opportunity to capitalize on the other team's errors. That's what happened against Bishop Moore in the fifth set, she said, and the Sharks took advantage.

"I think they're obviously, genuinely excited," said Mignery about her team's reaction to the win. "It was crazy. People were celebrating ... It's pretty sweet."

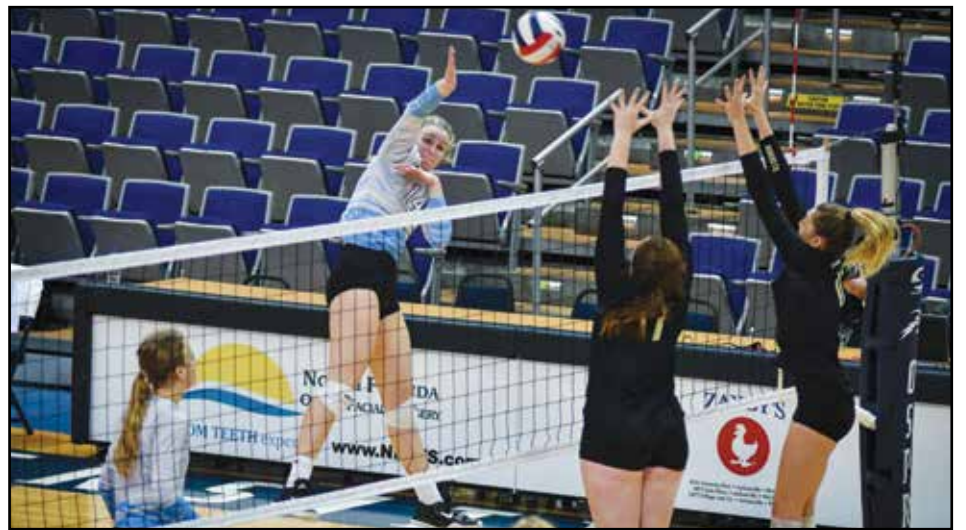


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Paige Johnson, who finished the match with 12 kills, sends the ball over the net.

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# PVHS BASEBALL PLAYERS HOLD COMMITMENT CELEBRATION

Three Ponte Vedra High School baseball players celebrated their commitments to Division I colleges with family and friends at a party held at the Faulkner residence on Nov. 12. The PVHS players recognized at the event were Kevin Faulkner (Jacksonville University), Jacob Young (University of Florida) and Zach Chappell (University of North Florida).

Photo courtesy of Dennis Faulkner



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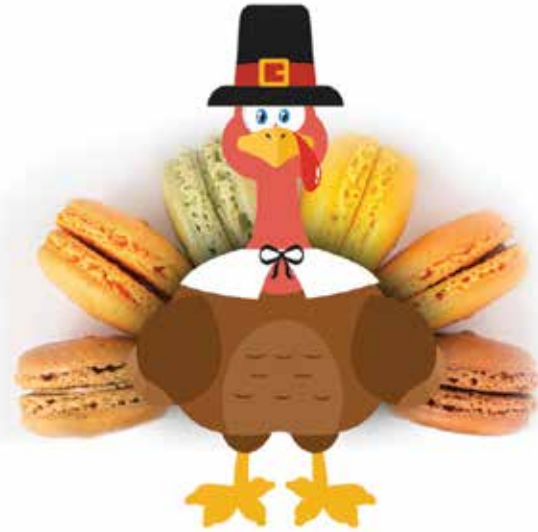
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# Jacksonville Symphony to perform 'Home Alone' Nov. 25

The Jacksonville Symphony will perform holiday favorite "Home Alone" Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

The production features renowned composer John Williams' charming and delightful score performed live by the Symphony with the picture. In the holiday classic,

Macaulay Culkin stars as Kevin McCallister, an 8-year-old boy who's accidentally left behind when his family leaves for Christmas vacation, and who must defend his home against two bungling thieves.

The program will be conducted by Jacksonville Symphony Associate Conductor Nathan Aspinall, who joined the organiza-

tion as assistant conductor in 2015 and was named associate conductor in 2016.

The Jacksonville Symphony is a North Florida music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts and other venues throughout the area. In addition, the Symphony provides music

instruction for youth and operates the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra. For more information about the Symphony, visit [JaxSymphony.org](http://JaxSymphony.org), like them at [facebook.com/JaxSymphony](https://facebook.com/JaxSymphony), follow them on @jaxsymphony, on Instagram at JaxSymphony and on YouTube at JacksonvilleSymphony.

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## THE PALMS AT PONTE VEDRA HOSTS ARTIST FOR WEEKEND EXHIBITION

Artist Roz Beck presents her work at The Palms at Ponte Vedra last Friday, Nov. 17. Beck hosted an art exhibition for residents of the assisted living and memory care facility throughout the weekend. The artist's work has its roots in post-World War I in Brooklyn, where her father introduced her to art. Beck refined her painting skills in the 1960s and discovered marble art in the 1970s, which she grew to enjoy. Beck also has a background in art history and art appreciation, lecturing privately and at community college classes in Long Island.

Photo provided by Kay Tober

## Laura Lee Smith novel 'The Ice House' to be released Dec. 5

St. Augustine writer Laura Lee Smith's second novel, "The Ice House," will be released by Grove Press Dec. 5.


The book, partly inspired by the iconic Ribera Street building that now houses The St. Augustine Distillery and The Ice Plant, tells the story of a man on the verge of losing his livelihood and of losing forever his relationship with his only son.

In "The Ice House," Johnny MacKinnon might be on the verge of losing it all. The ice factory he married into, which he's run for decades, is facing devastating OSHA fines following a mysterious accident and may have to close. He hasn't spoken to his son Corran back in Scotland since Corran's heroin addiction finally drove Johnny to the breaking point. And now, after a collapse on the factory floor, it appears Johnny may have a brain tumor.

Johnny's been ordered to take it easy, but in some ways, he thinks, what's left to lose? This may be his last chance to bridge the gap with Corran — and to have any sort of relationship with the baby granddaughter he's never met.

On Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 6 p.m., Smith will host a pre-release event at The St. Augustine Distillery at 112 Ribera Street in St. Augustine. Through a special arrangement with the publisher, "The Ice House" will be available for purchase nearly a week before its official release. Smith will sign copies and will speak briefly about the book's development. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome, but space is limited, so please RSVP early by writing [laurals@bellsouth.net](mailto:laurals@bellsouth.net) or visiting [Facebook.com/lauraleesmithwriter/](https://facebook.com/lauraleesmithwriter/).

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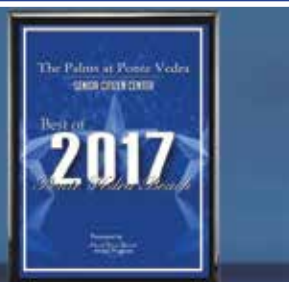
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