

Ponte Vedra Recorder



October 19, 2017
Volume 47, No. 42
75 cents

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PonteVedraRecorder.com



Breast Cancer Awareness Month



"Howl"-O-Ween Pet Special

Pages 17-20



Sports

Pages 25-28

SAWGRASS MARRIOTT

30 YEARS IN PONTE VEDRA



The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is celebrating 30 years at its location in Ponte Vedra Beach. Shown here is the resort's executive team: Tom Ayres, Brian Vahey, Caneale Mills, Joe Natoli, Rebecca Rosenebaum, Todd Hickey, Shirley Persusich and Michelle Criswell.

Photo by Jon Blauvelt



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INSIDE

One of Us

Page 6

Calendar

Pages 12-13

“Howl”-O-Ween
Pet Special

Pages 17-20

Business Weekly

Pages 22-24

Send us your news

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

E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com

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



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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

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

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

11 readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Village Jeweler sign. Good job, everyone! The winner of the random drawing was **Erika Marino**. Congratulations, Erika – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Daisy, and I am a 1-year-old female cat. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray, there may be some traits that are



unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #40150



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Angus, and I am a 3-year-old male Dogue de Bordeaux/mastiff. I was brought to the pet center as a stray after I was found

wandering alone. As this animal was a stray, there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #40263

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



Susan Griffin
Publisher
susan@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3938

Jon Blauvelt
Editor
jonb@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3939

Samantha Logue
Reporter
samantha@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3945

Paris Moulden
Page Designer/Reporter
paris@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3943

Rob Conwell
Circulation Manager
rob@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3936

Ed Johnson
Senior Account Executive
ed@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3940

Suzanne Kirby
Account Executive
Suzanne@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3941

Kristin Flanagan
Account Executive
(904) 285-8831

April Snyder
Sales Assistant
aprils@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3937

Benjamin Naim
Intern
recorderintern@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3943

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

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

SPOOKTACULAR NIGHTS

**OCTOBER 13-15,
20-22, 27-31**

**6:30 PM - 10 PM
GATES CLOSE AT 9 PM**

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ZOO AND GARDENS

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Remains identified as missing swimmer



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Emergency personnel search by air, boat and ground to locate the swimmer that went missing off South Ponte Vedra Beach Oct. 12. Remains have since been found on the beach that have been identified as the missing swimmer, 47-year-old Dale Robert Kopf of St. Augustine.

By Jon Blauvelt

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO) said the remains found on the beach Sunday, Oct. 15 in the 3,000 block of South Ponte Vedra Boulevard have been positively identified as those of missing swimmer Dale Robert Kopf, who was last seen Thursday, Oct. 12.

Kopf, 47, was a St. Augustine resident. Following an autopsy, Dr. Deanna Oleske of the District 23 Medical Examiner's Office has determined that the cause of death was drowning, and the manner of death was accidental.

The swimmer was last seen in the ocean body surf-

ing shortly before 7 p.m. on Oct. 12 in the 2,900 block of South Ponte Vedra Boulevard. According to St. Johns County Fire Rescue Public Information Officer Jeremy Robshaw, Kopf entered the water with another individual. That individual came ashore, however, returned to the beach and then could not locate Kopf.

Resources from the Sheriff's Office, Fire/Rescue, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) and the U.S. Coast Guard searched for the victim by air, boat and ground but were unable to find him. His remains were located the morning of Oct. 15 at 10 a.m. on the beach.

Go to pontevedrarecorder.com for more information on this story.

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Sawgrass Marriott celebrates 30th anniversary

By Jon Blauvelt

In 1987, Ronald Reagan was the president of the United States; a gallon of gasoline cost 89 cents; “Lethal Weapon” and “RoboCop” were playing on movie theatres across the country and the Sawgrass Marriott had just become a new destination in the Ponte Vedra Beach community.

Now in 2017, much of the aforementioned has drastically changed, but the Sawgrass Marriott has remained a Ponte Vedra mainstay. In fact, the resort is celebrating its 30th anniversary in the community this month.

The hotel’s employees celebrated the occasion last week by enjoying cake and taking a team photo in the lobby. Even hotel guests joined in for the fun, enjoying cupcakes to commemorate the anniversary.

“Whether you’ve worked here three months, three years or 30 years, it’s been a heck of a ride,” said Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa General Manager Todd Hickey. “The community has been behind us every step of the way.”

For longtime employee Janice Elkins, the anniversary was especially momentous. She started working at Sawgrass Marriott when it opened in Ponte Vedra Beach in 1987, and she has never left.

“It’s mindboggling, really,” said Elkins. “I had no idea I’d be here this long when I



ABOVE: Employees of Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa gather for a team photo to celebrate the hotel’s 30th anniversary.

LEFT: Janice Elkins celebrates the anniversary of the resort, which she joined as an employee at the beginning in 1987.

Photos by Jon Blauvelt

started. I’ve enjoyed every day, every minute and everyone from the managers we’ve had to the ones we have today.”

Elkins’ role at the resort has mostly stayed the same over the past 30 years: She answers telephones on the switchboard.

However, the way in which she has conducted that job has most definitely changed.

“At the beginning, I did a lot of phone connections for groups,” she said. “Eventually that was taken over by audio visual with all the modern technology. At the very beginning, we didn’t have the modern technology, so I was it.”

Tom Ayres, the resort’s director of engineering, has worked at the Sawgrass Marriott for 24 years, so the anniversary was significant for him too.

“I’ve seen the resort evolve over these years,” he said. “And it’s an emotional, happy moment for me to see the 30th anniversary.”

As for that evolution, Ayres said many of the most noticeable changes have taken place in the hotel’s lobby, which he said previously featured a waterfall, island bar and palm trees that rose up to the fifth floor. Now, with the renovations that have taken place over the past 10 to 15 years, he said the lobby has been extended, stairs have been relocated, a new bar has been added downstairs and the resort’s restaurant name has changed several times, among other renovations.

Overall, Ayres said it’s been an extremely positive experience to work for the resort.

“It’s a great place to work and a great company to work for,” he said. “I’m very proud to be a member of this team.”

North Florida Land Trust asks for donations to purchase land for conservation along Guana River

North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) is looking for donors to assist in the purchase of a 4.3-acre plot of land along A1A North. The property is located next to the McGarvey-Goelz Preserve in Ponte Vedra Beach, and it is currently advertised for sale for residential or multifamily development. But NFLT would like to purchase the land for preservation.

“We introduced ourselves to the

realtor’s representative and were able to negotiate a purchase price of \$400,000 for the property,” said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. “We have until Dec. 1 to raise the money to purchase this piece of land, which would give us access to property we already own and allow for public access for picnicking, canoeing and kayaking.”

The land, which is located at 1105 A1A

N., is a wetland parcel with 0.55 acres of uplands containing a mixture of live oak hammock and cabbage palm that is surrounded by the freshwater wetlands of the Guana River. It is among the 112,346 acres in NFLT’s seven-county focus area in critical need of preservation. The land contains a quality marsh habitat that is rich with wildlife, including roseate spoonbills, tricolored herons, great egrets, snowy egrets, white ibis, clapper rails and others.

The Guana River is the northernmost waterway feeding into the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM Research Reserve). It is one of 28 coastal sites designated to protect and study estuarine systems in the U.S. Those interested in donating to help with the acquisition of the property should send their donation to NFLT at 2038 Gilmore St. in Jacksonville or donate online at www.northfloridalandtrust.org. For further information, contact Jim McCarthy at jmccarthy@northfloridalandtrust.org or call (904) 479-1967.

NFLT is a nonprofit organization founded in 1999 that has protected thousands of acres of environmentally significant land,



Map courtesy of North Florida Land Trust

A wetland parcel with 0.55 acres of uplands, this property is advertised for residential or multifamily development. Located along A1A, the parcel abuts North Florida Land Trust’s Gloria Child Goelz Preserve to the east.

including property at Big Talbot Island, the River Branch Preserve, Pumpkin Hill State Park, Moccasin Slough and other natural areas predominantly in Northeast Florida.

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Veterans Council of St. Johns County holds annual Wreaths Across America drive

By Benjamin Naim

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is currently raising funds for its annual Wreaths Across America drive. The efforts conclude Dec. 16 with volunteers honoring veterans by placing remembrance wreaths on the gravestones of fallen military personnel at the St. Augustine National Cemetery at noon.

The council's goal is to raise enough money to place wreaths on more than 1,200 gravesites in the cemetery. Individual wreaths are \$15.00, but for each two wreaths purchased, the council receives a third wreath without charge.

Retired Sgt. Maj. Ray Quinn, a chairman of the local Wreaths Across America project for four years, said the overall event was founded by a Maine resident working in the Christmas tree business who had a large quantity of leftover holiday wreaths.

In 1992, Morrill Worcester of Worcester Wreath Company realized he wanted to honor U.S. military veterans with the extra wreaths by placing them at Arling-

ton National Cemetery. With the help of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, Worcester transported the wreaths on a convoy to the cemetery during the holidays, and that single act became a nationwide event in which volunteers have converged each year at hundreds of locations across America to pay their respects.

"It's quite an honor just to place a wreath and honor one of our fallen veterans," Quinn said. "When I observe the people of our community that come out to the wreath laying ceremony, it's such a touching event.

"One sweet lady told me that she lost her brother in the Korean War, and his remains were never returned, so for her—it's like honoring her brother," he added.

For Dick Williams, a Ponte Vedra resident and volunteer for Wreaths Across America, the Veterans Council project is an opportunity to honor fallen military personnel alongside members of his community. Williams shared the wreath-laying project with members of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach to promote the event.

"I figured if I wasn't aware of it, I was sure others in my community didn't know about it as well," Williams noted.

The ceremony is moving, Williams said, because members of the community, including youth groups, get involved each year.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for children, middle schoolers and high schoolers to be able to honor and maybe even learn a little more about what our service men and women have done," he said.

Williams is promoting the council and campaign to help raise enough money to purchase the necessary number of wreaths for the ceremony. He also feels an extra pull to honor and work with veterans to make sure local and federal government agencies are responsive to their needs.

For those interested in donating to the project, checks should be made payable to Wreaths Across America and mailed to Veterans Council of St. Johns County, P. O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117.

WREATHS continues on Page 7

CTTF Board releases Ponte Vedra Beach/Palm Valley traffic study survey

The Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley Citizens Traffic Task Force Board (CTTF) circulated the first of its two online traffic surveys on Oct. 9 through the emailing lists of the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition, the Ponte Vedra Community Association, the Palm Valley Community Association, the Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District, the North Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition and the Sawgrass, Marsh Landing, Plantation and Player's Club homeowners associations.

The survey is intended to collect input on short-term improvements (approximately five years) that can be made to various intersections in Ponte Vedra Beach and Palm Valley that would improve traffic flow and safety at those locations. A second survey will be circulated in mid-November asking for input on the widening of A1A and Mickler Road.

Both surveys were developed by the CTTF Board to solicit feedback from area residents and businesses as a result of recommendations proposed in a recent study commissioned by St. Johns County and the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization.

Area residents and businesses who do not belong to one of the communities listed above can participate by using the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Trafficother>. All Area residents are encouraged to complete both the short-term and the long-term surveys. By doing so, they will assist the CTTF Board in prioritizing the individual projects and help determine which improvements, if any, should be made.

Underwood's Jewelers holds LAGOS trunk show benefitting Ayla's Acres

By Jon Blauvelt

Underwood's Jewelers hosted a LAGOS trunk show Oct. 12-14 that benefitted Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue, Inc.

The first day of the trunk show featured a cocktail party attended by actress, artist and animal advocate Loretta Swit. Event attendees enjoyed the opportunity to engage with Swit, while admiring the jewelry and enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Guests also had the chance to participate in a raffle benefitting Ayla's Acres for a LAGOS Diamonds & Caviar diamond beaded bracelet, which was valued at \$3,000.

The three-day trunk show wrapped up with an adoption event on Oct. 14 in the jewelry store's parking lot, where visitors had the opportunity to take home a new furry friend.

Swit said the overall event is better and better each year.

"We have people who keep coming



ABOVE: Actress, artist and animal advocate Loretta Swit, Underwood's Jewelers General Manager John Rutkowski and Ayla's Acres Executive Director Fran Charlson



LEFT: Dorretta Svoboda, Kelli Roberts, Swit and Dee C. Jones

Photos by Jon Blauvelt

back," she said. "It's grown into a real wonderful relationship that benefits everybody, because we do sell jewelry, and we do make money for Ayla's."

Underwood's Jewelers General Manager John Rutkowski explained that a percentage of the money from LAGOS jewelry sales over the course of the three-day trunk show is given to Ayla's Acres.

Fran Charlson, the executive director of the nonprofit, said the funds raised will benefit the organization's capital campaign for the creation of Peter's Friends Animal Resource Center. To be situated on a

20-acre property near World Golf Village, the center will ultimately provide rescue, shelter, adoption, low/no-cost spay, neuter and vaccination services for dogs and cats, and an educational center to accommodate thousands of children and adult groups each year. As a result, Charlson is grateful for the support of Underwood's.

"They've been absolutely wonderful to us," she said. "It's been a terrific partnership. We hope to see it continue for many years."

For more information on Ayla's Acres, visit <http://www.aylasacres.org>.

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Retiring in 2015, Rosemary Takacs is a former JEA employee and active member of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach who is soon headed to Guatemala to assist with a water project. A twice returned Peace Corps volunteer, Takacs has a significant background in international development.

Rosemary Takacs

By Jon Blauvelt

What's your background?

The Michigan/Indiana region between I-94 and I-80 is where I spent most of my first four decades, including Michigan universities for undergrad and grad school. I majored in accounting and auditing with grad work in production and cost control. Most of my early CPA career was devoted to auditing manufacturers in the region. I was also raising my daughter Jennifer, who would eventually head to Indiana University Bloomington. When she left for college, I left for Peace Corps Paraguay, which would kick off my passion for international development.

What was next for you?

Four months after I arrived in Paraguay, the country's long-time dictator was overthrown, and the country was somewhat in turmoil. I stayed for another two years, picking up Spanish while organizing farmers' cooperatives, teaching accounting and even auditing an infamous agricultural collective. When I returned to the U.S., I was hired by the U.S. Mint San Francisco as a production controller, which led me to spend the next 15 years in Northern California. At the millennium, I switched from manufacturing coins to chemicals. But in 2004, the bust reached the pharmaceutical industry. By then, my daughter, her husband (Dr. and Mrs. John Lazzara) and my three young grandsons (Alex, Davis and Will) were settling in Ponte Vedra, so I was lured to the East Coast.

I soon joined JEA's internal audit staff, where I worked until my retirement in June 2015. While working at JEA, I was asked to translate for some water projects. JEA water department engineers had partnered with Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Rotary and others. A site selection team was formed in 2012 to assess various Honduran projects, and I was invited to go. Suddenly I was back in the international development field and would make five trips to Honduras over the next three years. On a whim, I decided to look at the Peace Corps website for Response (volunteers who have previously served as Peace Corps volunteers). There was an interesting short-term assignment: organizing a goat milk cooperative in Nebaj, Quiche, Guatemala. Six weeks after I retired from JEA, I was serving in Peace Corps Guatemala, where I would live and work until March 2016.

We understand you're headed back to Guatemala soon. What's the project all about?

I will be returning to Guatemala to assist with a water project in the community of La Esperanza in Sololá. The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, Beaches Rotaract and Rotary District 6970 are primary funding partners, with technical and construction support from the University of North Florida College of Engineering, Wisconsin Water for the World and Agua Para La Salud. Peace Corps Guatemala has offered to assign a volunteer to the community to teach hygiene and water quality monitoring once we complete the system. The volunteer will work with the community water board (Junta del Agua) to assist in establishing water rates and measuring consumption from a meter we are installing at each of the 120 houses and the school. The community of La Esperanza has raised nearly 30 percent of the construction funds, plus donating all of the unskilled labor, locally sourced sand, gravel and framing timber.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

For people who are unfamiliar with the global challenges surrounding water, what would you tell them?

To health professionals, clean water is key to avoiding waterborne parasites and related illnesses; 5,000 deaths daily are attributed to unclean water. To me, it is the key to success for so many women in the world. If they spend four hours daily hiking to streams and carrying water back to their houses, this time is lost for other productive purposes. Guatemalan women could earn money in coffee fields, textile weaving, raising vegetables or my favorite, raising goats. Children, usually girls, who have to carry water often miss school. As they hike to the remote streams, they are also vulnerable to assault. Clean/readily accessible water is key to health, but it also unlocks success.

What other civic efforts do you take part in around the community?

In addition to the many service projects initiated by the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, I also participate in the First Coast Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (FCRPCV) initiatives. From Daytona to Brunswick, Georgia (the First Coast), there are approximately 200

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) living and working in your midst. As a FCRPCV board member, I assist with Peace Corps advocating, recruiting and also refugee/immigrant settlement efforts. In 2017, FCRPCVs won the Loret Miller Rupee award for outstanding RPCV organization in the U.S.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Like so many Ponte Vedra grandmothers, I enjoy my grandson's successes in school, sports and scouts. I participate in an inquisitive book club and a challenging bridge game. Two to three times weekly, I don my PFD (personal flotation device) and step into a 42-foot long dragon boat with my fiberglass paddle for a work-out on the Intracoastal Waterway. I compete with the Jacksonville Dragon Boat Club throughout the Southeast, and sometime beyond. We qualified for races in Italy next July and plan to compete on the Arno River in Florence. Other nights you might catch me ushering at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall or the St. Augustine Amphitheater. I enjoy all types of live music. This past weekend, I was camping with several of my ushering friends at the Suwannee Roots Music Festival in Live Oak.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Jon Blauvelt
Editor

By Jon Blauvelt

If you would have told me five or 10 years ago that I would become the editor of the Ponte Vedra Recorder, I would have said, “You’re crazy. That’s too good to be true.”

I’m originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but I grew up vacationing in Ponte Vedra to visit my grandparents, Bob and Mary Mance. For several years, they lived out their retirement on Solana Road, and my family and I took an annual trip to visit them in this quaint, beautiful town.

I grew up going to lunch and dinner at

places like the Inn & Club, the Sawgrass Marriott and Barbara Jean’s. I grew up splashing around in my grandparents’ pool and hot tub overlooking the lagoon and taking walks to the beach via the access on Solana. I grew up taking an annual trip with my dad and two brothers to St. Augustine to visit the Alligator Farm and the Castillo de San Marcos.

As a result, Ponte Vedra became somewhat of a second home for me, so it’s hard to believe I’m now the editor of that community’s newspaper. Life is funny, right? With that being said, I understand how special this community is and value the opportunity to be sitting in this seat and informing you on the latest news.

Speaking of news, I’m now about four months into my role as editor, and I’m happy to share with you that I believe

we’re making tremendous progress as a community newspaper (My predecessor Jennifer Logue laid an amazing foundation!). We have a small but mighty staff that is innovative and talented. We’re working to make our product more digital, with significantly increased presences on Facebook and Twitter (Give us a like on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter at @PonteVedraNews.). We’re incorporating video, including live video, into our coverage, and we’ve also added a weekly podcast to our website that recaps each paper’s top stories (Visit Pontevedrarecorder.com, and click Weekly Wrap-Up at the top of the screen.). Our long-term goal is for these efforts to open up sponsorship opportunities for our advertisers. We understand where the journalism field is headed, and we are doing our best to jump on the digital train.

Yet we also understand that we have much more work to do. We have room to grow with our paper, our website and our social media platforms. However, to get to where we ultimately want to be, we need your help. That’s why I’m asking for your feedback today. Is there something you think we’re doing well? Is there something that you think we could improve upon? We want to hear about it. Send your feedback my way to Jonb@opcfla.com, and we’ll work to incorporate your thoughts and suggestions into our future efforts.

In conclusion, I want to thank you for your support. Whether you’ve been reading the paper since 1969 or last week, I can speak for everyone that we do truly appreciate it. We will continue to do our best in serving you as the community newspaper of Ponte Vedra and the Beaches.

Wreaths

Continued from 5

Appreciation for veterans in America

According to Quinn, there has been a “resurgence of appreciation” for veterans since the 2002 Iraq invasion. However, the retired sergeant major said that NFL players using the American flag and the national anthem as a platform for protest

constitutes a “measure of disrespect.”

“It’s my opinion and not that of the Veterans Council or Wreaths Across America,” Quinn prefaced. “I feel that it is a measure of disrespect, what we’ve seen in the NFL. There are forums to get your message across but during a period of time when we’re recognizing our nation and our sacrifices that the flag represents, what we’ve seen is not the time to do that.”

Although Quinn is critical of the NFL’s

recent anthem protests, he said there’s been a positive change in the perception of veterans since the Vietnam War, and a majority of Americans appreciate their service.

Quinn asserted that the Wreaths Across America project is beneficial for veterans and the community because it’s an opportunity for people to learn about history and appreciate the sacrifices of U.S. military personnel.

“I think part of the motto of Wreaths Across America is to learn and to teach,” Quinn added.

Anyone can participate in the Dec. 16 Wreaths Across America event at the St. Augustine National Cemetery; there is no sign-up required.

The theme of this year’s event is #I’mAnAmericanYesIAM. To learn more about Wreaths Across America, visit www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org.

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PV3-LV43590



Photo courtesy of Ponte Vedra High School

The Ponte Vedra High School theatre department will present "Rumors" by Neil Simon on Oct. 19-22.

Ponte Vedra HS theatre program to present 'Rumors'

The Ponte Vedra High School theatre department will present "Rumors" by Neil Simon Oct. 19-22 in the PVHS Auditorium.

The farce comedy takes place in late 1980s New York and focuses on a group of middle-aged high-class friends trying to cover up the attempted suicide of their friend Charley Brock to protect his reputation and prevent unwanted consequences from surfacing in the future. Rumors. Gossip. Gunshots. How would you be able to handle showing up to your best friend's 10th wedding anniversary and discovering he had shot himself?

"This production will be quite different from the previous shows performed at Ponte Vedra High School," said stage manager Kyle Lozano. "With its endless comedic content, the audience won't find

a break from laughter."

Director Jason Nettle, together with his cast, brings script to reality in the most memorable way possible. Nettle has previously produced shows at Ponte Vedra High School such as "Almost, Maine," "Into the Woods" and "Guys and Dolls." He credits his success to his group of young actors and actresses and also his technical crew, which he has dubbed "the best tech crew in the world." Requiring assistance for the direction of this show, Nettle enlisted PV students Maggie Frantz and Cassandra Dayton. Dylan Howick is serving as the production's technical director.

"Rumors" will be presented at PVHS at 7 p.m. Oct. 19-21, and 2 p.m. on Oct. 22. Admission is \$10. Ponte Vedra High School is located at 460 Davis Park Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.



Photo courtesy of Nease High School

Nease High theater students Alex O'Brien (from left), Katie Logue, Alexandra Hudson and Karilyn Jakobs perform a scene from "I Remember Mama," which will be presented Oct. 19-22.

Nease theatre program to present 'I Remember Mama'

The Allen D. Nease High School theatre program will present its production of the classic play "I Remember Mama" Oct. 19-22 in the school's Performing Arts Center. The public is invited to attend this family-friendly play about a Norwegian immigrant family in early 20th-century San Francisco and their pursuit of the American Dream.

Directed by theatre teacher Brad Segal, "I Remember Mama" tells the story of the Hanson family as seen through the eyes of eldest daughter Katrin (to be portrayed by student Alexandra Hudson). Now an adult author, Katrin recalls happy scenes from her childhood, and many of her reminiscences revolve around her hard working and supportive mother, Marta (Katie Logue). The audience follows the Hanson family as they struggle to raise their four

children, earn the money to send son Nels (Noah Mastoridis) to school and support Katrin's dream of becoming a writer. The heartwarming story stresses the importance of valuing family, education and hard work over material possessions.

Nease's production of "I Remember Mama" debuts 73 years to the day the play premiered on Broadway, produced by the legendary team of Rodgers and Hammerstein and featuring the Broadway debut of Marlon Brando. The play was later turned into a popular movie starring Irene Dunne.

"I Remember Mama" will be presented at 7 p.m. Oct. 19-21, and 2 p.m. Oct. 22. Admission is \$5 and tickets are available at the door. Allen D. Nease High School is located at 10550 Ray Road in Ponte Vedra.

Ponte Vedra Beach 11-year-old publishes travel journal about Galapagos Islands

Grayson Rigby, an 11-year-old author and conservationist from Ponte Vedra Beach, published "Expedition to the

Galápagos Islands" following a family vacation there. Rigby was inspired by the endemic and unique animals and

wrote daily in his journal about his observations and personal interactions.

Included in the book are face-to-face animal encounters from a child's perspective, full color photographs and illustrations of the islands' endemic animals in their natural environment. "Expedition to the Galapagos Islands" spotlights animals such as the endangered Galapagos giant tortoise, vulnerable marine iguana, flightless cormorant and more.

The 11-year-old is donating a portion of his book sales to the Galapagos Conservancy, a nonprofit group assisting in ongoing research, conservation management and education in the archipelago. "Expedition to the Galapagos Islands" is available on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble stores.

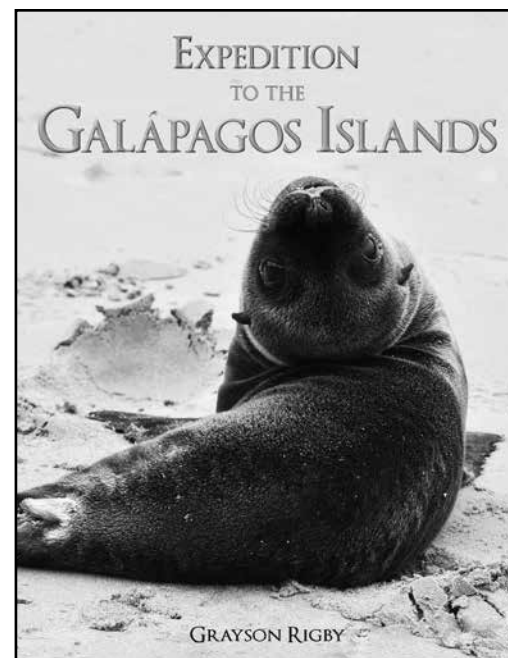


Photo courtesy of Monique Rigby



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Nease NJROTC celebrates its victory at the Ed White Drill Meet.

Nease NJROTC places first at Ed White Drill Meet

Nease NJROTC won its opening drill competition of the 2017-2018 season, taking home first place for the fourth consecutive year at the annual Ed White High School NS1 (freshmen) Drill Meet on Sept. 30 in Jacksonville.

In addition to claiming the overall trophy, Nease picked up first place trophies for Academics, Armed Basic Drill and the 8 x 220 Relay Race. The group also picked up second place in Personnel Inspection, Unarmed Basic and the 16 x 100 Relay Race.

“It’s the Nease way,” said senior Cadet Niko Paspalaris, who commanded the Unarmed Basic Drill team. “Our senior cadets train the freshmen nearly every day. We compete against great programs, and we decided as a group that we would not be out-worked.”

Several cadets took home individual honors as well. Cadet Dylan Dosio won first place in Academics; Forrest Vosburg won the Knockout Drill; Emily Stanley won the Women’s Mile and Andrew Sakala finished second in the Men’s Mile.

“Our freshman (NS1) class has demonstrated tremendous work ethic since the first day of school,” said Drill Team Commander Erin Sass, who led the team into the competition. “Their efforts were justly rewarded.”

Nease has been recognized for having



Photos courtesy of Nease NJROTC

Cadet Mac Davis leads Nease NJROTC during the Personnel Inspection event as active duty Marine Corps and Navy non-commissioned officers prepare to inspect the cadets.

one of the top NJROTC programs in the nation. The school’s unit has been ranked the No. 1 unit in Area-12 – which includes North Florida and the State of Georgia – for five of the past six years, and was the No. 1 unit in the nation in 2015.

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NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF TAX ROLL

Pursuant to Sections 193.122 and 197.323, Florida Statutes, Notice is Hereby Given that the Tax Roll for St. Johns County was Certified to the St. Johns County Tax Collector on the 12th day of October, 2017, for the Collection of 2017 Taxes Pending Value Adjustment Board Changes.

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Thursday, Oct. 19	Friday, Oct. 20	Saturday, Oct. 21	Sunday, Oct. 22
<p>Annual UpLift with A.S.S.I.S.T. The UpLift with A.S.S.I.S.T. event will provide the majority of funding for the A.S.S.I.S.T. program, which helps SJCS D homeless students and families. It will feature a dinner and silent auction. UpLift will take place at the Character Counts Conference Center at First Coast Technical College from 6 to 9 p.m. Visit ink-StJohns.org or call (904) 547-7589 for more information on tickets.</p> <p>'I Remember Mama' theatre production The Allen D. Nease High School theatre program will present its production of the classic play "I Remember Mama" Oct. 19-21 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. The public is invited to attend this family-friendly play about a Norwegian immigrant family in early 20th-century San Francisco and its pursuit of the American Dream. Admission is \$5, and tickets are available at the door.</p> <p>'Rumors' by Neil Simon at Ponte Vedra High School The Ponte Vedra High School theatre department will present "Rumors" by Neil Simon, a farce comedy dealing with the consequences of misinterpreted communication and uncoordinated cover-ups, Oct. 19-21 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 22 at 2 p.m.. Admission costs \$10. "Rumors" is set in late 1980s New York and focuses on a group of middle-aged high-class friends trying to cover up the attempted suicide of their friend Charley Brock. For more information, contact Maria Gaynor by phone at (724) 771-8618 or by email at Mariagaynor135@yahoo.com. Ponte Vedra High School is located at 460 Davis Park Road.</p> <p>'Children of Eden' Christ Episcopal Church School of the Arts will present "Children of Eden," a musical directed by Jason Collins. Children of Eden will run Oct. 19-22 in the Fine Arts Center at Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach. An opening night party is set for Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Visit ChristEpiscopalChurch.Org/eden-series for more information.</p>	<p>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting 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>Cannon Firing Demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum/monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. The Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Homes & Buildings tour Journey through St. Augustine's past and view the unique architecture of the oldest, continuously inhabited city in the United States in this St. Augustine Homes & Buildings tour. The cost to participate is \$16 for adults and \$10 for youth. The tour meets at the clock tower near the Visitor Information Center at 11 a.m. Reservations are required. Visit www.staugustinehistortours.com to book a spot.</p> <p>Murder Mystery Dinner The third annual Murder Mystery Dinner will take place at the Amelia Island Book Festival, which benefits literacy for Nassau County students, Oct. 20 at 6:15 p.m. at the Golf Club of Amelia Island. Guests will be treated to a performance of "Any Body for Tea?" - a fast-paced comedy mystery thriller directed by Kate Hard and written by C.B. Gilford. Tickets cost \$100 per person, which includes a three-course gourmet dinner, show, mystery drink and dessert. To purchase tickets, visit www.ameliainlandbook-festival.org and click "murder mystery tickets." The Golf Club of Amelia Island is located at 4700 Amelia Island Pkwy.</p>	<p>Tri-Base Navy Ball The Tri-Base Navy Ball will be held Oct. 21 at the Renaissance hotel at World Golf Village. This annual event celebrates the men and women who serve in the military. Active and retired military, and the general public are welcome to attend. A cocktail hour starts at 6 p.m., with a program and meal at 7. There will be Scottish pipes and drums, a color guard, recognition of various military and their achievements and gifts for everyone. Admiral Bill Moran, vice chief of naval operations, will be the keynote speaker. For more information, including details about tickets, visit www.tribasenavyball.com. Renaissance Hotel is located at 500 S. Legacy Trail in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Collage Day Fall Festival Collage Day School's free Fall Festival will feature pumpkin decorating, corn hole, apple bobbing, a scavenger hunt, a doughnut on a string competition, fortune telling, pumpkin bowling, a tattoo booth, face painting and more. The event, to be held Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., is sponsored by Keller Williams Atlantic Partners - Team Generation, which is offering a free fall photo for each guest, along with hot dogs and refreshments. Contact info@collagedayschool.org for more information, or call (904) 900-1439. Collage Day School is located at 171 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Jacksonville Spartans fall service project The Jacksonville Spartans, the official North Florida affiliate of the Michigan State University Alumni Association, is looking for all Michigan State University Alumni to participate in this year's fall service project supporting The Salvation Army and The Mission House. Alumni are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to either or both of the next two MSU football game watch parties at Philly's Finest Oct. 21 and Nov. 4. The non-perishables collected will be used to put Thanksgiving Day meal baskets together for delivery to local families. Philly's Finest is located at 1527 3rd St. N. in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 366-9993 or email tmchrabot@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Anglican bishop from Ghana visits Ponte Vedra Beach The Right Reverend Dr. Victor Reginald Atta-Baffoe, the fourth Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana, will be visiting Florida Oct. 22. He will hold an afternoon prayer and presentation followed by an extended interactive Q&A from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, located at 276 N. Roscoe Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Haunted Trail Collage Day School will host a Haunted Trail Oct. 21-22 and Oct. 27-30. Winding through the woodlands on the school's 8-acre campus, guests will encounter Halloween tricks and treats designed to create a fun and perhaps a little scary experience for all ages. Guests under 13 and their parents can enjoy a hayride along the trail, treats, characters and more from 5 to 6:30 p.m.. Guests 13 and up are treated to a scarier version of the Haunted Trail from 7 to 9 p.m. Visit www.eventbrite.com and search for "Haunted Trail" to purchase tickets. Contact info@collagedayschool.org or call (904) 900-1439 for more information.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Boat Show The Jacksonville Marine Association invites you to join the Ponte Vedra Boat Show Oct. 20-22 at 5460 Palm Valley Road (TPC Sawgrass parking lot) in Ponte Vedra Beach. The show will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10 for one car with one person and \$20 for one car with more than one person. Call (904) 724-3003 for more information.</p> <p>Festa Italiana The Italian American Club of Jacksonville will host Festa Italiana Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Oct. 22 from noon to 6 p.m. at 2838 Westberry Road in Jacksonville. The event will feature food, beverages, desserts, live entertainment and more. Admission is free. Contact Lucy Cortese at lucy.cortese@comcast.net or call (904) 586-2700 for more information.</p>

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Monday, Oct. 23	Tuesday, Oct. 24	Wednesday, Oct. 25	Thursday, Oct. 26
<p>Friends for the Arts Get involved in the arts by joining a team of fellow art supporters at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Help develop and support fundraising projects and help initiate special projects to benefit and promote the cultural center and the arts in our community. For more information, visit www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-the-arts.</p> <p>Alzheimer's Association Caregiver College session This is an interactive workshop hosted by the Alzheimer's Association in which participants will discuss tips for caregivers on what they need to know, what they need to plan and more. All programs will be held at noon on Mondays through Oct. 30 at the Ponte Vedra Memory Center located at 1048 A1A N. Call (800) 272-3900 to RSVP. Seats are limited.</p> <p>Pumpkin Patch Lord of Life Lutheran Church's pumpkin patch, located at 276 Roscoe Blvd. N., is open Monday to Friday at 2 p.m. until dusk; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to dusk and Sundays from 11 a.m. to dusk. It will be available through Oct. 31 while pumpkins last. Specific events (called "Family Fun Days") at the Pumpkin Patch will take place Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Oct. 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p> <p>'Geostorm' IMAX film at World Golf Hall of Fame "Geostorm" is showing at the World Golf Hall of Fame's IMAX theater Oct. 23 at 2, 4:30, 7 and 9:30 p.m. "Geostorm" is about a network of satellites designed to control the global climate that start to attack Earth, and a race against the clock to uncover the real threat before a world-wide geostorm wipes out everything and everyone. The World Golf Hall of Fame is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Book sale The St. Johns County Main Branch library will hold a book sale Oct. 23 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. A variety of books will be available. The Main Branch library is located at 1960 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>Jake Neuberg presentation A Stand-up comedian and the CEO of Revolution Prep, Jake Neuberg will present a lecture at the Ponte Vedra High School auditorium Oct. 24 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Learn about the cutting edge performance psychology research on growth mindset led by Stanford university Psychologist Carol Dweck, understand the difference between growth and fixed mindset, the dangers of labeling and more. This event is open to the public. For more information, contact Serene Afsh at serene.afsh@gmail.com</p> <p>Prenatal yoga Prenatal Yoga, taking place at the Y Healthy Living Center at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach, is a class for women to empower themselves through yoga, meditation and guided visualization. This approach is gentle and safe for women in all stages of pregnancy. Interested participants should bring a yoga mat, towel and water to class. There is a \$13 entrance fee per attendee. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit baptistjax.com/hlc to register.</p> <p>Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida The St. Augustine/Jacksonville Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida will hold the following events in October. A hike/walk in Mandarin will take place Oct. 24 and the annual Oktoberfest event will take place Oct. 29. Contact Lea at (904) 829-0643 for more information on venues, days, times and how to RSVP.</p> <p>Ageless Grace Ageless Grace is an ongoing class that will be held Tuesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. starting Oct. 24 at River House, located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine. This brain fitness program is based on neuroplasticity that activates all five functions of the brain—analytical, strategic, kinesthetic learning, memory/recall, creativity and imagination—and simultaneously addresses all 21 physical skills needed for lifelong optimal function. The movements are designed to be performed while seated in a chair, and almost anyone can do them regardless of most physical conditions. The cost to attend is \$4 for St. Johns County Council on Aging members and \$5 for non-members. Call (904) 209-3655 to reserve a spot.</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Wednesday Market Each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 60 to 80 vendors participate in the Wednesday Market at St. Augustine Beach. Vendors and artists display produce, prepared foods, local seafood, art, crafts and more. The market is held at the St. Johns County Pier Park at 350 A1A Beach Blvd in St. Augustine Beach.</p> <p>First Coast Card Club The First Coast Card Club will meet throughout the month of October at various locations in the Ponte Vedra/St. Augustine area. Join the group Oct. 25 at the Middleburg Clay-Hill Branch Library at 1:30 p.m. For more information on how to join this community of card players, call Lea at (904) 829-0643.</p> <p>An Evening With Courtney Lewis Jacksonville Symphony Music Director and Conductor Courtney Lewis will return to the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Oct. 25 at 6:30 p.m. for "An Evening with Courtney Lewis." Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library will have the chance to speak with Lewis one-on-one and participate in a food and wine reception at 6 p.m.. The Ponte Vedra Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p>Penumbra: The Space between Light and Dark Experience this exhibition showcasing the work of Julianne French, Debra Mixon Holliday and Masha Sardari at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, located at 50 Executive Way. The exhibition includes many mediums, such as photography, monochrome transfers and print making. Admission is free. The gallery is open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Oct. 12 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>'LinkedIn Online' This interactive presentation, entitled "LinkedIn Online," will be presented by adjunct lecturer and author Dr. Priscilla Berry Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon at Christ Episcopal Church's Parish Center Conference Room (second-floor). Guests are encouraged to bring laptops or tablets and copies of resumes to begin sketching a LinkedIn summary. To RSVP, email Pam Ottesen at pottesen66@gmail.com. The Parish Center Conference Room is located at 400 San Juan Drive at Solana Road E., Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Team Halloween Charity Fundraiser Party for a cause at Hope at Hand's Team Halloween Charity Fundraiser set to take place Oct. 26 at Hyperion Brewing, located at 1740 N. Main St. in Jacksonville, from 7 to 10 p.m. This event will feature costume contests, music provided by DJ Kamren and more. The cost to participate is \$50 per person (price includes two complimentary drink tickets) or \$150 for a group of four. You must be 21 or older to participate; all proceeds will support the poetry mission of Hope at Hand. To purchase tickets, visit EventBrite.com and search for "Team Halloween Charity Fundraiser" or contact Destiny@HopeAtHand.org.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to recorderintern@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>



FORUM ON GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24



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PVPV-RAWLINGS RAISES OVER \$95,000 THROUGH TURTLE TROT



PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School's 7th Annual Turtle Trot was held Oct. 12 to help promote a fitness attitude, while raising funds for the school. Sponsored by Coastal Luxury Outdoors and the school's PTO, the initial goal was exceeded, with the project raising over \$95,000. All funds will stay with the school and will go towards the purchase of computers, projectors, printers, audio equipment, PE and recess equipment, art supplies, library materials and very much-needed water fountains on the playgrounds.

Photo courtesy of PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School

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SPARK! WINS TOP HONORS AT JACKSONVILLE SENIOR GAMES



Photo by Jon Boyton

Spark!, a dance troupe from Del Webb in Nocatee, won best choreography and best overall in the Oct. 3 line-dancing competition of the Jacksonville Senior Games. According to a representative from the group, there were no other line-dancing groups from the Beaches communities in the competition. Unlike with most of the categories of competition in the Jacksonville Senior Games regionals, there is no state-level competition for line-dancing. The Florida Senior Games are scheduled Dec. 2 to 10 in Clearwater. For information, visit <http://www.flasports.com/florida-senior-games/>

Town Square Office Park to expand business offerings

Construction is now underway on Town Square Office Park at the Nocatee Town Center, according to Nocatee representatives.

The professional office park will include six pads for small businesses that want to own the land and the building. Town Square Office Park will be located north of the Enclave at Town Center neighborhood, west of Watson Realty.

“The new office and retail space is a natural response to the tremendous growth Nocatee has experienced in the past two years,” said Rick Ray, President of The PARC Group, in a blog on the Nocatee website.

Other Nocatee Town Center updates

The variety of eateries at the Town Center is also rapidly expanding. Restaurants such as Jersey Mike’s Subs, Timoti’s Seafood Shak, Treylor Park, and South Kitchen are all slated to open in 2018.

Additionally, two new retailers will be celebrating Nocatee grand openings later this week: Gwen Berlin and Bicycles Etc. Both are located beside a new retail building by Regency Centers that includes GNC Health Store, Orangetheory Fitness, Artsy Abode, Ponte Vedra Golf Carts and Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming (opening soon).

The Bicycles Etc. grand opening will take place Oct. 20-22. All bicycles, parts and accessories will be on sale. Bicycles will be up to 50 percent off, while parts and accessories will be 25 percent or

more off (some exclusions apply). All cycling shoes, shorts and gloves will also be on sale. Guests can enjoy appetizers and drinks Oct. 21 from 3 to 7 p.m.

The grand opening of Gwen Berlin’s new store in the Nocatee Town Center will take place Thursday, Oct. 19 and will feature a raffle for a free pair of denim, all day giveaways, discounts, goodie bags and snacks from 5 to 8 p.m.

More on Treylor Park

Slated to open in spring 2018, Treylor Park Restaurant will feature outdoor seating and offer re-imagined Southern comfort food, cocktails, craft beers and more. Located south of Publix and RE/MAX Unlimited on Marketside Avenue, the vintage-chic eatery will offer lunch, dinner and weekend brunch options.

“We are extremely excited to bring Treylor Park down to Nocatee this spring, and we look forward to becoming another feather in the hat of such a great, growing community,” said Treylor Park owner Rick Kunzi.

The owners of Treylor Park currently have two restaurants – Treylor Park and Hitch – in downtown Savannah, Georgia. Both restaurants have been featured by the New York Times, Food Network, South Magazine and the Travel Channel. They have also picked up several accolades along the way, including Best of Savannah’s award for “Best New Bar,” and a two-time winner of the “Eat It and Like It” awards with six nominations.

Nocatee’s Coastal Wine Market introduces new chef

By Samantha Logue

Since opening last year, Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room at Nocatee Town Center has become known locally for its wide selection of wines and craft beers. What many in the community do not know, however, is that the business recently added a new and flavorful menu selection, courtesy of its new chef, James Coffey.

Open Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Coastal Wine Market offers an assortment of artisan foods perfect for pairing with the wine or beer of a customer’s choice.

“I’m trying to make a menu that has something for everybody,” Coffey said. “We have everything from Italian stuffed mushrooms to shrimp pad Thai, and we’re going to be working on some Latin dishes coming up.”

Coffey has an extensive background in the restaurant business, having started out as a busboy at the age of 15.

“I’ve worked in many restaurants in North and South Florida over the years,” he said. “I’ve traveled the country to try different flavors and cuisines. I’ve explored restaurants in New York and New Orleans, and am currently planning a trip to the Washington, D.C., area to cook with some talented chefs.”

Coffey said his passion for cooking is rooted in its intersectional nature, stating, “The way I see it, cooking is like art, history and science all mixed together to create something special.”

A self-described “people-pleaser,” Coffey said his favorite way to make others happy is through cooking, so when he received Coastal Wine Market Co-owner Steve Lourie’s invitation to come work there, he was thrilled.



Photo by Samantha Logue

Chef James Coffey of Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room

“I’ve known Steve for a while,” Coffey said. “He was looking for some help, and I love cooking, so I just felt honored that he contacted me. I came onboard and I haven’t looked back. I’ve had a blast here.”

In addition to Coastal Wine Market’s nightly small plate offerings, the wine bar also recently began offering brunch on Saturdays.

“We’re looking to grow our brunch community,” Coffey said. “We serve brunch every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and we offer a lot of really unique and delicious options, like our made-from-scratch lemon ricotta pancakes, which are absolutely amazing.”

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room is located at 641 Crosswater Parkway B in Ponte Vedra. For more details about its menu offerings, call (904) 395-3520 or visit www.coastalwinemarket.com.

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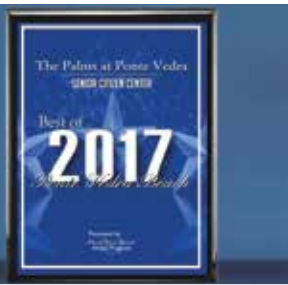
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"HOWL"-O-WEEN PET SPECIAL



Lucy and Jenny

Lucy and Jenny win annual pet costume contest

By Jon Blauvelt

The results are in! Congratulations to Mike and Michele Harris and their Yorkshire terrier, Lucy, and Maltese, Jenny, on winning the Ponte Vedra Recorder's "Howl"-o-ween Pet Costume Contest. As the top prize winner, Mike and Michele win tickets to Spook-tacular at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens.

Thanks to all of you who submitted photos of your pets. We loved them all and are happy to share them with the rest of the community in today's paper!



Steve, Gloria and Carli Smith's Doberman pinscher Comet



Patti Kotchkowski's boxer/bulldog Chelsea



Susan and Danny Griffin's cat Tabatha



Thuy Penedo's Chihuahua Nellie



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LOCAL FUNDRAISER RAISES OVER \$10,000 FOR S.A.F.E. PET RESCUE



Photo by Ed Johnson

A wine tasting held at Table 1 on Monday, Oct. 16 raised over \$10,000 for S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue, Inc., a nonprofit organization with the goal of saving adoptable dogs and cats from euthanasia in Northeast Florida (The organization has saved over 7,000 lives so far.). In addition to raising money for S.A.F.E, attendees of the wine tasting fundraiser also enjoyed appetizers, live music by Monkey Wrench band members and a silent auction. Guests were asked to bring a bag of pet food to the event. Pictured from left to right is the event fundraising committee: Pat Kasella, Dr. Karen Wolf (co-chair), Elaine Ferris, Jean Gleason, Carol Ginzig and Lisa Wargo (co-chair).



Photo courtesy of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty

A woman adopts a new friend at the adoption event.

Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty partners with Petco, TARAA on successful pet adoption day

Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty recently teamed up with Petco and TARAA for their Home for Dogs Project, a pet adoption day that ultimately resulted in six dogs and six cats finding new homes.

Held at Petco on Marsh Landing Parkway, the event took place Sept. 23. Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty also donated \$500 to TARAA, which is a nonprofit no-kill organization for the betterment and welfare of homeless animals in need. \$100 was also collected from the event in donations.

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LEFT: Helen Hughes presents a stuffed animal to be blessed by Mother Caroline.

BELOW: Cristina and Austin Ludwig enjoy the event with their dog Skye.

Photos courtesy of Christ Church Preschool

Christ Church Preschool holds 'Blessing of the Pets'

Students, teachers and parents from Christ Church Preschool gathered Wednesday, Oct. 4 for "Blessing of the Pets."

Mother Caroline, along with other members of the clergy of Christ Episcopal Church, conducted the official blessing of the pets. In addition, the preschool's annual community service project concluded, with goods that were donated throughout the month of September presented to Carol Holland, the ministry leader for St. Francis Ministry for Animals at Christ Episcopal Church (SFMCEC). SFMCEC is devoted to the support of local nonprofits that rescue, rehabilitate and adopt homeless pets.

The collected items will be distributed



to BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry), Katz 4 Keeps, First Coast No More Homeless Pets, The Mission House and River City Community Animal Hospital.



LEFT: Rev. Loch greets Scarlett and Lilly Hines during "Blessing of the Pets" at Beaches Episcopal School.

BELOW: A snake comes too close for comfort for Ella Palmer at "Blessing of the Pets."

Photos courtesy of Beaches Episcopal School

Beaches Episcopal students celebrate 'Blessing of the Pets'

Beaches Episcopal School students, parents and pets came together Thursday, Oct. 5 at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church to celebrate its annual "Blessing of the Pets" tradition.

From dogs to snakes to chickens, families brought fuzzy, furry and slithery animals from home to be blessed by Rev. Louanne Loch, rector of St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, and other vestry members of the church.



The Blessing of the Pets is a tradition held in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. North in Jacksonville Beach.

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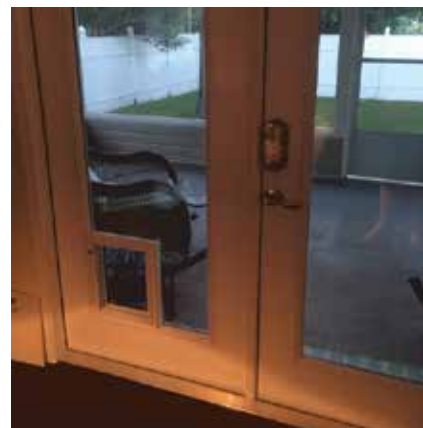
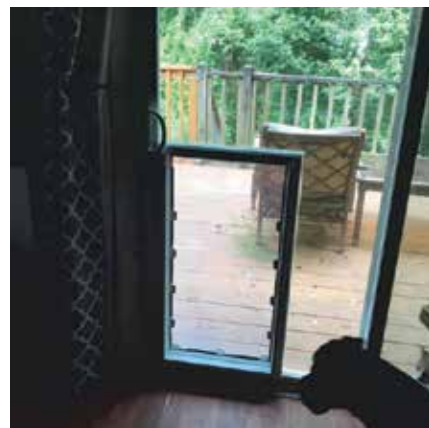
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Photo by Paris Moulden

Dr. Scott Wagner poses with Shadow, the Weimaraner who serves as the pet therapy dog for Eccella Smiles.

Beaches dental office casts Shadow to brighten more than patients' smiles

By Paris Moulden

"Everywhere you go, there he is."

Hence the name Shadow. And patients at Eccella Smiles seem to love him.

Shadow, a 2-year-old, 90-pound, three-legged Weimaraner, is the cuddly pet therapy dog at Dr. Scott Wagner's dental practice, located on Marsh Landing Parkway in Jacksonville Beach.

Shadow ended up with the Wagner family thanks to Dr. Wagner's wife, Kate, and her passion for the breed. Kate Wagner is the Southeast regional coordinator for the Grayter Good Weimaraner Rescue, which helps Weimaraners of all ages across the United States to find permanent homes or foster homes. Shadow was an abuse case found in Mississippi, and a team of seven people traveled 12 hours to bring him to the First Coast and his forever home, as well as his new career.

Shadow has been with the Wagners about a year now and has assisted at the dental practice around six months for two to three days a week.

"He just makes himself at home and goes up and welcomes everybody," Dr. Wagner said.

For the most part, patients love seeing Shadow at the office, and if for some reason a patient is allergic or not a fan, Dr. Wagner says the office is respectful of that. And some who weren't

sure about having a dog there at first were quickly convinced by Shadow.

"Once they get to meet him, they totally dig him," Dr. Wagner said. "He's super soft and he just loves everyone from the little kids who come in to my oldest patients, to everyone in between. He just wants to be loved on."

Considering his job, Dr. Wagner says having the extra help that Shadow provides goes a long way toward changing perspectives in his field of practice.

"The whole goal is just to have everyone feel good and be more relaxed," he said.

The Wagners have two other Weimaraners: Allie, a rescue, and Bella. They recently lost two others, Hanna and Porter. But it was Shadow's unique personality that made him a good fit for Eccella.

"He definitely does change just the attitude in the office of a lot of patients," Dr. Wagner said. "He'll sense someone, if they're upset or nervous, and he'll hop into the room and just puts his head on their lap. To be so young, he's very intuitive about that."

Kate said her love for Weimaraners began around 17 years ago when, without knowing anything about the breed, they got Hanna — and some surprises.

"I got the crazy dog that is as emotionally needy as a 4-year old," she said. "They're not like any other dog."

But because she was a big animal lover, she knew she couldn't get rid of her new Weimaraner;

so, she got another one.

"I became that crazy Weimaraner lady," Kate said.

After meeting Scott, Kate worried that having two "crazy" dogs might derail their relationship, but instead, he fell in love with them too.

Kate said the fact that Weimaraners become so attached and can be high-strung is the reason she focused on them.

"I'm crazy about the breed because they are one of the highest rate of return breeds, just because of how needy they are," she said. "It's just become a real passion of mine."

However, according to Scott, Shadow doesn't really fit the Weimaraner mold.

"Shadow is in his own world," Scott said. "He's just Mr. laid-back."

And Kate says Eccella Smiles patients see in Shadow what her family sees.

"People love him," she said. "He really has such a following at the office."

Dr. Wagner expects Shadow to have a long and successful career as a pet therapist at his office.

"I foresee as long as he's healthy and happy and continuing to love on people, he'll continue to be there in his part-time role," he said.

For more information on Eccella Smiles, go to www.eccellasmiles.com. For more information on The Grayter Good Weimaraner Rescue, go to www.thegraytergood.org.

Son of Mayo Clinic co-founder credited with helping launch pet therapy for modern era

The audience rode a wave of emotions as David Frei, longtime voice of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and pet therapy expert, shared dozens of stories — some comical, all heartwarming — during his keynote address at the second annual Therapy Animal Expo hosted by Therapy Animal Coalition on Oct. 7, at the Schultz Center in Jacksonville.

Frei's voice often choked with emotion when he recalled some of the patients, many of them children, whose lives have been touched over the decades by his four therapy dogs.

"His stories were inspiring," said Marcie Ryan, a Beaches resident and pet therapy volunteer at Baptist Medical Center-Beaches. "I have felt those same emotions when I've taken my dogs to visit patients at the hospital."

With a nod to Jacksonville, Frei told the story of his interview for Fox News Channel with Bill Wynne, who was based in the South Pacific during World War II. A fellow GI found a 4-pound Yorkshire terrier in a foxhole. Wynne ended up with the dog and named her Smoky. She helped the war effort by running cables and wires through pipes, but it was Smoky's other "job" that connected her to the expo audience.

While he was hospitalized with dengue fever in 1944, Wynne's buddies brought Smoky to the hospital to cheer him up. After seeing Smoky, nurses asked Wynne if he would allow them to take the dog on their rounds to visit the injured troops — if their commanding officer approved.



Photos courtesy of the Therapy Animal Coalition

David Frei addresses the audience at the Therapy Animal Expo.

The commanding officer did approve, and it was none other than Dr. Charles Mayo, son of Mayo Clinic co-founder Dr. Charles Horace Mayo. Once Wynn recovered, he and Smoky regularly visited the wounded in military hospitals. Animal Planet credits Smoky with being the first therapy dog on record.

"When I think about pet therapy, I think about the great things our pets do for us and for other people," Frei said. "That's what it's all about. You are changing people's lives, at least for the moment. And, it will change your life, too."

Kristi Leonard, a Ponte Vedra resident and president of the board of Therapy Animal Coalition, said Frei brought to life the profound impact of pets.

"In addition to his keynote address, he provided helpful information and insights during a roundtable discussion among the chairs of some of our local pet therapy programs," Leonard said.

Since the first Therapy Animal Coalition expo in 2016, the number of therapy animal teams volunteering in Northeast Florida has increased by 64 percent, according to the organization.

Nease Animal Hospital to offer puppy and obedience classes

Puppy classes are starting at Nease Animal Hospital Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

The clinic's classes are designed to teach life skills, breed confidence in the puppy and foster a lifelong love of learning. Nease Animal Hospital teaches owners and their puppies using force-free, positive methods that will ensure the puppy gets off to the right start in life. The clinic's trainer, Juli, has been training dogs for over 20 years and is eager to help owners and their furry friends learn all

the skills they need to become an awesome part of the family.

The cost for the classes is \$100 for six weeks of sessions. Puppies should be between 9 weeks and 6 months of age, and up to date on their vaccinations.

The clinic will be offering a beginning obedience class for older dogs once the puppy class is up and running.

For more questions, call the Nease Animal Hospital at (904) 209-5740. The clinic is located at 10440 U.S. 1 N. in St. Augustine.



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Business Weekly

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017
PAGE 22

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

New business invites locals to escape into virtual reality

By Samantha Logue

Two of the latest trends in entertainment have made their way to the St. Augustine/Ponte Vedra area in just one business. A combined virtual reality arcade and escape room, VR Gaming: The Great Escape offers gaming enthusiasts the opportunity to escape from reality into the live-action storyline of their choosing. Although the business is already open to the public, a grand opening event is planned for Saturday, Oct. 21 from 2 to 4 p.m.

“We opened right around the beginning of September—just in front of Hurricane Irma and just in time to shut down,” owner Barry Pakenham laughed. “It’s hard to run virtual reality in the dark.”

Having survived the hurricane, VR Gaming: The Great Escape has been attracting local gamers for the past month. While many businesses have popped up in recent years to capitalize on one of these two forms of entertainment, Pakenham said he feels his

decision to offer both virtual reality gaming and an escape room is what makes his business stand out. What makes him most proud, however, is how his family came together to get everything up and running.

“My son and I basically put the virtual reality computers together,” he said. “You can’t buy a regular computer and do this—you’ve got to build it yourself. And my two daughters and my wife did the entire escape room, so it’s been a pretty fun family effort that everyone chipped in for.”

With a total of eight gaming stations and 12 different games to choose from, Pakenham said that the virtual reality side of the business allows players to totally immerse themselves in a game—so much so that it feels like reality.

“You are in the game, so when you put the headphones on and grab the controllers, it’s directly in front of you, and everything around you for 360 degrees works as if you are there,” Pakenham said. “When there are games where it appears as



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ESCAPE continues on Page 23



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Photo by Samantha Logue

BRANDED 2017 RECOGNIZES LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted its "Branded 2017" luncheon Friday, Oct. 13 at the World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort to recognize business leaders who have made a positive impact in their community. From left: Toni Boudreaux, director of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division, and Wendy Spencer, the event's keynote speaker and president and CEO of Leadership Florida.

Escape

Continued from 22

if there's a huge drop, you'll hear people say, 'If I step over this, will I fall?' It sounds absurd until you're actually doing it."

As for "The Great Escape Room," it is another form of immersive entertainment in which a group of two to eight players, in a race against time, are locked in a room and must work together to solve all of the puzzles before their 60 minutes are up. According to Pakenham, the challenge is no easy feat.

"We're toning it down, because nobody's made it out yet," he laughed.

Located across from Nease High School at 10440 U.S. 1 North, Suite 118 in St. Augustine, VR Gaming: The Great Escape will donate all proceeds from its Grand Opening to the Jacksonville Humane Society. Entry into the event will cost \$5 at the door, and will include a 10-minute session of virtual reality gaming, two slices of pizza, a drink and a raffle ticket for a \$50 VISA gift card. Visit www.vrpontevedra.com for more information.

Pay yourself first, automate, get out of the way



Harry Pappas
Columnist

By Harry Pappas

In our endeavors, we should position ourselves for the best chance of success.

This concept applies to investing as well, as it is vital to make a prudent and informed decision based on proven principles that historically have shown excellent results. Moreover, if we want to stack the odds in our favor, there is no more critical belief than to "pay ourselves first" and then allow our money to work for us (hopefully grow) for the next 10, 20 or 30 years.

Unlike life, stock market returns—measured by the S&P 500—have been shown to be less volatile when viewing results from a long-term perspective than when witnessed from a short-term view. Of course, life works just the opposite, as the present is much more predictable than the future. This dichotomy is the primary reason that investors cannot hang onto stocks for the long-term. In other words, they allow their present emotions to wreak havoc with their investment decisions.

Of course, short-term, gut wrenching volatility of the stock market can be scary even for seasoned investors. However, when we gaze at the same information over a long period of 10, 20 or 30 years, the unpredictability is not as frightening, which is why I believe the foundation of successful investing is "time." We need to understand that time is our friend!

Furthermore, if we are a "pay you first" investor that automates our decision making process and then gets out of the way, bear markets (extended decline in stock prices) are good for us! That is

correct because bear markets can be a wonderful opportunity to buy stocks at a lower price, which can help us build wealth quicker.

Regrettably, long-term investing is not sexy enough for many investors. Instead, there are too many eager beavers hyper-ventilating with excitement while watching shows with talking heads that make endless predictions about the economy and the next great hot stock. We need to get rid of the noise and nonsense because if we do not, the chances are high that we will fall prey to the dynamic duo of fear and greed, which repeatedly creates remarkable chaos for one's portfolio.

Paying yourself first and getting out of the way is a simple principle in theory but an incredibly difficult one in application. Because of the difficulty to remain disciplined to pay ourselves first is why we should automate. Automation relieves us of the burden of having to write checks repeatedly.

Unconsciously investing monthly, quarterly or yearly essentially eliminates our need for will power. In other words, our goal is to remove the temptation of not paying ourselves first! Sadly, the way I see it is that most folks pay everyone first and whatever is left, they "invest" in themselves. Paying yourself last has usually not been a realistic strategy for building wealth. Not only is this methodology arguably a poor way for you to become independently wealthy, but it flies directly in the face of another vital principal: keep expenses relatively low, reduce liabilities and here is the key, diligently build a base of solid assets.

The secret to building wealth is not the strategy itself, but rather the execution. Without question, the biggest risk to my long-term wealth creation is me! Guess who the biggest risk is to your long-term wealth creation? You!

There is simply no escaping the fact

that managing human behavior is the keystone to being a successful investor because our emotion and short-term thinking make us strangers to common sense. In the end, psychology trumps financial education! To build wealth over the long haul, we must have the desire, discipline and willingness to do what so many others simply will not or cannot do.

In the final analysis, building wealth is simple but not easy. The primary roadblock for most folks is their tendency to seek complexity and ignore simplicity, which has been alive and well for years, and it shows no sign of slowing down. I will allow Leonardo da Vinci to provide me with my closing remark: "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication." Pay yourself first ... automate ... get out of the way!

Harry Pappas Jr. CFP®
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Pappas Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors
818 North Highway A1A, Ste 200
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904-273-7955
harry.pappas@wellsfargo.com

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Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



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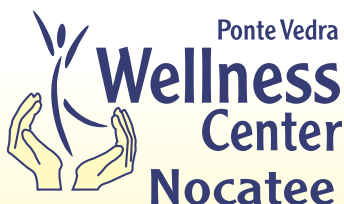
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Junior Pee Wee team posts undefeated season, eyes conference championship

By Zach Deutch

Special to the Recorder

Led by head coach Scott Owen, the Ponte Vedra Sharks Junior Pee Wee team has capped off a perfect 7-0 regular season and earned a No. 1 seed for the conference playoffs.

The Sharks powered their way to this unblemished record using a scheme similar to that of our local NFL team: ground-based offense, control of the clock and stifling defense. Unlike the Jaguars, however, the PV squad has been consistent from week to week, and has only given up 12 points the entire year.

The road to the postseason began Sept. 23, when PV put its 3-0 record on the line at Oakleaf Black. The Knights threw everything in their playbook at the Sharks, attacking both in the air and on the ground, hoping to generate chunks of yardage and keep the voracious PV defense on its heels.

Nevertheless, Oakleaf was able to manage only one explosive play, a 20-yard gain on a counter, and simply could not light



Photo courtesy of Karen Case

Bennett Baumgartner runs through a Fleming Island defender en route to a first down.

PEE WEE continues on Page 28

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Nease, St. Augustine set for showdown

By Paris Moulden

After a commanding 63-28 win over Middleburg last week, Nease has continued to intensify its showdown against undefeated St. Augustine.

The Panthers (4-3, 2-0 District 4-6A) and the Yellow Jackets (6-0, 2-0) face off at 7 p.m. Friday at Nease.

Standout running back Jareem Westcott continues to be a dominating force for the Panthers' offense, rushing for 241 yards and four touchdowns against Middleburg.

"Jareem is having a great season and surpassed the 1,000-yard mark for the season last week," Nease coach Tim Krause said. "He is a huge part of our offense because he has the ability to turn a 4-yard run into an explosive play."

A week after going 11 of 12 for 222 yards and five touchdowns against White, quarterback Preston Staples was 3 of 7 against the Broncos, but he made his completions count, throwing for three touchdowns and 139 yards. Receiver



Jeff Heinemann/theimagecaddy.com

Nease's Jareem Westcott runs for some of his 200-plus yards in the game against Middleburg.

Ashton Wood caught two of the TD passes for a combined 112 yards receiving, and tight end Zach Sheffer had a 27-yard TD reception.

"Our plan will always be to establish the running game and create opportunities off it in the passing game," Krause said. "Preston

did a great job executing when called upon. When we are running effectively downhill and can capitalize with play-action down the field, we are a dangerous offense."

While the Panthers have been racking up the numbers offensively, St. Augustine's defense has been clamping down, holding

opponents to an average of 10.5 points per game. The Yellow Jackets have given up just seven points in their last three games, which included shutouts of Englewood and Ponte Vedra.

"We have a lot of respect for St. Augustine and the program they have built," Krause said. "They challenge you to play a clean, complete game in all three phases in order to win. As a coach, it is a fun game to prepare for because it challenges you to put kids in the best possible situations to succeed."

With the Panthers and Yellow Jackets tied atop the district standings, the winner on Friday will likely be in control of the conference.

"We know this is a big game for our program and our school community," Krause said. "The challenge is to make sure we play under control and don't allow the moment to be too big for us. As a team, we feel like we have continued to improve and build confidence in each other, and we are looking forward to Friday."

Sharks win on Senior Night

By Jerry Norton

Special to the Recorder

Ponte Vedra's Sharks celebrated Senior Night with an impressive 49-13 win over the visiting Terry Parker Braves last Friday, and while the night was intended to honor the seniors, it turned out to be a special night for a few underclassmen as well.

Shark senior quarterback Jack Murrah had plenty to celebrate, completing 5 of 6 passes for 106 yards and three touchdowns. His senior running back, Mark Calvin, rushed for 50 yards on 11 carries. Christian Herring, another senior back, added 24 yards and a touchdown. Senior wide receiver Rani Toma caught one of Murrah's touchdown passes, and senior kicker Riley Robbins converted five PATs. Senior kickers Brian Salzman and Mitch Levine converted the other two.



Shark underclassmen scored five of Ponte Vedra's seven touchdowns. Freshman Caden

Fordham started the rout scoring the first touchdown of the night on a sweep from 3 yards out.

ABOVE: Ponte Vedra's Caden Fordham runs with the ball during Friday's game against Terry Parker.

LEFT: The Sharks' Christian Herring bulldozes his way into the end zone for a touchdown.

Photos courtesy of Jerry and Chris Norton

Then junior Reese Russi teamed up with Murrah for a 12-yard score. Russi caught three balls for 43 yards on the night.

Junior Nick Pirris made the score 28-0 when he hauled in a toss from freshman quarterback Jacobi Myers on a play that covered 36 yards. The half ended with the Sharks up 28-7.

Ponte Vedra's defense stopped the Braves on a fourth-and-2 at the home team's 33-yard line, and four hard runs by Calvin gave the Sharks a first down at the Braves' 32-yard line. Then sophomore Tommy Zitiello gathered in Murrah's perfect pass to push the Shark lead to 35-7.

Following Zitiello's score, Parker wasn't able to get a first down and had to punt the ball away. Minutes later, Toma's touchdown catch gave Ponte Vedra its sixth TD and a 42-7 advantage.

Parker scored again in the fourth quarter but saw the point after blocked and trailed 42-13. Sophomore Collin Magill—with 30 yards on 13 carries—combined with Calvin to grind out three first downs to set up the final Shark score. It came when underclassman Zach Chattaway bulled over defenders from 2 yards out with one minute left in the game.

The Sharks offense benefitted from a solid effort by their defense. Parker was forced to punt three times, and the team turned the ball over on downs three times and had a pass intercepted (by Zitiello).

Leading tacklers for the Sharks were Herring with five and Connor McDonough, Gibson Pardue, Zitiello, Pete Merlini and Nick Greco all with four.

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PV2-LV43431

Pee Wee

Continued from 25

up the scoreboard. For its part, PV unveiled a high-percentage, intermediate-range passing attack to complement its patented “ground and pound” offense.

Tight end Jack Pelot was the primary beneficiary, leading the team with four receptions, including a fourth quarter touchdown from 20 yards out. This score emphatically put the game away, yet the Knights never really threatened. The game’s other TDs were rushes, contributed by Zach Martus, Ben Burk and Corbyn Fordham respectively, making the final score 23-0.

Another away contest loomed for the Sharks on Sept. 30, though an easier road trip to the recreational complex in Jacksonville Beach. Unlike Oakleaf, Jax Beach physically challenged Ponte Vedra at the line of scrimmage, fought to keep the game competitive and really forced the Sharks to earn a 12-0 victory.

The passing attack that had proved effective against the Knights never got on track against the Jaguars. Shark quarterbacks



Photo courtesy of Karen Case

Jack Brady (3) takes the ball on a jet sweep and follows the lead block of Corbyn Fordham (10) during the Oakleaf game.

combined for four pass attempts, with three incompletions and one interception. In a by now-familiar scenario, what won the day offensively for PV was a methodical, bruising ground game that produced 165 yards and two TDs, one by Burk and one by Bennett Baumgartner.

The relentless nature of the rushing attack was personified by Fordham’s performance. Of his five total carries, four produced critical fourth down conversions in which he attacked defenders and refused to go down until he

had bulled past the first down marker.

The Sharks’ sixth contest was a Hurricane Irma “make-up” game held at a neutral site (St. Augustine) against Fleming Island Blue, the sole remaining unbeaten team in the First Coast Conference. Spoiler alert—the much-anticipated dogfight between the top-ranked squads never materialized, and PV won easily.

The Sharks were unintimidated from the outset, forcing a quick Eagle three-and-out to start the game and then, after a change of

possession, ringing up a 38-yard Fordham rushing touchdown on the team’s first offense snap. The PV defense played an exceptional game, led by Fordham with two tackles for loss and two fumble recoveries. Linebacker Maddox Bostic had four tackles (including three for loss) and a fumble recovery of his own.

Fleming Island did not threaten the end zone until late in the game when the score was out of reach. Noteworthy on the offensive side of the ball was exemplary play in the trenches. The Shark offensive line consistently blew the Eagle defenders off the ball and opened large holes for ball carriers. Backs would generally be 4 to 5 yards beyond the line of scrimmage before they were touched by a defender. Baumgartner led all rushers with 75 yards; rushing TDs came from Fordham (two) and Burk, rounding out the score at 20-6.

Homecoming at Cornerstone Park on Oct. 14 was a festive affair, and the Sharks did not intend to let Orange Park spoil the proceedings, nor their perfect record. The Raiders, having scouted PV, were wise enough not to run “up the gut,” and into the teeth of the defense.

They therefore mixed passes with runs outside and had some moderate success with that strategy, but did not generate enough consistency to mount a sustained drive, let alone put points on the board. The Sharks were able to notch their fifth shutout of the season, by a score of 19-0.

Baumgartner was again the leading rusher with 71 yards and two first half scores, while wide receiver Griffin Owen added an insurance TD late in the game on a well-executed 9-yard jet sweep. The defense was paced by defensive backs Joe Mahoney (five tackles and one pass broken up) and Brian Case (second interception of the season).

Coach Owen, rightfully proud of his players and coaches, looked ahead to the postseason, commenting, “Between our kids and our staff, I like our position right now. We are playing well, but have the ability to make the adjustments and corrections needed to clear up any mistakes we detect.”

The top-seeded Sharks open postseason play on Oct. 21 in the conference semifinals, with a rematch against No. 4 seed Orange Park at Jax Beach.

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72						73				74				

THEME: FAMOUS POETS

ACROSS

1. Skilled practice
6. Suitable
9. Golf hazard
13. Saint _____ of the Caribbean
14. Placeholder surname
15. Strapping
16. Whatsoever
17. Ever, to a poet
18. Tree common to Pacific Northwest
19. *"O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done..."
21. *"Come live with me and be my love..."
23. Center of activity
24. Romanov ruler
25. It's wheels go round and round
28. Place for a hero
30. Between hexad and octad
35. Like a hand-me-down
37. Be inclined
39. Muralist Rivera
40. Hold sway
41. Strongboxes
43. F.B.I. operative
44. One who names
46. Justice's garb
47. "Wheel of Fortune" choice
48. Swell or very good
50. Antonym of "is"
52. Next to nothing
53. Metal leaf
55. Ship pronoun
57. *"'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves..."
61. Study of rocks

DOWN

1. Eagle's talons
2. _____ Bader Ginsburg
3. Berry high in antioxidants
4. Foul matter
5. Ancient rabbinic writings
6. Port in Yemen
7. *"Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary..."
8. 4 in a school year
9. *Dickinson: "Tell all the truth but _____ it slant"
10. Make over
11. Not many
12. Cremation pile
15. Like prison cell windows
20. Aids and _____
22. Expression of pleasure
24. Kitchen cover
25. *"O my Luve is like a red, red rose..."
26. Nothing out of the ordinary

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8				6		3		5
	7							8
5		6		8				2
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						7		
				9	3			8

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

27. Alabama civil rights site
29. *"The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea in a beautiful pea-green boat..."
31. Never, or when these fly
32. Dancer's beat
33. "Encore!"
34. *"Death, be not proud, though some have called thee mighty and dreadful..."
36. Adele's "Rolling in the _____"
38. Young socialites, for short
42. Common thing
45. Brownish red
49. Campaign pro
51. *"Do not go gentle into that good night..."
54. Intestinal obstruction
56. Choose a president
57. Not in optimist's vocabulary?
58. Month of Purim
59. Ice on a window
60. Smell badly
61. High school musical club
62. "The Simpsons" palindrome
63. Get the picture
64. Of long ago
67. _____ out a living

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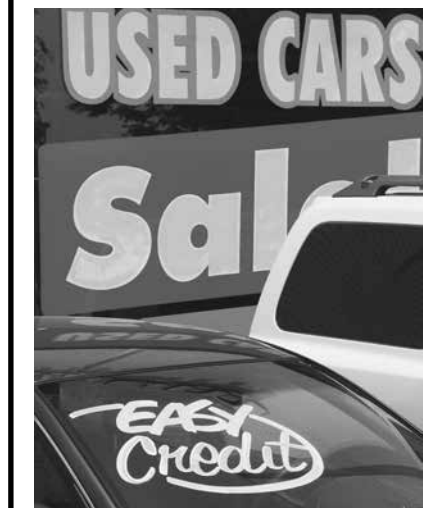
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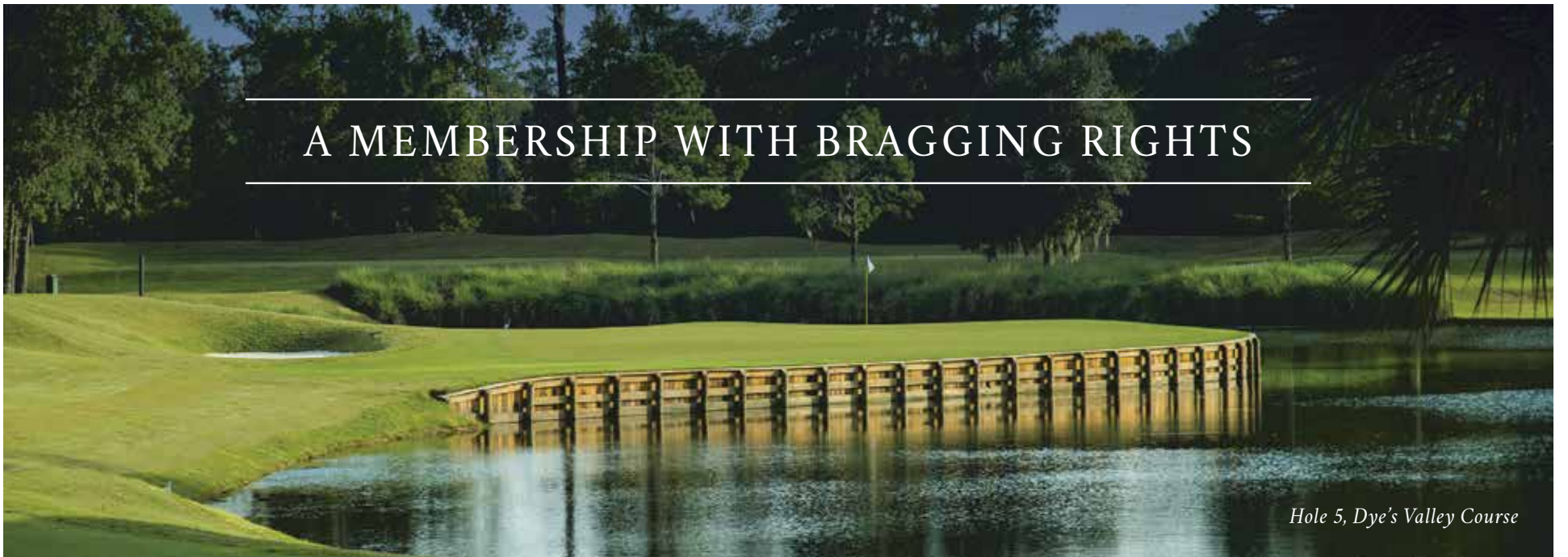
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