

Ponte Vedra Recorder



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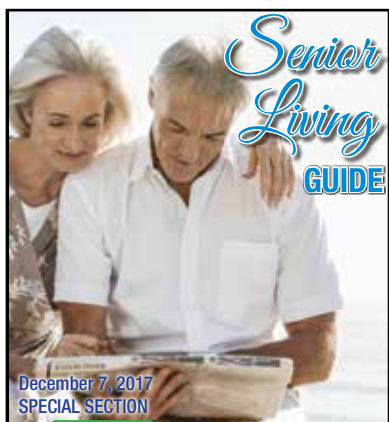
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Santa Paws Pets

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Senior Living GUIDE

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ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS VILLAGE COMES TO PONTE VEDRA



Kian, Fiona, Ronan and Desmond Fleck enjoy the festive fun of the Enchanted Christmas Village, which is based in Ponte Vedra this year. Read about a Ponte Vedra resident who brought the Village home on pages 12 and 13.
Photo by Jon Blauvelt



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Send us your news

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

E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com

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



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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

G	U	L	P		P	R	O		R	E	A	L			
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6	1	5	3	7	2	4	8	9

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

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

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

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

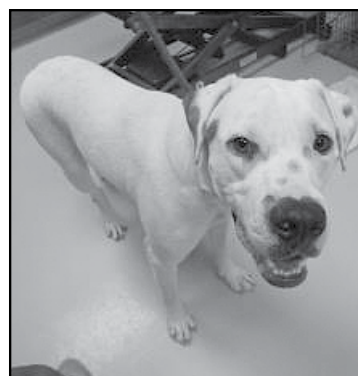


ADOPT A PET



CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Hiccup, and I am a 4-year-old male cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray, which means there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #40551



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Shiloh, and I am a 1-year-old male dog who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center with my sister

because our owners could no longer care for us. Come visit us today here at the pet center! #40333

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

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



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Sophisticated Coastal Living at its Best!

This 5-bedroom, 4+ bath, home is the epitome of southern charm with over 8,400 sq. ft. that showcase spectacular ocean views. The open living areas, including large formal dining room with grand fireplace, lend themselves to entertaining everything from large celebrations or simply enjoying intimate moments near a roaring fireplace. **\$6,375,000**



Spacious Waterfront Home in Old Ponte Vedra

Move-in ready with everything you are looking for! 3 bedrooms, 4.5 baths plus bonus/4th bedroom upstairs. Recent upgrades include new roof and Rhino Shield exterior ceramic paint, new pool marcite, a/c unit, windows and more. **\$1,295,000**



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Situated in the middle of the most desired oceanfront location in NE Florida! This first floor unit was totally renovated with the finest finishes and craftsmanship. 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath plus powder room, plus office. Has saturna floors, mahogany doors and built-in custom cabinetry. Includes 2 underground parking spaces and 2 storage units. **\$1,800,000**

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COLLECTION



WGVB WATERBURY EAST
\$749,000

Fabulous former model home with resort style pool and waterfall overlooking a private conservation area. This Tivoli model features an elegant gourmet kitchen with many upgrades, coffered ceilings, inlaid hardwood floors, designer window treatments, crown molding, an oversized 3-car garage and screened lanai with heated pool. MLS 910665

Thomas Duvall | 904.315.2065
TomDuvall@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



OXFORD ESTATES
\$549,900

Look no further, this David Weekly home accommodates all lifestyles! The Sunnyside floor plan offers a gourmet kitchen, lanai with heated pool, enormous master closet with laundry room access and peaceful views of the lake. From hardwood flooring to the custom touches throughout, this home has it all! MLS 910631

Gwen Templeton | 904.652.9003
GwenTempleton@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



FAIRFIELD
\$445,000

Waterfront gem with tremendous curb appeal. This pristine home is located on a quiet street in the gated Fairfield community. Enjoy your private paver patio, an updated kitchen, sunroom, spacious master suite and panoramic water and preserve views. MLS 909834

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



PALENCIA
\$379,900

Light-filled end unit townhome in the heart of Palencia, in walking distance to all amenities! This beautifully appointed Brylen built Avila model offers a first floor owners' suite, luxurious paver courtyard, many upgrades, designer touches & a 3-car garage. MLS 910782

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We're in your neighborhood.



PV2-LV45287

OPES principal Richardson appointed principal of new K-8 school in Nocatee

The St. Johns County School District (SJCS) announced that Jessica Richardson, principal of Ocean Palms Elementary School (OPES), has been appointed the principal of the new K-8 school currently being built in Nocatee known as "KK." Her nomination will be presented to the school board at its Dec. 12 meeting.

"Jessica has an innate ability to develop strong and lasting connections with students, staff, families and community members," said SJCS Superintendent Tim Forson. "She is the perfect candidate to provide a smooth transition to the new school."

Forson will gather input from staff and the community for the new principal of OPES on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 3 p.m. at OPES.

Richardson started her teaching career in St. Johns County 18 years ago and joined Ocean Palms as principal in 2014. Previously, she served as the assistant principal at Cunningham Creek Elementary School (CCES). She also taught second, third and fourth grade and served as an instructional literacy coach. Before joining CCES, she worked at PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School and Ocean Palms Elementary School, where she held her first position with the district as a third-grade teacher.

Richardson was named St. Johns County Assistant Principal of the Year in 2013. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Florida and



Jessica Richardson

a master's degree from Grand Canyon University.

"I am very enthusiastic about continuing my own professional journey alongside the students, staff and families in Northeast

St. Johns County," said Richardson.

The "KK" school, which is adjacent to Nocatee's Twenty Mile neighborhoods, is slated to open for the 2018-2019 school year. The building sits on 30 acres of property and consists of 190,000 square feet of operational space and 73 classrooms.

New principal at 'LL'

SJCS also announced that Allen Anderson, principal at Palencia Elementary School (PES), has been appointed principal of the new K-8 school being built in St. Johns known as "LL." His nomination will also be presented to the school board Dec. 12.

"Allen is an innovative and collaborative leader," said Forson. "I know that his familiarity with the community and ability to build rapport with students and parents will serve him well."

Forson will gather input from staff and the community for the new principal of PES on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 3:30 p.m. at PES.

Anderson has been the principal of PES



Allen Anderson

since the 2013-2014 school year and has more than 20 years of experience within SJCS. Prior to PES, he served as principal at Cunningham Creek Elementary (CCES), assistant principal at

Mill Creek Elementary and Durbin Creek Elementary schools, a curriculum coordinator at Switzerland Point Middle School and a teacher at CCES.

SJCS said PES has expanded its digital instruction and student use under Anderson's leadership. He has made maintaining a positive school culture a high priority and ensures that state and district mandates are communicated in a way that supports the school's mission and vision, the district added. SJCS noted he is extremely supportive of his staff and always lauds their successes, even when they won't.

"I am very thankful for the trust and confidence from Superintendent Forson," said Anderson. "While changing schools is always a bittersweet experience, I look forward to once again serving those in the Northwest part of our wonderful county."

Anderson was recently chosen as the 2017-2018 Principal of the Year for St. Johns County. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of North Florida and a master's degree from Jacksonville University.

Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park to experience temporary closures for beach restoration efforts

By Jon Blauvelt

Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park, including the parking lot, beach access and all related facilities, will experience intermittent, temporary closures beginning as early as this week through March 1 while the site is used as a staging area for beach restoration efforts.

Billy Zeits, the assistant director of parks & recreation for St. Johns County, said Mickler's will be closed Monday to Friday morning for the beach restoration project. The park and associated facilities, he said, will be open Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday to allow residents and visitors to access them on the weekends. He also noted, however, that if weather conditions are poor on any particular weekend, Mickler's may be closed then too.

Zeits explained that the closures are taking place to provide residents and their respective contractors the opportunity to place sand in front of their homes after hurricanes Matthew and Irma and subsequent nor'easters and high tides damaged

MICKLER'S continues on Page 5

'Brick by brick,' The DONNA Foundation paves way to breast cancer cure

By Samantha Logue

Oceanfront Park in Jacksonville Beach was a sea of pink last Tuesday, Nov. 28, as supporters of The DONNA Foundation gathered to dedicate the first installments of the nonprofit's new Brick by Brick campaign.

Founded in 2003 by former First Coast News anchor and breast cancer survivor Donna Deegan, The DONNA Foundation provides financial and emotional support to those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and funds research towards finding a cure. Launched earlier this year, the organization's Brick by Brick campaign offers supporters the opportunity to buy a commemorative brick to be permanently installed at Oceanfront Park in honor of those impacted by the disease.

"The whole goal with all of this was to have a place where we could honor people, a place to reflect, a place to say in one voice that we're going to finish breast cancer," Deegan said. "And to be able to have this legacy out here is really an amazing accomplishment."

Deegan explained that the idea for the campaign originated with First Coast News President and General Manager Rob Mennie. Mennie, who was at the event, said he was glad to have been able to contribute.

"Every single one of us knows somebody impacted by this disease," Mennie said. "We've prayed with them, we've cried with them, we've cheered with them when they beat this thing and now you all have the opportunity to permanently remember those people by buying a brick."

Jacksonville Beach Mayor Charlie Latham was also on site to express his support for the cause.

"This isn't about any one person; it's about a whole lot of people that have come together to do some wonderful things for a wonderful cause," Latham said. "It's so very important for us to be supportive as a community, and I'm so proud to see all of you here tonight."

To learn more about The DONNA Foundation's Brick by Brick Campaign, call (855) 693-6662 or visit www.mydonnabrick.com.



ABOVE: Donna Deegan opens the dedication ceremony for The DONNA Foundation's Brick by Brick campaign.



LEFT: Pink-clad supporters raise their lights in solidarity with those who have been impacted by breast cancer.

Photos by Samantha Logue

Ponte Vedra woman arrested on felony charges of attempted murder and aggravated battery



Allison Tomlinson

A 43-year-old St. Johns County woman was arrested on felony charges of attempted murder and aggravated battery Tuesday morning in reference to a shooting incident at her home, according to the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO).

Allison Mary Tomlinson of 274 Possum Trot Road was booked into the county jail on \$125,000 bond. SJSO said deputies responded

to Tomlinson's residence at 1:20 a.m. Tuesday morning. The suspect originally reported that she accidentally shot her husband, 43-year-old Christopher Tomlinson, who was transported to Orange Park Medical Center by fire/rescue personnel and is currently in stable condition, according to SJSO. Christopher Tomlinson originally told deputies that he had shot himself.

SJSO spokesman Commander Chuck Mulli-

gan said they knew both stories couldn't be true. Major Crimes Unit detectives responded and continued the investigation, speaking with both individuals. Based on the evidence obtained at the residence, detectives charged Allison Tomlinson with the two felony charges.

The suspect had a first appearance hearing Wednesday morning. Detectives are continuing the investigation.

Dinesh D'Souza honors Benghazi attack victims, outlines USA's path forward at 'America at a Crossroads'

By Samantha Logue

"When people fear their government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there's liberty."

That quote, shared by former CIA officer Kevin Shipp, received a standing ovation and effectively summed up the rest of the program at Turning Points in America's "America at a Crossroads" event, Sunday, Dec. 3 in Jacksonville.

A tribute to the four Americans slain during the Sept. 11, 2012, terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya, the memorial tribute opened with a wreath presentation ceremony – one for each fallen American – and salutes to military veterans, first responders and America. The program, which featured several conservative speakers, including keynote speaker Dinesh D'Souza, offered a scathing indictment on the ways in which the Benghazi attack was handled by former President Barack Obama and his administration.

"My home has better security than our embassy [in Libya]," said Stephanie Jason, who visited the embassy just three weeks after her good friend, U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, was killed in the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi. "I can't think of a more egregious and shameful thing than what happened in Libya, and to leave these men to die ... And after the fact, they pretend as if it doesn't matter. It does matter. Benghazi matters."

D'Souza, a best-selling author, filmmaker and political commentator, agreed, opening his remarks with an expression of relief over the new leadership in Washington, D.C.

"I, for one, am very glad we're not living in 'Hillary's America,'" he said, referencing the title of his 2016 documentary about former secretary of state and 2016 presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

According to D'Souza, Clinton and the rest of the Obama administration – including the former president himself – bear the brunt of the blame for what occurred in Benghazi and the controversial coverup that followed.

"We have a government that is charged with the primary duty of protecting us from foreign and domestic thugs," D'Souza said. "You have a situation in Benghazi which raises the question, 'What were these people thinking? What actually is going on here?'"

What was "going on," D'Souza contends, was a deliberate attempt by the Obama administration to weaken America's influence around the world.

"Never before have we had a secretary of state essentially put-



Photo by Samantha Logue

Dinesh D'Souza with wife Debbie D'Souza

ting American foreign policy up to the highest bidder," he said. "With Obama and Hillary, we got this confluence of forces—the one guy trying to scale back American influence in the world, and on the other side, you might say, the latest incarnation of the Corleone family installed in high office."

In contrast, D'Souza characterized the election of President Donald Trump last November as a "national reprieve" in which Americans can find a glimmer of hope for the future.

"This guy is pulling out of the trade pact, and he's fixing Obamacare and he's got the tax bill, but in the middle of all this, he finds time to swat Meryl Streep, and Saturday Night Live and the NFL," D'Souza said. "Trump recognizes the importance of fighting not only the political war, but the culture war."

Conservatives have been losing that cultural battle for decades, D'Souza said, arguing that with Trump and a new generation of social media influencers leading the charge, the tables might finally be turning.

"As conservatives, we have been a little bit negligent in letting the other side become so dominant in academia, and the media and the whole entertainment industry," he said. "We are in a situation where we need to use the weapons at hand, and we have the chance to make a big impact if we fight tough, if we fight creatively and if we use our influence."

"We are at one of those moments in American history where America has to be put back together again," D'Souza continued. "This America of ours is not lost. It's not even close to being lost. But, some very bad people have done it a great deal of damage, and it is our job, starting now, to begin the long work of restoration."

Mickler's

Continued from 4

their properties. The parking lot will be used as a staging area for the sand, which will then be transported by trucks via the beach access to homes both north and south of Mickler's.

"We're dealing with a unique situation of two significant weather events within the past year," Zeits said. "We have some coastal properties that have been compromised, and we want to give those residents an opportunity to restore their properties and minimize the closures to the public by taking a collective approach."

Zeits added that this work presents a safety concern if the park and facilities are open to the public at the same time.

A similar beach restoration project resulted in the closure of Mickler's and its facilities last year. Zeits said, however, that three times as many residents have filed requests with the county this year to use the beachfront park for the project. He noted that a small percentage of homeowners ultimately executed upon the project last year.

Zeits explained that residents filed the requests because they're unable to repair the damage via their own property and need to get to the affected areas from a different direction/method, which in this case is from the Mickler's access. Zeits said the Board of County Commissioners directed county staff to determine if it were possible to allow coastal construction access for "collective use," and staff deemed it was indeed plausible.

Zeits said the scope of each homeowner's restoration project is different based on the damage to the respective property. He noted that homeowners will all have permits with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for their respective beach restoration efforts.

As of now, Zeits noted that Fort Myers-based Coastal Erosion Protection Systems is the lone contractor to have filed a formal request with the county. That contractor's agreement with the county was ironed out earlier this week and, according to Zeits, lasts until March 1.

Once these beach restoration efforts conclude, Zeits said the county plans to restore the Mickler's walkover by May 1.

A Palm Valley resident, Lori Delgado Anderson is the executive director of Mission House, a Jacksonville Beach-based nonprofit that provides food, clothing, medical care and support services to help the Beaches-area homeless become self-sufficient.

Lori Delgado Anderson

By Jon Blauvelt

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I grew up in and am originally from California in the San Francisco Bay Area. I moved here eight years ago after marrying John Anderson, who I met on a mission trip with a Florida organization called Food for the Poor (FFP). Six months later when our group got back together here in Florida to do another project for FFP, John, or Jay as most people call him, told me he'd be coming to S.F. for business and asked if he could take me to dinner. We've been together ever since. I got the job after six months of living here. I had good management experience after working for United Airlines for 12 years as the assistant to the general manager and being an operations manager for ramp services. I was one of two women who held that position. After 9/11, I was then offered a job as operations manager for my church. We weren't sure at that time what was going to happen to air travel. St. Bartholomew's is where I had exposure to nonprofits like St. Vincent de Paul, Little Sisters of the Poor and others. I even made tuna fish sandwiches on Fridays for the homeless in San Mateo, California. Who knew that would also lead to Mission House.

What are your primary roles and responsibilities as executive director of Mission House?

At first, I pretty much did everything except case management. I wore many hats. As I started learning more about the possibilities of what we could do and people who could help us, I hired an incredible team of people to make things happen. We've gone from a staff of five to 11 in the seven-and-a-half years I've been there and from helping 36 people off the street to 79 last year. It's all because of the talented and educated staff and the incredible donors who help us accomplish these goals. I always said it doesn't matter if you are a church or a nonprofit, if you don't run it like a business, you won't be here tomorrow. I am responsible to make sure the donations we receive are used to the best of our ability to accomplish the goals of helping those on the street find a home.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love success, which in our field is getting someone a job or an apartment. The gratitude is overwhelming. The people we serve are so grateful for anything that we do to make their lives better. Come cook in the kitchen, and you will hear and see the gratitude of these folks for just a hot meal. We are small and can take the time to listen and hear what people need. Countless times from the patients in our free clinic, to our homeless clients, we hear their gratitude. They tell us they come to Mission House for help because they are not treated like a number, but with respect and dignity. Success is also showing a donor what we do and having them understand the need for their gifts. I have fostered many long-term donors who I am blessed to now call friends.

What's the biggest misconception about homelessness in the Beaches area?

The biggest misconception is that they are on the streets because they are lazy. Over 50 percent of all homeless people have mental illness. There was some type of trauma in their life that made them unable to get back on their feet when they were down. That's why Mission House is here. We know how to get them back on their feet, whether it be through counseling with our case managers, or help from the Mental Health Resource Center or any one of our partners who we work with. Our goal is to help them regain the life they once had. You would not believe some of our clients' stories. Many of them never had a chance with the environment they were raised in. It's very sad and makes us realize how truly blessed we are.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

How can people help your organization's efforts this holiday season?

Mission House offers many ways that people can become partners with us. Our Holiday Letter will be coming out shortly, and a donation would of course be greatly appreciated. For \$84 a month or \$1,000 or more a year, you become part of our Samaritan Circle. We're also building a new endowment so that we will be around as long as we're needed. If someone wishes to volunteer or see more of what we do, our website is the place to go: www.missionhousejax.org. The volunteer application is online, and you can sign up for a tour to see where you'd be most useful.

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

It took me three years to call Florida home, but now it really is. The weather is amazing. (I'm not so crazy about the two hurricanes I've been through ... I'll take an earthquake any day!) The pace is truly slower, and the people are so warm and friendly. I was back in California last year and was saying "Hi" to people on the street ... They thought I was crazy! This life is truly a gift, and when I let go of the wheel, everything seemed to fall into place. I thank God for everything I have and the abilities he's given me to help those in need.

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

A sample of our listings



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Nutcracker Tea offers magical start to holiday season

By Paris Moulden

What goes better with Tchaikovsky than tea, especially during the holiday season?

The 13th annual Nutcracker Tea presented by Christ Episcopal Church Dance Ministry last Sunday, Dec. 3 at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club gave children of all ages the chance to dress up, drink tea and get a sneak preview of Christmastime's most famous ballet.

The Nutcracker Tea was created and produced by Claire Duffy, whose mother, Felicia Rhoden, is the director of Christ Episcopal Church Dance Ministry. Her dancers will perform "The Nutcracker" Saturday, Dec. 9, at 6 p.m. at the Lazzara Theater on The University of North Florida campus. The production is in its 22nd year.

The performers at the tea and in "The Nutcracker" are all students of Rhoden, better known as Miss Felicia, some of whom have been with her throughout their childhoods. Rhoden said her daughter approached her with the concept for the tea more than 13 years ago, with the thought of a holiday event where little girls could get dressed up and enter a magical world.

"Claire has made it look like Disney," Rhoden said.

Rhoden, a Ponte Vedra resident, said she can't believe how the event has blossomed over the years.

"It's grown from a tiny project of about 20 to what it is now," she said, noting that around 200-plus people attended Sunday's sold-out event. "I think this area really needed something like this."

The preview event also presented an opportunity to shine the light on special guests and help local charities, including Dreams Come True and Community PedsCare. This year's guests of honor were 8-year-old Cassidy Chergi and 10-year-old Lunish Vurnet, who got into the spirit of the occasion donning dazzling sequined dresses.

Andrea Siracusa, director of community relations for Dreams Come True, said events like the Nutcracker Tea are



very important to the nonprofit, because 100 percent of its funds goes to making children's dreams a reality. And the organization, which is focused solely on Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida, receives no federal funding, she said.

"It allows us to bring them active joy," Siracusa said of the opportunity to attend events like the Nutcracker Tea. "It's just as important as raising money."

Attendees at the event also got several glimpses of what will be on display Saturday night, including performances by the Sugar Plum Fairy, and the show's young heroine Clara, played by 13-year-old Ellie McCary.

For tickets to Christ Episcopal Church's "The Nutcracker" or more information about the performance, go to missfeliciasdance.com or call (904) 923-0604.

More photos on Page 9 and at pontevedrerecorder.com



ABOVE: Clara, played by Ellie McCary, performs a routine with the Prince, played by Michael Guarno.

LEFT: Guests of honor, Lunish Vurnet (left) and Cassidy Chergi, sit with Santa at the event.

Photos by Paris Moulden



Felicia Rhoden, director of Christ Episcopal Church Dance Ministry, talks about the Nutcracker Tea and the upcoming performance during Sunday's sold-out event.



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The Sugar Plum Fairy, played by Jordan Polster (second from left), performs with the other sugar plums during The Nutcracker Tea.

Photo by Paris Moulden



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Thursday, Dec. 7	Friday, Dec. 8	Saturday, Dec. 9	Sunday, Dec. 10
<p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Dec. 7 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>Full portfolio exhibition This exhibition from Dec. 7 to Dec. 9 in the Crisp-Ellert Art Museum features works by Flagler College students in portfolio courses. Admission is free. The museum is located at 48 Sevilla St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Zen meditation & mindfulness Visitors are invited to settle their minds and bodies and sit in still quietness at this zen meditation event from 4 to 5 p.m. The program is ideal for those interested in relaxing the mind in a peaceful setting. Chairs will be available for participants who can't sit on the floor - guests must bring a cushion. This event will take place at the St. Johns County Library's Southeast Branch, located at 6670 US 1 S. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Hope for the Holidays event The Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation's Hope for the Holidays event at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will take place Dec. 7 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Families will have the opportunity to volunteer together at the event, which started six years ago with student volunteers from local schools packing 500 bags for poverty-stricken children. Visit www.jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com/ for more information.</p> <p>'Victoria and Abdul' at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe Queen Victoria strikes up an unlikely friendship with a young Indian clerk named Abdul Karim. This film is showing at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe Dec. 7 at 1 and 6:30 p.m. Admission ranges from \$6 to \$8. The Corazon Cinema and Cafe is located at 36 Granada St in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Cannon Firing Demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Enchanted Christmas Village Enjoy Christmas with Santa and his elves at the Enchanted Christmas Village. This event, which runs on weekends through Dec. 23, features holiday musical performances, bounce houses, wagon rides through the enchanted trail, pictures with Santa, yard games, photo ops, food and more. The Village is open from 5 to 10 p.m.; admission costs \$19 for adults, \$10 for youth ages 17 and under, free for kids 2 and under and \$50 for a family-of-four pack. Visit www.jacksonvillechristmas.com for more information and to purchase tickets. This event takes place at 899 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>Light of Christmas Join Turning Point at Calvary for its yearly Light of Christmas event. Experience a Christmas light display nightly Dec. 8-10 and 15-17 at 3500 S.R. 16 in St. Augustine. Visitors can also take a stroll through the nativity tent and winter wonderland. The Light of Christmas takes place from 6 to 9 p.m.</p>	<p>Sawgrass Marriott 'Brunch With Elves' event This family-friendly "Brunch With Elves" event will kick off the holiday season Dec. 9 at 11 a.m. at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in the Heritage Ballroom, located at 100 PGA Tour Blvd. in Ponte Vedra. Attendees can enjoy a brunch menu, balloon creations, crafts, movies and more. Admission costs \$19.95 for adults and \$9.95 for children ages 4 through 11 - reserve a spot by calling (904) 285-7777, ext 5900 or email Roberta.Cleary@Marriott.com.</p> <p>American Sign Language Club at Bethlehem recreation event Members of the deaf community will be able to enjoy Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church's live Bethlehem recreation Dec. 9 at 4:30 p.m. Certified interpreters from Nocatee's American Sign Language Club, led by Marilyn Sloan, will be on hand for the free event taking place at 4510 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Holiday boutiques & Christmas expo Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church will host a Christmas expo Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 545 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach. The event will feature handcrafted jewelry and accessories, belts, handbags, stained glass, home decor items, children's apparel, candles, ornaments and wreaths, children's books and more.</p> <p>Free shipping and packaging at Rethreaded Rethreaded will offer free shipping and packaging Dec. 9 for all orders over \$50. The retail store, located at 820 Barnett St., will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Attendees can build their own holiday boxes that will be packed and shipped by Rethreaded for free.</p> <p>'An Evening of Tennessee Williams One Acts' A Classic Theatre presents "An Evening of Tennessee Williams One Acts" at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. This event will take place at 102 Martin Luther King Ave. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>Sunday at Stetson's The Stetson Kennedy Foundation will host the "Sunday at Stetson's" musical series and artist event Dec. 10 featuring Paul Garfinkel, Mary Beth Campbell, Bear & Robert, Al Scortino and more. The recommended donation is \$10. Visitors can tour Stetson's home from 1 to 2 p.m. and listen to live music from 4 to 5 p.m. RSVP by calling (904) 206-8304; email sundaysatstetsons@gmail.com for more information. This event will take place at 1523 State Road 13 in Fruit Cove.</p> <p>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Santa Claus at the Pirate Ship Black Raven Every weekend through Dec. 24, Santa Claus will appear on the Black Raven pirate ship, which departs on treasure hunt trips at 2:15 p.m. from the St. Augustine Municipal Marina. Visit www.blackravenadventures.com for more information.</p> <p>Free harp concert St. John Paul II Church will host a free Christmas harp concert featuring Barbara Dexter Dec. 10 from 6 to 10 p.m. at 127 Stone Mason Way in Ponte Vedra. All are welcome.</p> <p>North Florida Women's chorale concert The North Florida Women's chorale, a 35-voice chorus of treble voices, will sing a winter concert entitled "Cradle Songs and Carols" Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. The concert will feature lullabies and many carols of the season including "The Moon in Wintertime," "The Seal Lullaby" and Arnesen's "Cradle Hymn." The concert is free and open to the public and will take place at Community Presbyterian Church, located at 150 Sherry Drive in Atlantic Beach.</p>

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Monday, Dec. 11	Tuesday, Dec. 12	Wednesday, Dec. 13	Thursday, Dec. 14
<p>WinterFEST 2017 Adventure Landing in Jacksonville Beach will transform its Shipwreck Island Water Park into a winter wonderland for the annual WinterFEST celebration. This year's festival runs from Nov. 18 through Jan. 8, 2018. The event will feature outdoor ice skating, an alpine ice slide, visits and pictures with Santa, s'more roasting and other attractions. Additionally, visitors can wind through a snowy village and enjoy window displays, hologram lights and decorations. Adventure Landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd. Call (904) 516-9739 or visit https://jacksonville-beach.adventurelanding.com for more information.</p> <p>High Tea at Cafe Alcazar Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the full experience of the Dressing Downton exhibition with a special tea at Cafe Alcazar, located in the pool area of the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine. Teas will take place at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday until Jan. 7.</p> <p>St. Augustine Historic Inns Bed & Breakfast Holiday Tour This year's holiday tour in downtown St. Augustine by St. Augustine Historic Inns will offer a self-guided walking tour of inns, restaurants, museums and galleries. Tours are Dec. 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. Tickets range from \$25 to \$50 and include a tour booklet and a map of each day's tour. Visit www.staugustinebandbtour.com for tour locations and more information.</p> <p>Christmas with the Sassy Tappers Dancing in colorful costumes to popular holiday musical numbers, the Sassy Tappers will perform a choreographed show based on the letter written by Virginia O'Hanlon in 1980 to the editor of the New York Sun newspaper asking about Santa Claus. This event will take place Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m. at Palm Gardens, located at 5725 Spring Park Road in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p>Drive thru Christmas lights Jax Illuminations' Drive Thru Holiday Light Show is a 1-mile drive thru featuring two mega trees, a 300-foot tunnel of lights, custom Christmas scenes and more. Shows take place nightly through Dec. 31 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Morocco Shrine Center, located at 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road S. in Jacksonville. Email info@jaxilluminations.com, call (904) 361-6257 or visit www.jaxilluminations.com for more information.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Democratic Club holiday party The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will host a holiday party at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse, Pub 17 Dec. 12 from 7 to 11 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased at www.facebook.com/pontevedrademocrats. This event will take place at 110 Championship Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Chabad @ the Beaches Chanukah event Chabad @ the Beaches will host this year's Chanukah event Dec. 12 at the Ponte Vedra Cultural Center. The event will feature a Chanukah wonderland, a fire juggling show, a fun fair and concert featuring Israeli violinist Boris Savchuk and more. The festival starts at 5 p.m. and will be followed by a menorah lighting with free delicacies at 6. Everyone is invited. This event is free and open to the public, call (904) 543-9301 for more information. The Ponte Vedra Cultural Center is located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Yoga at church Join St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal for Yoga every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a mat to this yoga class, which is suitable for all skill levels and ages. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Wednesday Market Each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., approximately 60 to 80 vendors participate in the Wednesday Market in St. Augustine Beach. Vendors and artists display produce, prepared foods, local seafood, art, crafts and more, placing an emphasis on home-grown and homemade items. The Market is held at the St. Johns County Pier Park at 350 A1A Beach Blvd, St Augustine Beach.</p> <p>Newcomers of the Beaches luncheon Newcomers of the Beaches will be inviting new members to join a diverse group of women for a luncheon Dec. 13 at Sawgrass Golf Country Club, located at 10034 Golf Club Drive in Ponte Vedra. The club hosts this event on the second Wednesday of each month. Newcomers of the Beaches is for women who have recently moved to the area or have gone through a major life event who are looking for new friends. Visit www.newcomersofthebeaches.com to make a reservation. The luncheon starts at 11 a.m.</p> <p>Ben Haggard at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Country music star Ben Haggard will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. (gates open at 7). Visit www.pontevedraconcert-hall.com for more information. This event will take place at 1050 A1A N.</p>	<p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Dec. 14 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>'Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi' at IMAX Theater Having taken her first steps into a larger world in 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens,' Rey continues her epic journey with Finn, Poe and Luke Skywalker in the next chapter of the Star Wars saga. This blockbuster is showing at the World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater at 7 and 10:15 p.m. Visit www.worldgolfimax.com for tickets and more information.</p> <p>Evenings at Whitney Evenings at Whitney presented by the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience returns Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. with a talk by Pam Soltis, a distinguished professor and curator at the Florida Museum of National History. Her presentation, entitled Transformation and Conservation: Climate Change and the Southern Landscape, will take place at 9505 Ocean Shore Blvd. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Purity Ring at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will welcome "future pop" synth duo Purity Ring Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6). Visit www.pvconcert-hall.com or call (904) 209-0399 for more information and to purchase tickets.</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>

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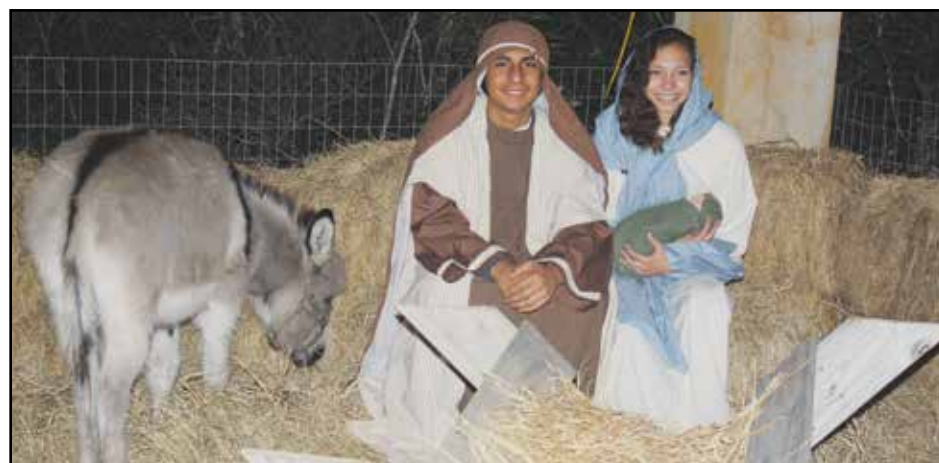
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Singing reindeer entertain visitors.



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

The Enchanted Christmas Village features a live manger scene.

Ponte Vedra resident brings Enchanted Christmas Village home

By Jon Blauvelt

As the owner of a few major event planning companies in Jacksonville, Anne Urban is the mastermind behind over 400 events per year on the First Coast. This

holiday season, however, one particular event she has orchestrated is particularly special for her, as it happens to be taking place in Ponte Vedra, the community she has called home for 27 years.

That event is Enchanted Christmas Village, and this year, the 43-acre holiday masterpiece that opened last weekend is located off Palm Valley Road in Nocatee. Featuring wagon rides, holiday food and drink, caroling, pictures with Santa Claus, an animated Christmas tree that performs every hour and over 1 million Christmas lights, the Village represents everything that is magical about Christmas, said Urban, and it's in the town that has provided so much for her and her family.

"I really wanted to do something to give back to the community," said Urban, who owns Centerstage Entertainment & Event Rental and Destination Planning Corp., which plan and coordinate City of Jacksonville events such as the Florida/Georgia game, the Jazz Festival and World of Nations. "This is home. This is Christmas. I'm overwhelmed with it because I get to share it with the people who are in my community."

Urban founded the Village and hosted it for the first time last year on the West-side of Jacksonville. Over 18,000 people

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'Oh What FUN!' holiday celebration features newly published book 'Frizzle's Holiday Treasures'

By Benjamin Naim

The second annual "Oh What FUN!" Christmas celebration, presented by the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club, offered local children's author Rhonda Goodall an opportunity to share her work with friends, festival goers and members of the community.

The event, which took place Dec. 2 at Sawgrass Village in Ponte Vedra, featured horse-drawn carriage rides, a visit with Santa, music, activities and more. The festival also featured numerous vendors, including the "Frizzle" booth where Goodall promoted her latest children's books.

"The idea came to me one day on the first Frizzle book, but I was busy raising kids," Goodall said. "Then, my mom was killed in a very freak car accident three years ago on my birthday. I knew I needed to throw myself into something, being kept very busy with the kids, I knew I needed to do something else as well."

Goodall came up with the concept for "Frizzle" nine years ago. At this year's "Oh What FUN!"

event, the local author was invited to feature her newly-published Christmas book "Frizzle's Holiday Treasures," about how a blue creature named Frizzle discovers the true meaning of the holidays. After discovering a family in need, it occurs to Frizzle that he can help by coming up with the best holiday gift ideas that cost absolutely nothing.

The back of the book features those gift ideas, and they came from a contest that took place at last year's "Oh What FUN!" celebration in which children shared their favorite free gift suggestions ranging from "lots of love" to "a drawing."

Although Goodall wrote the book, she credits the support of her family, her publisher and her graphic designer for the success of "Frizzle."

"Susan Brandenburg published this book," Goodall said. "I do the writing and the illustrating. She's local. We met her at the same time in life when I needed to do something; I truly believe God makes things happen for a reason – she's been a big help"

"Frizzle's Holiday Treasures" is available on Amazon paperback for \$10.



ABOVE: Author Rhonda Goodall and two 'Frizzle' fans pose for a photo.



LEFT: A horse-drawn carriage rolls down the street at Sawgrass Village during the 'Oh! What Fun!' holiday celebration.

Photos by Benjamin Naim

Enchanted

Continued from 12

visited the holiday attraction, which ultimately supported 11 nonprofits and sent over 20 kids on mission trips.

According to its website, the mission of Enchanted Christmas Village is to provide "a Christian environment for all ages to celebrate the Christmas holiday through a community event that provides a fundraising event to support bringing all missing children home for the holidays."

This year's honored charity, Urban noted, is the Bairfind Foundation (www.bairfind.org/). Founded by a former professional baseball player, the nonprofit's mission is to find missing children, producing signs for sports stadiums and arenas that feature photos of each city's missing children. Signs are placed in high visibility areas and seen by millions of sports fans each season, greatly increasing the chances that featured children will be located safely.

Urban said the top three days that children go missing are the three days surrounding Christmas, hence why Enchanted Christmas Village chose to support the nonprofit in its efforts. Urban noted that the Bairfind Foundation has a 49 percent recovery rate of bringing kids home safely. The Village will also support mission trips again, Urban noted.

Urban, who has been planning events for 30 years, said Enchanted Christmas Village is the biggest event she'll plan this year. She and her team started laying Christmas lights and preparing the property, which is owned by St. Francis

In-The-Field Episcopal Church, at the end of August.

As visitors walk into the Village, they first enter a marketplace of vendors selling stocking stuffers and other holiday gifts. At the head of the vendors is the main entertainment stage and surrounding them are various food trucks. On the opposite side of the entertainment stage is a one-of-a-kind Christmas tree that performs every hour. Urban said there's only one other tree like it in the country at Disney.

Other attractions of the Village include rustic walking trails adorned in Christmas lights and decorations that also feature a live manger scene, bounce houses, singing reindeer, a tractor ride, other stages for entertainment and more. Along the trail, families can take photos with Santa Claus, courtesy of North Pole Photography, and at the end of the trail, families can step inside a giant igloo, where photo opportunities and entertainment are available to enjoy. Other events, including High Tea and Bowties with the Claus Family, are offered.

On average, Urban said families spend an average of two to three hours at the Village, which she noted is appropriate for the entire family, adding that the attraction is ADA and handicap compliant. Visitors are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes as the path is partly paved and partly grassy.

Cost of admission is \$19 for adults, \$10 for children 17 and under and free for kids 2 and under. A family four pack is \$50, and discounts are available for military and military dependents, seniors and first responders. Discounts do require

display of appropriate ID. Parking is limited and costs \$5.

Enchanted Christmas Village (jacksonvillechristmas.com/) will run Dec. 8-10, 15-17 and 21-23 from 5 to 10 p.m. According to Urban, the attraction is exactly what local families need to experience right now to celebrate the holiday season.

"This is to me what Christmas is ... the magic of it all," she said. "There's so much going on in our world right now that is awful, and this isn't. This is unbelievable."

More color photos can be found online at Pontevedrarecorder.com.

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- Tax Collector's Julington Creek Office – 725 Flora Branch Blvd.

PASSES continues on Page 15

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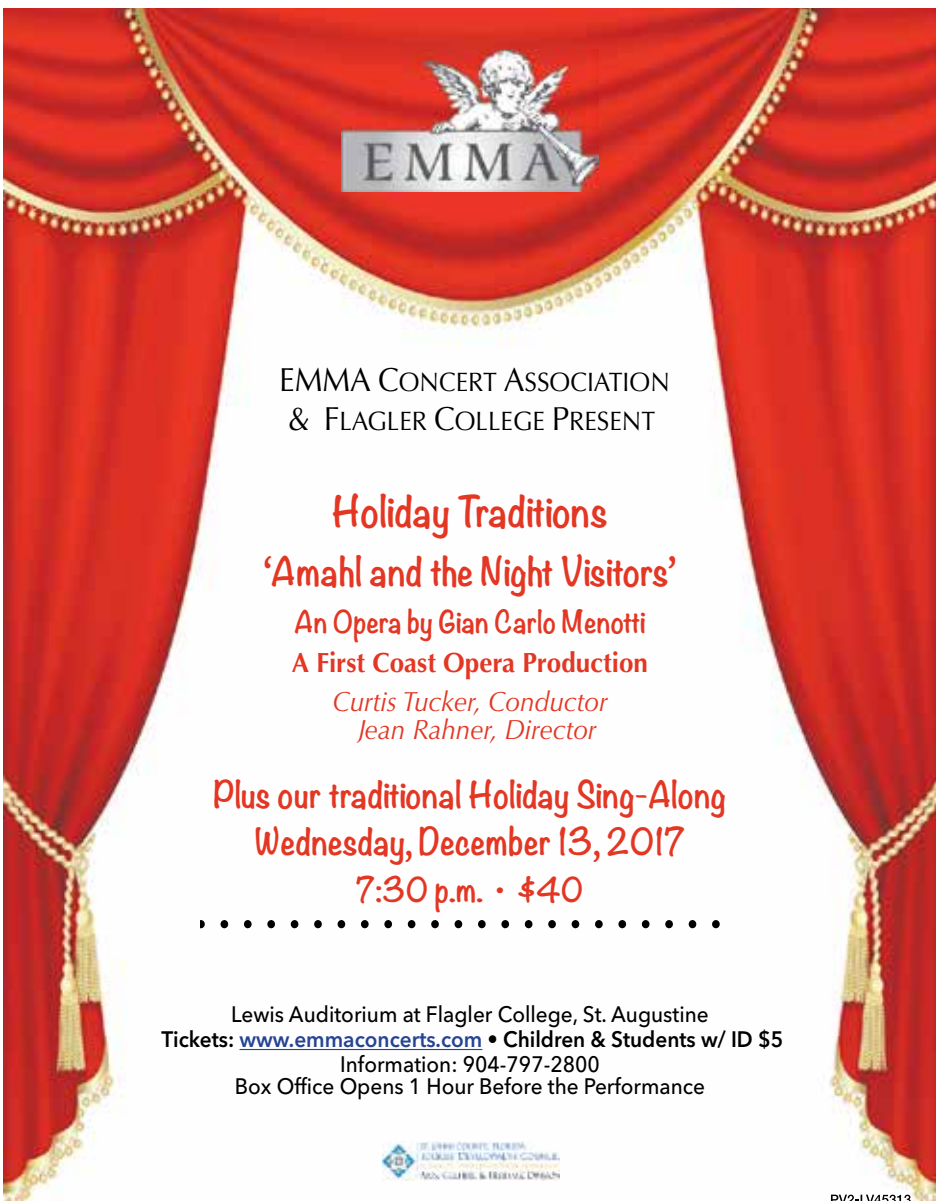
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Passes

Continued from 14

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Johns County to purchase a resident pass. When requesting a handicap pass, a handicap hang-tag or proof of qualification must be presented. Disabled military are eligible for a free annual pass by presenting military ID or a letter from Veterans Affairs verifying 100 percent disabled status. Vehicles accessing the beach do not need a beach pass until March 1, 2018.

For more information about annual beach driving passes, please call the St. Johns County Beach Services Of-

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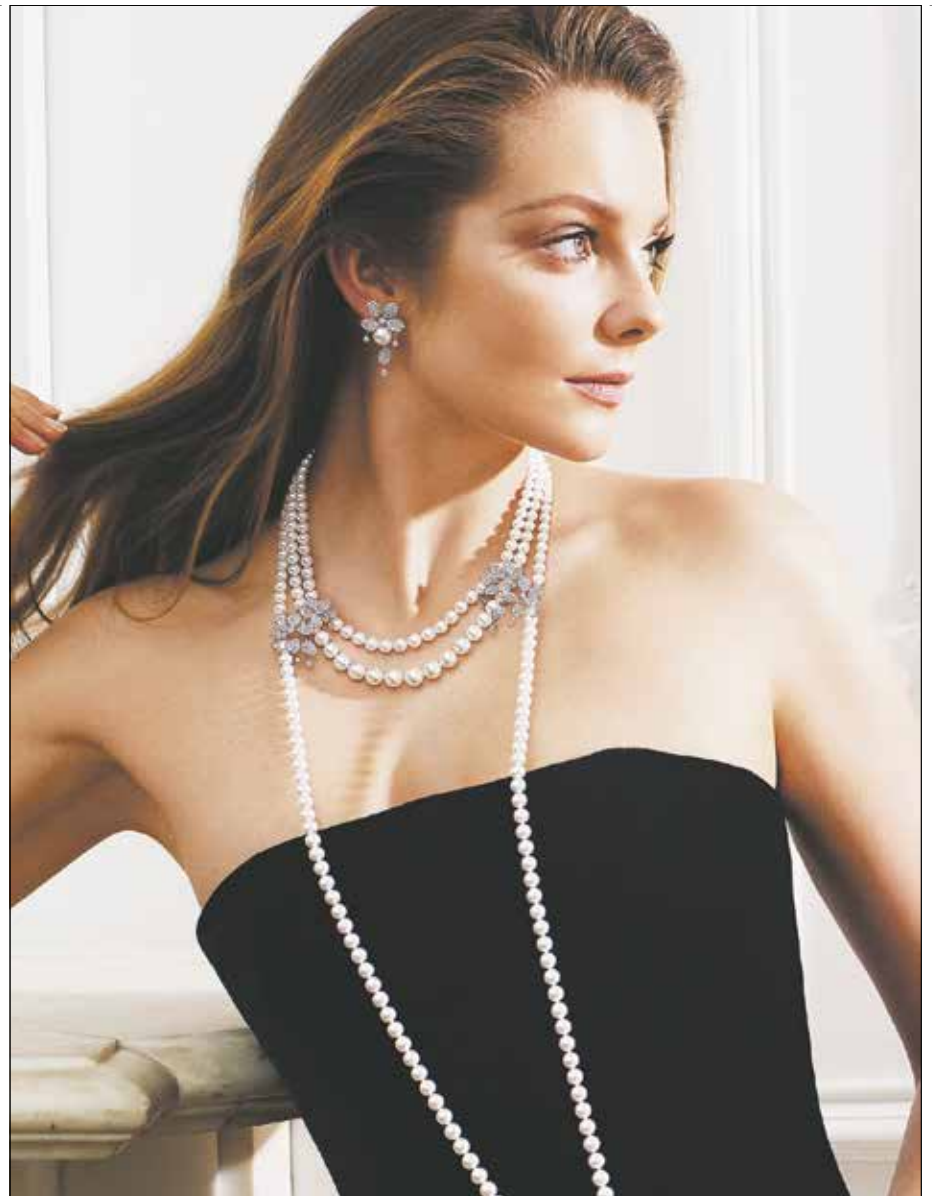
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Nocatee residents celebrate holiday season at Nocatee-A-Glow

By Jon Blauvelt

Over 6,000 Nocatee residents and guests visited the community's Splash Waterpark last weekend to celebrate the holiday season at Nocatee-A-Glow, presented by Fields Auto Group.

The biggest and brightest event of the year for the master-planned community, Nocatee-A-Glow once again transformed the Splash Waterpark area into a Florida rendition of a winter wonderland. Christmas lights and decorations adorned the amenity's facilities, allowing residents and their friends and family to get into the holiday spirit.

Held both Dec. 1 and 2, the event was each night headlined by a tree lighting countdown that kicked off the Splash Waterpark's Christmas light show. Nocatee Community Manager David Ray said the light show will run throughout December every night from 5:30 to 10 p.m. The show runs every 30 minutes, features three different shows (traditional, contemporary and variety) and is open to the public.

Festivities at Nocatee-A-Glow also included North Pole visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, a live nativity scene, horse drawn carriage rides, train rides, a food truck village, various live music performances, a "snow" zone, Christmas caroling and more.

"Around every corner, there's something to do," said Ray. "Few people see it all."

Ray also noted that the annual event is entirely planned and executed by Nocatee staff. He said staff has been putting up the Christmas lights and programming them for about a month. Nocatee-A-Glow started in 2010 with solely the lighting of a Christmas tree. Ray said it has grown into the community's biggest event of the year, with planning for next year's event scheduled to start this week.

"It's a very nervous time to the lighting of the tree," said Ray, "but it's the best time in bringing the community together and seeing the joy this brings the residents, unlike any event we have."

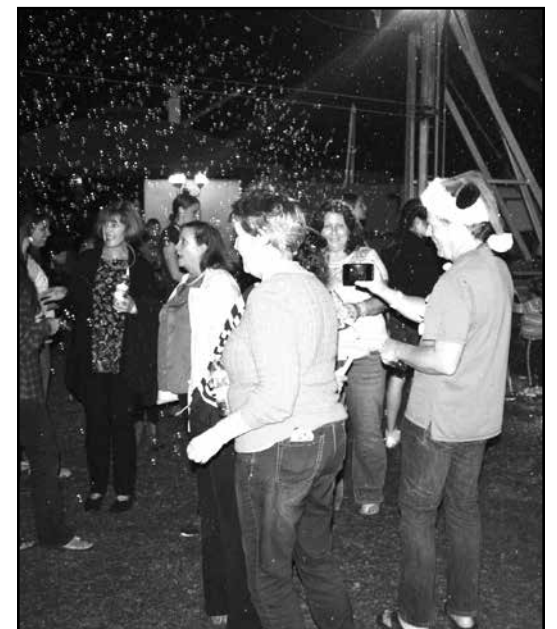
More photos, Page 17



A child takes a look at the live nativity scene during Nocatee-A-Glow.



A family gathers with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Nocatee-A-Glow for a holiday photo.



Guests enjoy standing in the "snow" zone.



A boy enjoys a meet-and-greet with Olaf from "Frozen."



ABOVE: A group of girls sings for guests at Nocatee-A-Glow.

LEFT: A trombone player provides entertainment at Nocatee-A-Glow.

Photos by Jon Blauvelt



Guests walk through the entrance of Nocatee-A-Glow.



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Christmas lights and decorations are displayed throughout Nocatee-A-Glow, which was held at the community's Splash Waterpark last weekend.

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SANTA PAWS PETS

Two Sumatran tiger cubs born at Jacksonville Zoo

Healthy male cubs help highlight zoo's work with the endangered species

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens celebrated the healthy birth of two critically endangered Sumatran tiger cubs Nov. 20.

The tiger cubs were born to 6-year-old Dorcas at 11:40 a.m., and the tigers' keepers were able to keep an eye on the process using a closed-circuit camera system.

Both cubs are male, and represent the second litter for Dorcas and father, Berani. The zoo's first Sumatran tiger birth in its 102-year history is big sister Kinleigh Rose, born on Nov. 19, 2015 – two years and a day before the arrival of her little brothers.

"One of the biggest pleasures as the Zoo's tiger-management program evolves, is watching the effect that it has on the wellness of our animals," said Dan Dembiec, supervisor of mammals. "Dorcas started out as a skittish and shy tigress, but she is now a confident and skilled mother. She is a natural at providing her cubs with the necessary care to help them develop, and this is reflective of the care that she has received from the staff at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens."

The cubs received their first medical exam Nov. 28. Zoo Animal Health staff said they were able to quickly and efficiently examine the cubs because of the exceptional bonding and training the keeper staff has conducted with the



ABOVE: A Sumatran tiger cub born at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens last month



LEFT: One of the Sumatran tiger cubs born at the zoo gets an exam Nov. 28.

Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

mother. Dorcas was willing and trusting to be separated from the cubs at the request of the keepers.

Dr. Yousuf Jafarey gave the cubs brief physical examinations and determined

they look healthy, are nursing well and have no congenital health problems. Both cubs weighed in right at 4½ pounds.

Within minutes, the cubs were back with their mother in the nesting box, behind-

the-scenes in the tiger viewing building.

The cubs will not be on exhibit for several months. They still require a series of health examinations and vaccinations and will continue to strengthen the bond with their mom. They will also require a swim test before they are ready to explore their outdoor habitat in public viewing areas. A live video feed of the nest box can be seen in the tiger viewing building on either side of the donor wall.

The birth of two Sumatran tiger cubs is especially significant because the zoo's tigers are part of a globally-managed species program. Zoological facilities around the world, including Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, work to maintain a healthy population. There are currently less than 400 Sumatran tigers in the wild.

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' cubs will help staff highlight the work being conducted in Indonesia to protect Sumatran tigers and their prey. The zoo supports an elite wildlife protection unit consisting of four highly trained rangers, risking their lives to protect Bukit Barisan Selatan (BBS) National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia, one of the last of the tigers' strongholds.

The zoo has supported the unit for the past three years, since the opening of the Land of the Tiger exhibit in 2014. Seventy-five cents of each paid admission are dedicated toward conservation. In the past five years, guests and members have helped the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens contribute more than \$1 million dollars to conserving plants and animals in the wild.

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens welcomes its second giraffe calf in week

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens welcomed a new reticulated giraffe Nov. 24, the second born that week.

The healthy female was born on exhibit at 1:10 in the afternoon. Guests were able to see the delivery from the Giraffe Overlook.

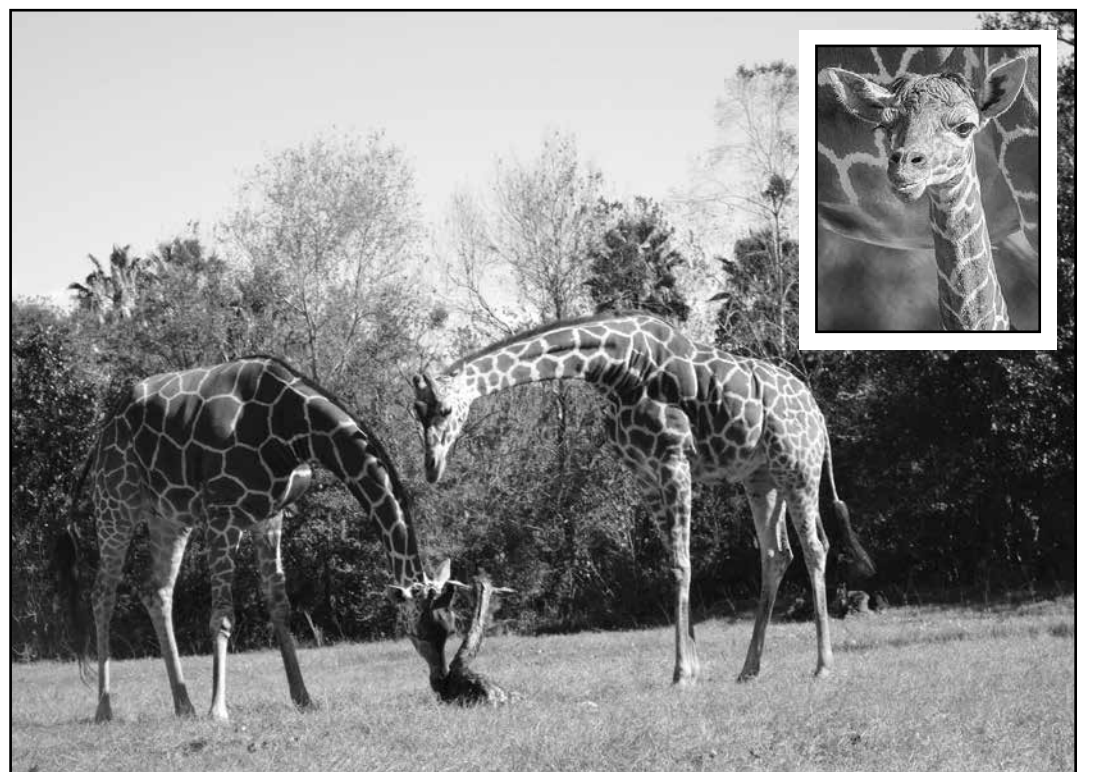
The calf is the fourth for Luna and the 18th for its father, Duke. She also marks the 41st giraffe calf born at the Zoo.

When the calf's front hooves made an appearance around 12:30 p.m., keeper staff called most of the herd off exhibit to give Luna space. Another female, Spock, stayed with Luna, and though she gave her privacy for the birth, came over

quickly to greet the youngster and helped with the cleaning process. Spock has never had any offspring of her own but has been an excellent "auntie" figure to many calves over the years, said the zoo.

The calf was standing within 30 minutes to the cheers of guests watching from the overlook. Zookeepers have observed the calf nursing well. Luna and the calf will be allowed to stay on exhibit for as long as they are comfortable.

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens supports the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, which focuses on the conservation and management of giraffe in the wild.



Photos by JJ Vitale and John Reed

ABOVE: Luna and "Auntie" Spock take care of Luna's new calf. INSET: Jacksonville Zoo and Garden's newest giraffe, which was born on exhibit Nov. 24.



UNF hosts 'PAWS Your Stress'

On Dec. 4, the University of North Florida (UNF) hosted "PAWS Your Stress," a biannual event for students held during finals week to ease end-of-semester stress.

Dogs and their human volunteers from Canine Companions for Independence descended on the Thomas G. Carpenter Library for hugs, cuddles and puppy kisses, marking the fourth year UNF has hosted the program. About 400 students participated in this year's event.

Photos courtesy of Ryan Fairbrother, UNF Library services specialist



Woof Gang Bakery holds grand opening in Nocatee

Woof Gang Bakery at Nocatee Town Center held its grand opening this past Saturday, Dec. 2.

Free treats for a year for the first 20 customers, pictures with Santa, raffles, dogs available for adoption and giveaways drew a large crowd. The business carries top brands of dog food and other dog products. When you walk into the store, the first thing you see is a table

filled with decorated treats that look and smell like cookies for human consumption.

In addition to offering dog food and treats, Woof Gang Bakery features a selection of accessories, home goods, toys, spa products and a grooming salon that provides a full range of services.

Photos and more info, Page 20

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Woof Gang Bakery holds its grand opening in Nocatee Dec. 2. The business is located at 152 Capital Green Drive in suite 22. For more information, call (904) 679-4114.

Photo provided by Woof Gang Bakery



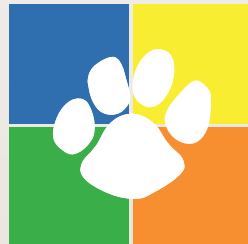
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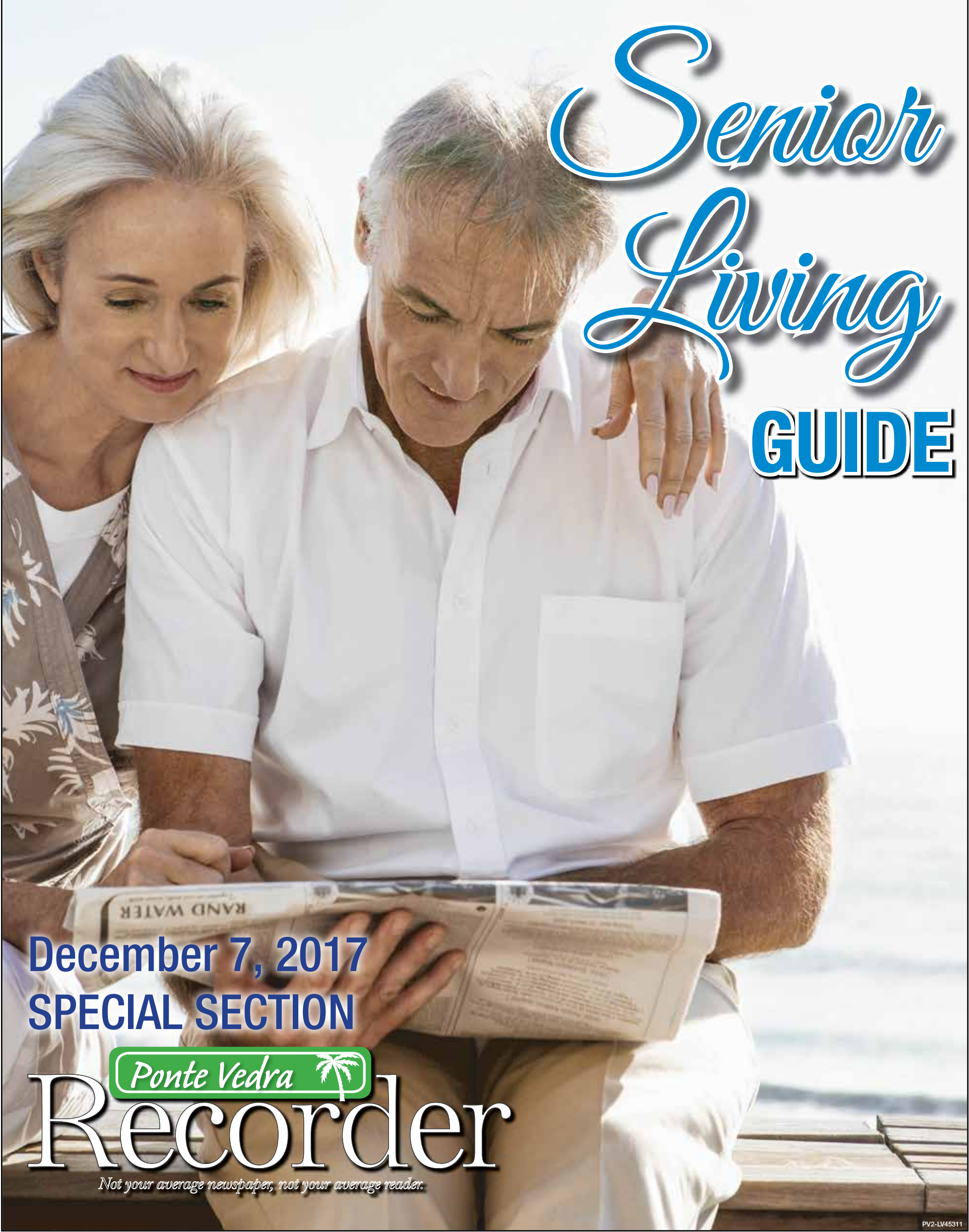
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Senior Living

GUIDE

December 7, 2017
SPECIAL SECTION

Ponte Vedra 
Recorder

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader.

The Palms at Ponte Vedra renames memory care unit to 'Morningside'

By Benjamin Naim

The Palms at Ponte Vedra recently changed the name of its memory care unit to "Morningside" after Dr. Todd Snowden — a Ponte Vedra resident and an ear, nose and throat specialist for Baptist Health system— suggested the change to Executive Director Barbara Matteson.

Snowden moved his parents to the Palms last year because he needed a facility that would provide them with an increased level of care. The ENT specialist was impressed with the services offered by the Palms at the time.

"They have common spaces, they have individual spaces and within those spaces there are activities planned throughout the week," he said. "It's a fairly diverse schedule of events to stimulate the residents and engage them physically, mentally and spiritually."

Although Snowden was happy with the Palms' services, he felt the "memory care unit" name didn't match the level of care offered by the facility. "Memory care unit"



Dr. Todd Snowden stands beside a Morningside photo.

Photo by Susan Griffin

sounded too "clinical, impersonal, ordinary and interchangeable," and it didn't accurately describe the Palms, Snowden asserted. He ended up suggesting a new name for the unit in a conversation with Matteson.

"As I talked to her about my suggestion, she said, 'That's a great idea,'" Snowden recalled. "So, they solicited ideas ... Six months later, I had a conversation with her, and she said, 'We listened to people

and at the end of the day, we came back to Morningside, and our staff and our board liked that one the best.'"

The name "Morningside" came from a street where Snowden's childhood friend lived.

"I grew up over in the Panhandle, and a friend of mine lived on a street called Morningside," he said. "I always thought it was the best street anyone could live on because it sounded like a very cheerful place to live."

Snowden felt the name was apt for a facility staffed by people who brought out the bright side (or, "morning side") in a difficult situation. His proposed name wasn't the only suggestion, but it ended up being the one that was chosen.

Dr. Snowden described Morningside as a "dedicated level of nursing care above assisted living," that is oriented toward the needs of patients on the spectrum of memory loss and disability.

For more information on The Palms at Ponte Vedra, visit www.palmsatpontevedra.com.

Make vacations and travel a key component of retirement



Photo courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

When the time comes to bid farewell to conference calls, meetings and daily commutes, retirees have open schedules to fill with whichever activities they choose. Travel is one exciting way to pass the time.

Traveling can be a rewarding prospect for active seniors, particularly those who successfully preplanned for retirement and have the income to fund various excursions. Many seniors, both in the United States and Canada, find that travel tops their to-do lists once they retire. According to Senior Travel magazine, new travel options are emerging for newly minted retirees looking for something a little different from the status quo.

The list of destinations retirees have at their disposal is limitless. The following ideas are some of the more popular ways retirees choose to travel.

- Road trips rule. Taking to the highways and byways is an excellent way to see the country. Seniors can customize their routes depending on which places they want to visit. RV travel can be as comfortable or as rustic as travelers prefer. Many seniors spend months traveling in their campers, which offer many of the same amenities of home. Campsites and special RV hook-up sites offer the other necessities of traveling the open road.

- Genealogical tourism is popular. People hoping to trace their ancestry and visit their ancestral homelands are one of the fastest-growing travel segments. Visiting an old church in Europe where ancestors were married or

buying food from a market in which a great aunt or uncle once worked leads retirees on many international adventures. Such trips provide travelers with a unique opportunity to understand their roots up close and personal while enjoying some international travel along the way.

- Exotic tours can be exciting destinations. History buffs or adventure-seeking couples may be particularly attracted to exotic travel destinations that are slightly off the beaten path. Travel tours may take vacationers to destinations such as excavation sites or backpacking through the rainforest. With passport in hand, seniors can go just about anywhere their desires take them.

- Enjoy a relaxing seaside trip. A seaside vacation can be the perfect trip for seniors who want to put their feet up and sip some cocktails while watching the waves lap the shores. Many beach resorts offer all-inclusive packages for different age groups. Meals, excursions and hotel rooms can be bundled into one affordable, confusion-free price.

- Go cruising. Speaking of all-inclusive vacationing, cruising seems tailor-made for those ages 50 and older because it offers the convenience of accommodations, food, entertainment and transportation all in one. The various activities offered on the ship mean travelers can find ways to spend their time how they see fit. Cruising couples can opt to spend all of their time on the ship enjoying carefully prepared meals and entertainment or disembark and explore the various ports of call along the way.



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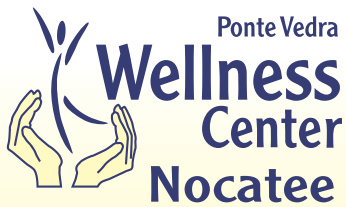
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Starling at Nocatee to offer several options for simple luxury in sought-after location

By Paris Moulden

The new Starling at Nocatee plans to bring a unique and luxurious approach to assisted living facilities.

The Starling is expected to open later this month, and is situated in an ideal location of the popular master-planned community of Nocatee, across from the Splash Waterpark.

Megan Kennedy, executive director of the Starling at Nocatee, said the goal is to officially open by mid-December after all licensing is in place. Kennedy said the facility recently received its certificate of occupancy from St. Johns County and is in the process of obtaining its license from the Agency for Healthcare Administration, which is expected this month.

The Starling at Nocatee will provide a three-tier approach, offering different amenities and packages based on the resident's lifestyle and preferences.

“At Starling, we understand every individual is unique, which is why we offer multiple lifestyles, dynamic engagement opportunities, anytime dining across multiple venues and personalized wellness services, to name a few,” Kennedy said via email.

She said the Starling is separated into three primary lifestyle options — concierge living, assisted living and memory care.

A breakdown of the three options, according to Kennedy, are as follows:

■ **Concierge living:** This is perfect for individuals looking to continue their healthy way of life in an amenity-rich environment, with access to wellness services on an a la carte basis.

■ **Assisted living:** This option is all-inclusive, providing one monthly price for personalized services, luxurious amenities, resort-style wellness programs, first-class dining experiences and 24/7 personalized care from the facility's highly trained caregivers and nurses.

■ **Memory care:** Residences are purposefully designed and professionally staffed to provide a stimulating environment that encourages engagement and well-being in a comfortable and secure environment.

Kennedy said the focus on



The main lobby at the Starling at Nocatee



The spa at Starling



The main dining room



The library at Starling

Photos courtesy of Starling at Nocatee

amenities and personalized care are just a couple of factors that helps set Starling apart from other facilities.

“For starters, our communities are stunning because we want our residents to be proud to call Starling at Nocatee home,” she said. “We also pride ourselves on our wellness offerings. Starling at Nocatee has an expansive wellness suite complete with a resort-style spa, salon, nail bar and a private

massage room, as well as a state-of-the-art fitness studio.”

The Starling, Kennedy added, provides 24-hour services and care, offering on-site therapy and rehab, a dedicated office for visiting physicians and an on-site medical director that visits with residents on a weekly basis.

Kennedy also said the facility is using modern conveniences to allow residents to better simplify their lives along with adding

to the quality of their resident experience.

“We utilize sophisticated technologies specifically designed to make our residents' lives simpler, healthier and more engaging,” she said. “Further, our social and culinary experiences are unmatched. Even more, our residents have access to all of Nocatee's world-class amenities.”

And being in Nocatee is a special feature of its own, Kennedy said, and a great place for Starling's senior community.

“Nocatee continues to be ranked in the top 3 bestselling master-planned communities in the country and has a large and growing need for the lifestyles and services we offer,” Kennedy said. “Additionally, our engagement opportunities are unparalleled as we're able to enhance our own dynamic offerings with

Nocatee's expansive calendar of socials and events. There really is something for everyone.”

Kennedy said one of the biggest priorities at Starling, however, is to limit the confusion that is prevalent in the assisted living facility industry. She said Starling provides two simple pricing plans (a la carte and all-inclusive), and, because it is a rental community, it does not require a hefty upfront “buy-in” fee.

“At Starling, we're intent on providing clarity,” Kennedy said. “For some reason, our industry has evolved into one that is unnecessarily confusing to consumers. We dispel this concept by offering optionality and simplicity.”

For more information on Starling at Nocatee, visit starlingliving.com/communities/starling-at-nocatee.



River Garden main entrance

Photo courtesy of River Garden

River Garden named one of Florida's top nursing homes

River Garden received a “Top Performance” rating from U.S. News & World Report, joining 121 other nursing homes in Florida with the designation.

The news outlet used data from Nursing Home Compare, a program run by the Centers for Medical & Medicaid Services (CMS), to rate the homes as either “poor” or “top performing” on a scale of one to five. U.S. News & World Report evaluated nursing home performance over time, with much of the emphasis placed on a strong

performance in medical procedures.

To receive a high rating, homes had to provide significantly more than the required minimum of rehabilitation therapy. All nursing homes on the list accept residents covered by Medicaid, Medicare or both.

The 121 listed nursing homes labeled as “top performing” received a rating of 4.5 or greater. According to U.S. News & World Report, there are 685 total nursing homes in Florida.

Rep. Rutherford tours River Garden campus

Rep. John Rutherford, R-Fla, visited the River Garden campus in Jacksonville to learn more about the challenges and concerns facing nursing homes and other agencies as they confront the issues of caring for seniors in Florida.

River Garden Senior Services is a non-profit, mission-driven community agency offering an array of elder care programs and services on a 40-acre campus in the Mandarin area. Sponsored by the organized Jewish community, River Garden serves clients from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds, while maintaining an environment supportive of Jewish identity and informed by Jewish values.

In addition to being an eight-time recipient of the Governor’s Gold Seal Award for excellence in long-term care, River Garden was recently named as a top nursing home in the state of Florida by U.S. News & World Report. It is also a recipient of U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Nursing Homes” designation in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016-17 and 2017-18, as well as a five-star rated community by AHCA (Agency for Health Care Administration) and CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services).

The River Garden campus includes River Garden Hebrew Home, a 180-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility; The Coves at River Garden, an 80-unit independent living community; River Garden Home Health Care, a Florida-licensed and Medicare-certified home health agency; River Garden Rehab, providing short-stay rehabilitation and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies; River Garden Adult Day Care; The Albert Z. Fleet Geriatric Training Center, providing continuing education, training and professional advancement for staff; and River Garden Foundation, providing financial support to the River Garden system of senior services.



Senior Services River Garden Home board members and co-chairs of River Garden’s Public Policy Committee Jerry Rothstein and Randy Kammer (from left); Rep. John Rutherford; River Garden Senior Services President Gloria Einstein; River Garden Foundation board member Dick Kravitz; River Garden Hebrew Home President Susan Cohen; and River Garden CEO Marty Goetz.

Photo courtesy of River Garden

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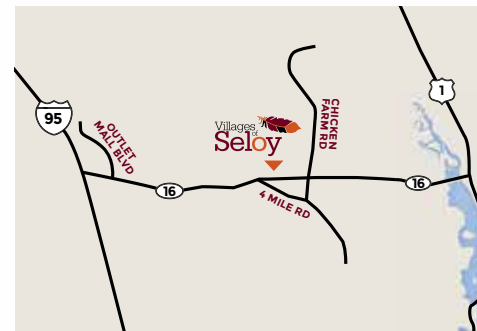
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PV2-LV45321

Considerations for transitioning to retirement communities



By Jeannette Bajalia

Special to the Recorder

Working with individuals and families as a retirement planning professional, one of the most frequently asked questions I receive is, “When

is the right time to move into a retirement community?” And my answer is, “It depends.”

The decision to relocate into a continuing care retirement community truly is as unique to you and your life goals as your DNA. So, let’s talk about some of the considerations that should serve as input into making this lifestyle decision – after all, this decision is a financial decision as much as it’s a lifestyle decision, so you must have all the facts and only the facts relevant to your life goals and needs.

A Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) is an alternative residence choice for older adults that can provide flexible housing options combined with an array of services that can address changing health and wellness needs as its residents age. The idea behind this growing trend is to make it possible for residents to move in and never have to move again. If their

needs change and they require healthcare and supervision, they don’t have to leave friends or their spouse behind, thus avoiding the stress of another move.

So, when is the right time to make the move? There are many considerations in choosing the right CCRC. In the course of my planning for clients, I have personally visited seven in helping a widow identify the right community for her – trust me, they are not all created equal, nor do they have the same focus or culture. Involved in the decision are considerations such as lifestyle, finances, your individual housing preference, healthcare options and as important, your future happiness. So, you don’t want to make an uninformed decision – it can be a costly decision both emotionally, mentally and financially.

As I said, not all CCRCs are created equal. You will be required to sign a contract and if you check on the contracts offered by CCRCs across America, you’ll find that there are many different types. It is impossible to be thoroughly acquainted with every nuance of each of them, but it is possible to determine what you need and want and go from there. Here are several considerations you need to be thoughtful about as you evaluate your needs and do your homework.

■ Do you own long-term care insurance? If so, you’ll want to make sure that your coverage harmonizes with what you select

– this is a huge financial consideration.

■ Is the community a for profit community or is it a nonprofit? This is a key consideration. Should you be blessed with long life, you may end up running out of money, and the structure of the community is critical to understand because you don’t want to end up on the street in your 80s or 90s.

■ Does the CCRC require an entry fee or is there a rental option?

■ Does the contract allow you to recoup any of the entry fee after the first few years? Some have a return of capital contract. (You must read the fine print.)

■ How stable is the community financially? Can it fulfill its long-term commitment to provide you with the adequate healthcare? How long have they been operating, and how experienced is the CCRC’s management? Ask about ratings; check on complaints. What’s the staff turnover record?

■ Get a history of monthly fee adjustments, and determine how the history compared with COLA adjustments going back 10 years.

■ What’s the quality of care with assisted living and skilled nursing care? Look at state surveys and other regulatory examinations.

■ Talk to people who live there and eat lunch and dinner there. Get feedback and visit a lot unannounced and perhaps with-

out being accompanied by the marketing or sales director.

■ Ask to get a copy of the monthly newsletter – this tells you a lot about the community.

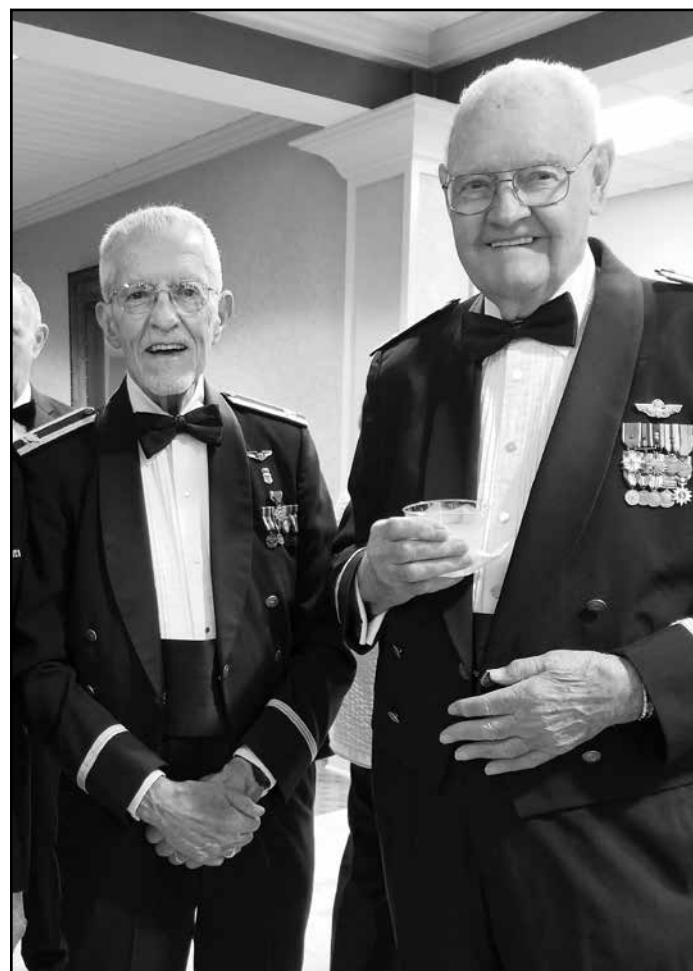
■ Make sure you know what’s important to you. The culture, amenities, and activities offered in the community needs to be aligned to your core values and beliefs.

If you’re trying to help aging parents make the move into a CCRC, it’s critical that you respect and evaluate what is beneficial to your loved one’s health and well-being. When engaging family members in the “Is it time to move?” dialogue, you need to make sure you understand what your loved one wants, not what you want for them.

The decision to move and when to move ultimately should improve the individual’s health and well-being. But, it could backfire as well and accelerate the aging process if the decision is not made in accordance with the individual’s needs, values and lifestyle expectations. This isn’t a decision that should be made for someone; the consequences are regretful.

Ponte Vedra Beach resident Jeannette Bajalia is the president of Petros Estate & Retirement Planning and the founder and president of Woman’s Worth, LLC, which offers a complete range of retirement lifestyle protection® services customized for women.

Fleet Landing celebrates veterans at 2017 Military Ball



Col. Phil Martin and Col. Wendall Shawler

Fleet Landing honored over 150 veterans at its 2017 Military Ball in October.

Members from all five service branches — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard — started the evening with a cocktail hour and welcome address from Col. Pete Edmonds, chairperson of this year’s Military Ball. After the national anthem, attendees enjoyed dinner and dancing, featuring music from Express Sound.

Originally founded by and for retired military officers, Atlantic Beach-based Fleet Landing now welcomes people from all walks of life. A nonprofit community serving adults ages 62 and over, Fleet Landing provides an independent and active lifestyle. Residents enjoy robust wellness programming; educational, cultural and social events; fine and casual dining; and the full continuum of healthcare services and maintenance-free living on the community’s 95-acre campus, located just five blocks from the ocean.

Fleet Landing’s mission is to enrich the lives of older adults through high quality programs and services to support successful aging. For more information, call (904) 246-9900 ext. 1403 or visit www.fleetlanding.com.

Photos courtesy of Fleet Landing



Beth Cueroni and Rear Adm. Richard Cueroni




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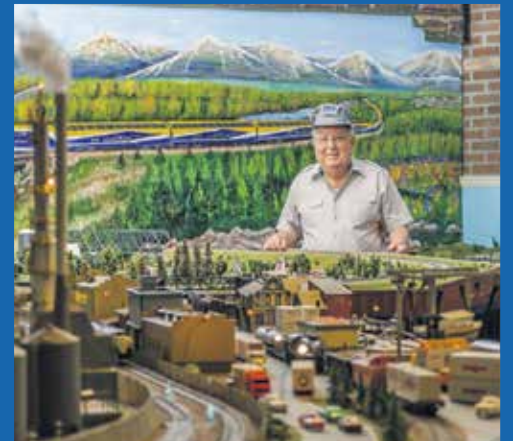


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Is it possible to reverse cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease?

By Lynn Kettell-Slifer, ARNP

Special to the Recorder

We are in the midst of an epidemic — an insidious and deadly disease that carelessly destroys the brains of its victims.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, dementia affects more than 5 million Americans and is currently the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. One in three seniors will die from dementia. Alzheimer's and other dementias are on track to affect 50 million Americans by 2050.

Most alarmingly, there is no effective treatment to date. Of the more than 200 clinical trials of dementia medications in the past decades, only a few have been approved for use. None of these medications are particularly effective. In fact, most people who take them don't experience any meaningful benefit, and more than half suffer from side effects, ranging from nausea, diarrhea, muscle cramps and reduced appetite to slowed heart rate and internal bleeding. To make matters worse, side effects can include many of the symptoms these medications are prescribed to treat — confusion, fatigue, lightheadedness, insomnia, headache and tremors.

With all this bad news about dementia, is there any hope for a disease that's been labeled as "incurable?" The functional

medicine community believes there is significant hope, and has the scientific evidence to prove it. One example getting a lot of attention lately is Dr. Dale Bredesen, internationally-recognized expert on the mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, best-selling author of "The End of Alzheimer's" and developer of The Bredesen Protocol for Cognitive Decline.

Dr. Bredesen and his colleagues at UCLA are at the forefront of research for comprehensive treatment programs, showing great promise in treating and actually reversing cognitive decline. Bredesen's research uses the functional medicine approach, a twenty-first century method for addressing the complexities of the disease process.

While conventional medicine focuses mostly on treating symptoms, functional medicine seeks to uncover and treat the cause of symptoms through a comprehensive, personalized evaluation process. We address the three major components affecting health — mind, body and spirit — through a specific process and advanced diagnostics. Volumes of research prove the link between these "pillars of health" and disease. Functional medicine practitioners then use a personalized approach to treatment that may include dietary changes, lifestyle modifications, detoxification and

nutraceuticals. Patients feel better, and symptoms are generally improved and often eliminated.

Dr. Bredesen's 30 years of research on neurodegenerative disease has resulted in the development of The Bredesen Protocol, a functional medicine-based program for evaluation and treatment of cognitive decline. He and his colleagues have treated over 2,000 patients to date with very good results. So, what is involved with The Bredesen Protocol, and why is this method showing great promise in treating cognitive decline?

The answer is best explained by first looking at how, in simple terms, standard medicine has viewed dementia. It is seen as a brain disease, with treatments focused on affecting the proteins and plaques often seen on brain images of affected patients. Functional medicine, conversely, views dementia as a symptom of a much larger disease process, usually with multiple causes. In fact, The Bredesen Protocol classifies dementia into subtypes based upon an extensive evaluation of the patient. Targeted interventions are used to address deficiencies and problem areas uncovered in the evaluation process. Treatments are complex and involve many areas of function, which likely explains The Bredesen Protocol's success versus the single therapies employed in standard

practice. As with any disease, early intervention is key to successful treatment.

What can you do to protect yourself? As a Bredesen Protocol-certified practitioner, I stress that my patients start now with making the changes necessary to prevent this horrible disease. We know that dementia-related changes are occurring in the brain for a decade or more before any symptoms occur. Long-term deficiencies, poor dietary and lifestyle choices, environmental and heavy metal toxins and genetic risk all play a role in the development of dementia. Research shows us that reducing risk and reversing symptoms of cognitive decline are most effective early in the process, but positive changes can be made regardless of where one is in the disease process. I urge you to read about The Bredesen Protocol, consider a functional medicine approach to health and make personal changes now to prevent cognitive decline. If you are experiencing cognitive symptoms, don't wait to be evaluated. Together we can beat this disease!

Lynn Kettell-Slifer is a family nurse practitioner trained in functional medicine through The Institute for Functional Medicine. She is certified in the Bredesen Protocol for Cognitive Decline. Her practice, Health Partners LLC, is located in Ponte Vedra Beach. Visit www.HealthPartnersLLC.net for more information.

The health benefits of grandparent-grandchild relationships

In the not-so-distant past, extended families were the norm, with multiple generations residing on the same street if not in the same house.

Today the family unit is largely an amalgam of different situations. The rise of two-income families has pressured parents into finding childcare situations. Quite often grandparents once again step in to offer guidance and support for youngsters. This can be a good thing for both the grandparents and the grandchildren.

Although a bevy of psychological research focuses on parent-child relationships, new evidence points to the benefits of the grandchild-grandparent relationship as well. Close relationships between these different demographics is often a sign of strong familial ties.

A study from researchers at Boston College discovered that emotionally close ties between grandparents and adult grandchildren reduced depressive symptoms in both groups. Research at the University of Oxford among English children between the ages 11 and 16 found that close



Photo courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

grandparent-grandchild relationships were associated with benefits including fewer emotional and behavioral problems and fewer difficulties with peers.

Adult and grandchildren alike benefit from relationships with their elders. Grandparents can provide a connection and exposure to different ideas while pro-

viding a link to family history and knowledge regarding traditions and customs not readily available elsewhere.

Nurturing grandparent-grandchild experiences may be easy for families where grandparents live in the same house or close by. For others, it may take some effort. The following are some ways to

facilitate time spent together.

- Schedule regular family reunions or get-togethers. Host or plan multi-generation events that bring the family together and expose children to various members of their family.
- Promote one-on-one time. Have grandchildren spend time with grandparents in intimate settings. Alone time can be good for both and offers each undivided attention. A meal at a restaurant or time spent doing a puzzle or craft can be interesting to both generations involved.
- Video chat when possible. If distance makes frequent visits challenging, use technology to bridge that gap. Send photos, letters and electronic communications. Tech-savvy grandparents can use Skype or Facetime to stay in touch and speak one-on-one with their grandchildren.
- Share skills with each other. Either generation can play teacher to the other. Grandparents may have certain skills, such as baking, sewing or wood crafts, that may not be readily taught today. Children can help grandparents navigate computers, video games or sports activities.

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The Palms at Ponte Vedra Executive Director Barbara Matteson, President Steve Sell and Director of Sales and Marketing Kay Tober

The Palms at Ponte Vedra celebrates two-year anniversary with Oktoberfest event

The Palms at Ponte Vedra celebrated its two-year anniversary with an Oktoberfest-themed event Oct. 27.

A German village set the backdrop for a special evening including live music from Unique Entertainment, dancing, craft beer and a traditional German menu prepared by Culinary Director Darryl Young.

President Steve Sell honored employees and residents celebrating one-and two-year anniversaries during a special presentation.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Music by Unique Entertainment

Council on Aging raises \$23,000 for Care Connection program at Christmas on the River

The St. Johns County Council on Aging (COA) raised \$23,000 at its seventh annual Christmas on the River fundraiser.

Held at the River House in St. Augustine Nov. 19, the event benefited the organization's Care Connection program, a volunteer-based initiative designed to help independent elders meet and manage the challenges of everyday life. The program's services range from assistance

with financial planning and home repairs to help with yard and lawn maintenance and installation of assistive safety devices.

This year's theme for the event was "A Worldwide Journey of Wine Tasting & Gift Giving from the Heart." Attendees enjoyed a festival of wreaths and other decorations, as well as wine tastings and fair trade items from Amistad, food and seasonal music.



Photos by Dave Macri

Michael Large, COA Executive Director Becky Yanni, Nellie Daniels and Laney Kiernan



Event attendees inquire about the wine at the event.



Carol Novak, Richard Smith and Shirley Van Ry

St. Augustine's senior community gathers to raise money for Alzheimer's research, celebrate Silver Creek anniversary



Photo courtesy of Jackie Hird

Local senior services representatives, medical professionals, Silver Creek senior community residents and guests enjoy chef-prepared hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association and celebrate Silver Creek's first anniversary.

More than 200 people gathered at Silver Creek senior living community Nov. 16 to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association in honor of the community's first anniversary.

Funds were raised through a silent auction featuring original artwork, donations from local health and wellness organizations and gifts from local businesses. The event raised more than \$1,500 in total for the Association's Central and North Florida Chapter.

"We've had a remarkable year thanks to the extraordinary support of the community, local senior services, medical professionals and so many others," said Sharon Benjamin, executive director at Silver Creek. "We were eager to show our gratitude for the wonderful reception we've received by giving back to the community. Alzheimer's research is a cause that is very near and dear to our hearts, so it was only natural to use the occasion of our first an-

niversary to raise money for our local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association."

The anniversary celebration also featured one of Silver Creek's most popular amenities: chef-prepared, restaurant-style recipes.

"Silver Creek is designed to not only support but to celebrate our residents with an interesting and engaging lifestyle," Benjamin said. "Sharing healthful food made from local ingredients with friends, family and neighbors is just one example."

The Silver Creek senior living community opened November 2016 to provide assisted living, memory care and short-term respite care with a focus on holistic wellness, person-centered care and life fulfillment. Silver Creek residents enjoy a variety of amenities, including a multi-media center and movie theater, a creative arts studio, a library with computer center, a fitness center, walking paths and a game room.

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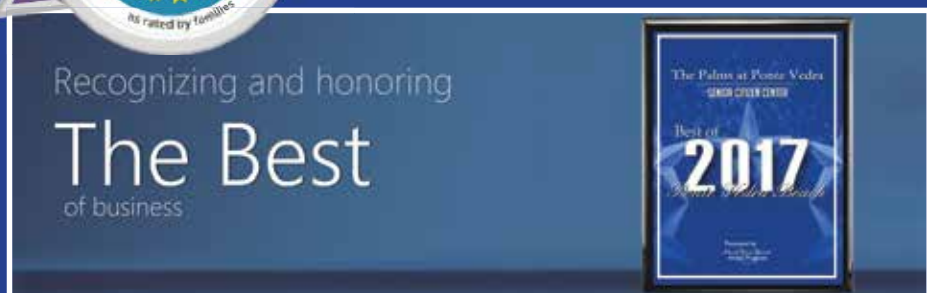


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Recently released contribution limits and Roth considerations



By Ric Schilling
Special to the Recorder

Ric Schilling
Columnist

The federal government has recently released the new contribution limits for all retirement plans for 2018.

As you will note, the limits haven't increased much; for example, the maximum employee contribution to a 401(k) plan increased from \$18,000 (where it has been for several years) to \$18,500, while the additional contribution amount for those 50 and older remains at \$6,000.

Similar small changes in limits were made to a number of other plans, but several did not change, such as IRA contributions. Remember that the penalty for excess contributions to a retirement plan is 50 percent of the excess contribution, so be sure you know the applicable limit for your situation before you go charging ahead.

Another item in the news involving

retirement plans is a proposal being tossed about in Congress that would do one of two things. First, the proposal would require all contributions to plans going forward to be Roth contributions, i.e., no longer permit pre-tax contributions to be made but force everyone to use Roth plans (pay tax now, withdraw tax free later) only. The second idea is a variation of this, allowing some level of pre-tax contributions with all contributions above that level to be Roth (after tax) contributions.

Obviously, these proposals are being considered as a way of increasing government tax revenues in the near-term, albeit at the expense of greater tax revenues that could be realized in the future. By basing the system substantially or completely on the Roth approach of paying taxes on the money going in but not the money coming out (subject to certain rules), the government is essentially giving up the right to tax the growth of the retirement plan balances over time. This may help finance a tax reform plan now but at a cost to the government in the future that cannot be estimated.

That said, who would be most affected by these changes if they come to pass? I regularly recommend to younger folks (those in their 40s or younger) that they contribute to Roth plans versus traditional plans because the earnings on and appreciation of their funds over time will not be federally taxed in the future, and the tax bracket they are in now is low enough that paying the tax now is not a big impediment to contributing. Those 50 and above may be more adversely affected since they are typically in a higher tax bracket (thus losing a deduction that is worth more to them) and have a shorter period of appreciation and growth before beginning to withdraw funds.

If you are currently contributing to a pre-tax retirement plan, you may want to consider maxing out your contributions this tax year both to take advantage of the current rules and limits and to gain a greater tax advantage if, by some chance, rates are lower next year. If all your contributions are after-tax, then contributing more next year when rates may be lower might make more sense than accelerating

contributions you had planned to make next year into this year. As always, seek the opinion of your tax professional who can best advise you in the context of your specific situation.

Frederic "Ric" Schilling is a Florida native, born in Jacksonville, Fl. Ric is President of Senior Guardians of America, a local North Florida firm specializing in tax reduction, long term illness planning, asset protection, probate avoidance and life income planning. Ric is a National Speaker and Advocate on Senior Issues and has been featured by the Florida Times Union and WJXT, TV-4 in Jacksonville as an authority on Estate Planning and Retirement Issues. Senior Guardians has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and is a member in excellent standing with the National Ethics Association. Contact Frederic: 904-371-3302 or 888-891-3381 Please visit: www.seniorguardian.com This article is not intended to give tax or legal advice. Securities offered through Center Street Securities, Inc. (CSS), a registered Broker-Dealer & member FINRA & SIPC. Investment Advisory Services offered through Center Street Advisors, Inc. (CSA), a SEC Registered Investment Advisor. Schilling and Associates (d/b/a Senior Guardians of America) and CSA are independent of CSS.



A group of COA volunteers installs pavers.

Volunteers needed at St. Johns County Council on Aging

The St. Johns County Council on Aging (COA) is currently seeking volunteers.

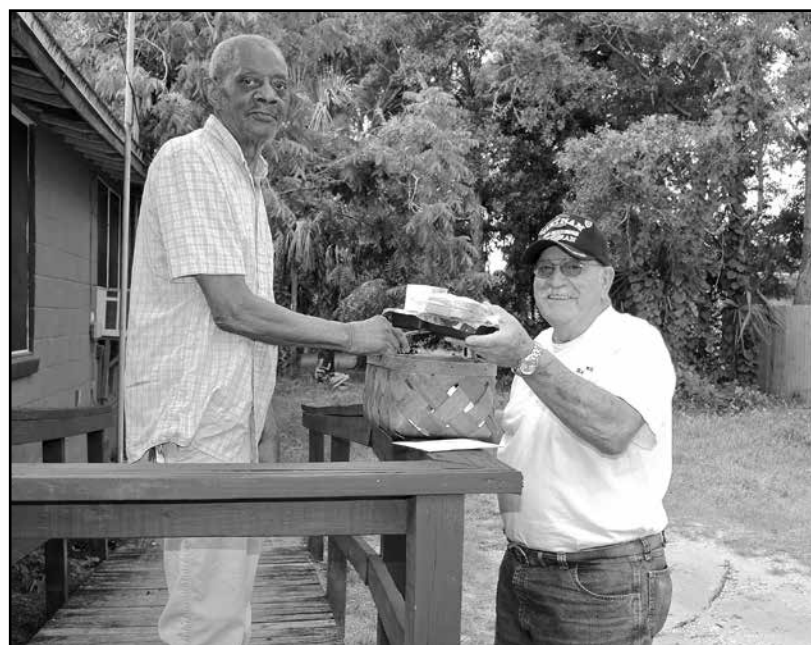
In Ponte Vedra, the Council on Aging is seeking volunteers to help in the kitchen at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hours are somewhat flexible.

In St. Augustine, volunteer drivers are needed on Mondays to deliver Meals on Wheels and lunches to Downtown St. Augustine and the Integrative Memory Enhancement Program on Anastasia Island, respectively. Another driver is needed from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday or Friday to deliver food from the Council on Aging to the Hastings Senior Center, and volunteers are also needed in St. Augustine Thursdays from 8:15 to 11:30 a.m. to help with basic lawn care for seniors in need.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at the St. Johns County Council on Aging, call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com.



Kirk Chamberlain volunteers with the COA by helping with home repairs.



A COA volunteer delivers Meals on Wheels.



Mary Siefken helps the COA as a therapy dog volunteer.

Photos courtesy of St. Johns County Council on Aging

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Students from Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus conduct science class around an Anatomage virtual dissection table at the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus on Nov. 13.

Photo courtesy of The Bolles School



First Bolles Lower School PVB students utilize Anatomage table

Fifth-grade students from the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus became an exciting “first” for The Bolles School.

The students, who came to the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus on Nov. 13 for a morning lesson, were the first Bolles Lower School students to have a science class around the new Anatomage virtual dissection table.

Bolles is one of only three independent high schools in the world to own an Anatomage table, which is more typically found in medical education settings. While upper school students have been the only Bolles students to use the table since its spring arrival, school administrators intend for students of all ages to experience the technology as part of their science curriculum, including guests from other independent schools and community organizations.

“This was an exciting occasion for us; we have been looking forward to expanding student use of the Anatomage table to younger Bolles peers,” said Piper Moyer-Shad, Bolles Upper School anatomy teacher and student activities director. “Their visit will be the first of many throughout each school year for students in lower and middle school, as well as students from our independent school organizations and partner groups.”

Fifth-grade students from the Bolles Lower School Whitehurst Campus were on campus Nov. 14 for a morning experience with the Anatomage table. Both classes are studying the digestive system and the multilayers of the human body.

Students rotated between science lessons in the physics lab and mindfulness training in the Whitehurst Treehouse Outdoor Learning Center and the reflection garden on the Upper School San Jose Campus.

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Hey Kids ... Send your letters to Santa

Santa has asked the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber to put special mailboxes in Ponte Vedra Beach so he receives letters from all the children.

Dear Santa,



Mailboxes are in place until Dec. 15. After that, Santa will be busy!



Sincerely,

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR RETURN ADDRESS SO SANTA CAN WRITE YOU BACK:



DROP-OFF AT SANTA MAILBOX LOCATIONS:

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Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Sawgrass Village
(located outside near Nona Blue)
215 Tourside Drive
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Santa's mailbox to accept letters at Sawgrass Village and Recorder office



Santa's mailbox located near Nona Blue in Sawgrass Village is accepting letters until Dec. 15.

Letters mailed to Saint Nick to receive responses

By Jon Blauvelt

First Coast children seeking to send their Christmas lists to Santa Claus may drop them off at Santa's mailbox located near Nona Blue in Sawgrass Village and at the Ponte Vedra Recorder office at 1102 AIA N., Unit 108.

Letters mailed by Dec. 15 will receive a response from Santa thanks to a special arrangement the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce made with the North Pole.

"I have asked the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce to help me out by collecting your letters in this special mailbox," Saint Nick said. "No need for a stamp, but if you would like me to respond to your letter, please include your return address on the envelope.

"The nice folks at the Chamber will be collecting letters for me up until Dec. 15," added Santa. "After that, I will be too busy to respond because I will be preparing for my busy night on Christmas Eve. I look forward to reading your letters!"

Photos by Jon Blauvelt and Samantha Logue



Santa's mailbox at the Recorder office is accepting letters until Dec. 15.

How to cut back on waste this holiday season

The holiday season is a joyful time of year. But the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day also tend to be very wasteful, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimating that household waste increases by more than 25 percent during the holiday season.

Reducing waste come this time of year does not mean celebrants have to forgo big family meals or beautifully wrapped gifts. In fact, there are several ways to reduce waste without spoiling the spirit of the season.

■ **Give eco-conscious gifts.**

The environment may not be the first thing that comes to mind when holiday shoppers are looking for gifts for their loved ones. But giving reusable gifts can have a positive, long-term impact on the planet. Reusable coffee mugs or water bottles can dramatically reduce waste over time, and such items make great stocking stuffers. Shoppers also can look for items made from recycled materials — which run the gamut from home furnishings to calendars to clothing — as eco-friendly alternatives to gifts produced without the environment in mind.



■ **Reuse holiday-specific items.** Many people only use gift wrap, gift boxes and gift bags during the holiday season. Such items are oftentimes discarded after Christmas morning. But

these items can be reused to cut back on holiday waste. Reusing wrapping paper from year to year can be especially beneficial to the environment. That's because wrapping paper tends to be dyed

or laminated, and many wrapping papers contain non-paper additives that cannot be recycled. Reusing wrapping paper, purchasing only recyclable paper or wrapping gifts in old newspapers

or magazines can help holiday celebrants reduce their carbon footprints.

■ **Prepare less food and donate any leftovers.** The Worldwatch Institute notes that, during the holiday season, celebrants generate three times as much food waste as they do during other times of the year. Large family meals are a tradition of the holiday season, but hosts who routinely find themselves discarding leftovers can plan on preparing less food this year. Consider how much guests are likely to eat and plan meals accordingly instead of buying enough food to feed a small army. Donate leftovers to nearby shelters so nothing goes to waste.

■ **Recycle live Christmas trees.** According to the National Christmas Tree Association, 25.9 million real trees were sold in the United States in 2015. Trees put out on the curb for collection after the holiday season typically end up in landfills, but some communities recycle Christmas trees each year. Real tree enthusiasts can contact community officials to determine if they can recycle rather than discard their trees.



Photos courtesy metrocreativeconnection.com

St. Augustine holds annual Christmas parade despite fears of cancellation

By Jon Blauvelt

Despite fears that the St. Augustine Christmas parade would be canceled this year due to lack of funding, sponsors came forward and the annual holiday tradition took place after all on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Starting at the Mission of Nombre de Dios, the parade proceeded through downtown and finished near the visitor center. The parade included floats, festive decorations, animals and holiday-themed performances presented by local businesses and community groups.

Santa served the role of showstopper as the last attraction of the parade.



Classic cars adorned in holiday decorations stroll down the streets of the Ancient City.

Photos by Jon Blauvelt



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The Grinch makes an appearance at the parade.

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UNF students build toy cars to aid children with disabilities

By Benjamin Naim

University of North Florida (UNF) engineering and physical therapy students unveiled remote-controlled toy cars they built for children with disabilities Dec. 1 at UNF's student union building. The event was a part of the Adaptive Toy Project, a program that equips students with the skills necessary to build the toy cars at no charge for participating families.

Husam Safar, an electrical engineering student who worked on one of the remote-controlled vehicles, said participating in this year's project was a rewarding experience for him.

"I spent a lot of time and hard work into it, and I just wanted to make sure when the kid sits in [the car] that it works and they enjoy it," Safar said. "It feels great to know we gave somebody an opportunity to move around and explore."

The initial stages of the project consisted of trying to pick the car and gather its necessary components, the UNF student revealed. Safar said it took some time for the group to discover how to build the car and modify it for their assigned child. In total, there were three electrical engineers and two mechanical engineers on Safar's team, which constructed a blue car for a little girl named Alba.

Kelly Wise, Alba's mother, said she heard about the program from her daughter's therapist and that she was happy to participate. Wise added that the blue car built for Alba is a perfect fit that will help her daughter move around and explore.

"The biggest thing is to be mobile," Wise said. "She is mobile crawling but at her age, being almost two, she's not walking. Being able to move and explore her environment will allow her to progress speech-wise and developmental wise. It's going to be awesome. They adapted it to fit her body and made it to where she



LEFT: Children and their families pose for a picture at the Adaptive Toy Project event.

BELOW: Children play with their new toy cars at the event.

Photos by Benjamin Naim



can control it."

Mary Lundy, an assistant professor of clinical and applied movement sciences at UNF, said the electrical, mechanical and physical therapy students who participated in the initiative answered a community need and gained valuable experience as an integrated team. The program was born out of an interdisciplinary, community-based service-learning class involved with pediatric technology.

"We enroll PT [physical



therapy] students, we enroll engineering students," Lundy noted. "They work together, they develop a relationship with kids, with families and with community therapists. They talk about what the child needs, what their strengths are and what their physical therapy goals are."

The toy cars will greatly benefit children with disabilities, Lundy said, because moving around will aid in their social and cognitive development. According to the assistant professor, the cars will



ABOVE: An Adoptive Toy Project-themed cake is displayed at the event.

LEFT: Husam Safar (right) poses for a picture with his teammates, behind their toy car creation.

give children with impaired mobility the power to explore their surroundings.

"We know from child development studies and research that children need to be able to move independently in their environment," she said. "It needs to be them doing the movement."

Professor Juan Aceros, who teaches the special topics class that prepares students for the Adaptive Toy Project, said this year's class received an A.

"They all surprised me," he

said. "They know this project must be an A-plus project, and every single one of them did it. There are no Bs or Cs; they got it accomplished."

The UNF professor said his role was to put the project in perspective and show the students how impactful these toys can be to the lives of children with disabilities. He then provided resources and helped guide his students through the process of building the cars, but Aceros noted that they did all the hard work.


"A lot of weekends coming in working on the cars," he added. "A lot of trial and failure, a lot of waiting for certain components."

The students also communicated ideas with people in physical therapy and health to understand the needs of children with disabilities, Aceros said.

According to UNF, the Adaptive Toy Project just received an over \$500,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health that will fund the course for five years.

For more information on the program, visit www.unfadaptive-toyproject.com.

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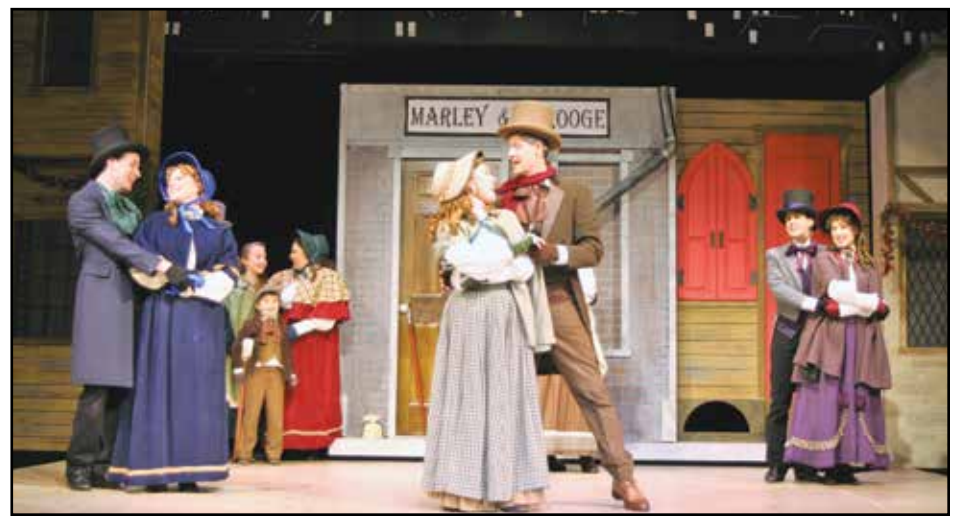


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Photos courtesy of the Alhambra Theatre & Dining

Castmembers of "Christmas Carole" perform at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining show.

'Christmas Carole' returns to the Alhambra

By Samantha Logue

A popular local holiday tradition has returned to Jacksonville this month, as the Alhambra Theatre & Dining is presenting another encore production of "Christmas Carole."

Featured as part of the Alhambra's 50th anniversary season, the musical retelling of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" has been presented more than 25 times over the past few decades at the theater. The 2017 production marks the first time, however, that longtime Alhambra director Tod Booth takes on the title role of Ebenezer Scrooge.

"I think it is safe to say after 30 years of showing 'Christmas Carole,' this show has become a great family tradition for many of us," said Managing Partner Craig Smith in a letter to Alhambra patrons. "We are so excited to have our very own Tod

Booth playing Scrooge for the first time ever ... Whether it's your first time here, or you've seen the show before, you are in for a treat."

"Christmas Carole" faithfully follows Dickens' classic tale of a curmudgeonly old miser who comes to know the true spirit of Christmas over the course of one unforgettable Christmas Eve night. With song, dance, special effects and even a little slapstick comedy, the Alhambra's rendition places a family-friendly spin on an old favorite.

The last show of the Alhambra Theatre & Dining's 50th anniversary season, "Christmas Carole" will run at the theater, which is located at 12000 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville, through Dec. 24. A "Birthday Bash" has also been planned for Monday, Dec. 11, to celebrate 50 years of Alhambra memories. For tickets and additional information, visit www.alhambrajax.com.

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PV3-LV45156

North Florida Women's Chorale to present 'Cradle Songs and Carols' Dec. 10

The North Florida Women's Chorale will present a free concert entitled, "Cradle Songs and Carols," Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. at Community Presbyterian Church in Atlantic Beach.

The program of lullabies from many cultures was inspired by "Cradle Hymn" by Kim Andre Arnesen, a young Norwegian composer. Many of the songs and carols on the program refer to lullabies, cradles, infants and, of course, the manger. The Japanese lullaby, "Takeda," is humorous in its reference to the plight of a babysitter who is having trouble soothing a child. "The Moon in Winter-

Marc Ressler, director of the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall; Gabriel Pellicer, assistant director of the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division; Steve Gard, president of the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall; Michael Livingston, production coordinator of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall; Ryan Murphy, director of the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division and Neltie Black, production coordinator of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, gather for the check presentation for the new outdoor deck at the concert hall.



Photo courtesy of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

Ponte Vedra Concert Hall breaks ground on new outdoor deck

By Samantha Logue

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall has officially begun construction on an outdoor deck after receiving a \$50,000 donation from the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Nov. 15.

“It took us the better part of a year to raise the funds, but all of our members and members of the public that participated in our raffles and fundraising events were very generous, and we were very happy to be successful and to get this project off the ground,” said Steve Gard, president of the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

The 925-square-foot deck will accommodate approximately 125 people, and according to St. Johns County Cultural Events Division Director Ryan Murphy, the project has been years in the making.

“We’ve been looking at it for the last couple years, and really looked to extend that concessions area out,” Murphy said. “We have the problem of people becoming a little loud in the concessions when it’s a quiet concert—it’s a nice buffer area for people who still want to talk.”

With hopes of accommodating those who prefer a more social experience without disturbing the atmosphere of the hall, the idea for an outdoor deck was born. Featuring a full bar and access to onsite food trucks, the expansion will increase the concert hall’s overall concessions offerings.

“The deck is going to add not only to the concert experiences, but the weddings and special events we do,” Murphy added. “Along with it, we’re doing a lot of touch-ups inside the concert hall, so by the time we start the season in 2018, it’ll have a whole new look to it. It’s going to be really nice.”

Construction on the deck is expected to be completed by the end of December, and a grand opening celebration is currently scheduled for mid-January.

“There’s going to be a lot of exciting changes right out of the gate in 2018, and I think it’s just symbolic of things to come,” Murphy said.

Chorale

Continued from 42

time” presents the perspective of how the baby is cradled in a different culture, the Canadian Huron people. No cradle theme would be complete without the most loved cradle song of all, “Away in a Manger.” The arrangement of the familiar hymn, which is attributed to Martin Luther, is a soothing and beautiful weaving of two familiar tune settings of this carol.

Come hear the Women’s Chorale of 35 voices, directed by Kerry Fradley with Kathleen Vande Berg as collaborative accompanist. There will be an audience sing-along, and the concert is free. The organization is collecting donations of baby items to be given to St. Gerard Campus. Visit www.womenschorale.org for more information.

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Business Weekly

PAGE 44 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017

Opulence of
Southern Pines
opens

Page 46

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photo courtesy of Power Tee

Bjorn Lewis, Golf-Tech's vice president of installations (left), and PGA professional Colin Baesler, Kadena Golf Complex's manager, shake hands in front of the new Power Tees installed at Chibana Golf Course at the Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan.

Power Tee added to golf course at U.S. Air Force base in Japan

Golf-Tech, the world leader in golf range automation, announced it recently installed Power Tee at the Chibana Golf Course at the United States' Kadena Air Force Base on the island of Okinawa, Japan.

Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, and the Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, have been using Power Tee for more than a year and many others are considering adding it to their facilities. Power Tee, which is based in Ponte Vedra, makes practicing golf more productive by allowing golfers to hit more quality shots per practice session in a controlled environment.

Endorsed by professionals like the 2018 Ryder Cup Captain Jim Furyk, of Ponte Vedra Beach, and golf instructor Mitchell Spearman, Power Tee is credited with helping golfers improve faster because they practice with no interruptions, such as re-gripping the club and the stance realignment that usually accompany the manual teeing-up process. Golfers simply wait for the ball to automatically appear and then swing to develop a rhythm that increases muscle memory.

According to Martin Wyeth, Golf-Tech founder, CEO and creator of Power Tee, there are many benefits to the system.

"It's great for clubs and practice facilities to provide all golfers a means to perfect a swing in a consistent, fun and focused practice session," he said. "It's per-

fect for junior golfers who have a more difficult time concentrating, and it's ideal for our wounded warriors who may have restricted mobility as they can hit more balls."

Wyeth also noted more than 50 percent of the commercial golf ranges in the United Kingdom are currently automated with Power Tee.

"Now we are eager for every golfer in USA to learn about Power Tee and how it can improve his or her game," he said. "And [we] are extremely proud to be working with the United States Armed Forces supplying our servicemen here and overseas with something they will not only benefit from but enjoy."

Colin Baesler, PGA professional and golf course manager at the Kadena Golf Complex, noted customers are already enjoying the addition of Power Tee to the driving range.

"Our entire membership, regardless of skill or fitness level is benefitting from the advantages Power Tee provides because it offers something for everyone," Baesler said. "It's especially beneficial for junior golfers since they can get through a lot more instruction in a lesson period when they don't have to bother with teeing up golf balls. We are incredibly happy to have this available to our customers."

For more information about Power Tee, call (877) 769-3781 or visit www.powertee.com.

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Harry Pappas
Columnist

By Harry Pappas
Special to the Recorder

While there are thousands of stocks trading on the stock exchange, only 30 can claim the title of "a Dow Jones company."

When the Dow Jones industrial average was created in 1896, it had a dozen industrial stocks. There is only one company of the original 12 that still holds a membership in this prestigious club.

If history is any indication of what we can expect for the current 30 participants, the Dow's roster will look very different in the future. For example, according to CNBC, of the 30 current stocks, fewer than half were members in 1989. Only five have maintained membership for 50 years, and as mentioned above, only one has been a Dow stock since the index expanded from 12 to 30 companies on Oct. 1, 1928.

Please take a look at the list below. At first glance, you might suspect they are the companies that comprise the current Dow Jones industrial average.

Nope.

If you count the names, there are 36 companies listed.

Yep ... it is quiz time!

Let's see if you can select the six companies that should **not** be included in the list. Additionally, identify the company that is still a member of the original Dow 12 from 1896.

Amazon	IBM
Apple	Intel
AT&T	Johnson & Johnson
American Express	JPMorgan Chase
Boeing	McDonald's
Caterpillar	3M Company
Cisco Systems	Merck
Citigroup	Microsoft
Chevron	Nike
Coca-Cola	Pfizer
Deere & Co	Procter & Gamble
DuPont	The Travelers
ExxonMobil	UnitedHealth
General Electric	United Technologies
General Motors	Visa
Goldman Sachs	Verizon
Google	Wal-Mart
Home Depot	Walt Disney

Answers can be found on page 45.

Shearwater welcomes new community ambassador

Shearwater, the new master-planned residential community on County Road 210, has hired Julia Shannon as community ambassador to serve as liaison between the community and the residents, realtors and prospective residents.

“We are thrilled to welcome Julia to Shearwater to help build connections between our residents and their community, as well as inform prospective residents about all the exciting things happening at Shearwater,” said Jill Flores, Shearwater’s community director. “Julia’s 25 years of experience in the customer service and sales industries, as well as her friendly personality and positive energy, make her a perfect fit for this role.”



Julia Shannon

Since beginning her new career as a community ambassador, Shannon has had the opportunity to meet many of Shearwa-

ter’s diverse residents. As the first point-of-contact at the Kayak Club amenity center, Shannon ensures residents’ needs are met and they have a positive experience. In addition, Shannon also provides tours of the community to prospective residents and explains Shearwater’s unique approach to lifestyle programming and activities.

“Shearwater is truly a spectacular community with all of the amenities, events and healthy living opportunities that make it such a great place to live,” Shannon said. “I am so proud to represent this community and look forward to continuing to develop relationships with residents and realtors, as well as share my excitement for Shearwater

with prospective residents.”

Originally from upstate New York, Shannon moved to St. Augustine three years ago to be closer to family.

The Shearwater Kayak Club is located at 100 Kayak Way in St. Augustine. It is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

Quiz answers

Continued from 44

Answer No. 1: AT&T, Amazon, Citigroup, General Motors, Google and Deere & Co

Answer No. 2: General Electric is the only company that survived since 1896!

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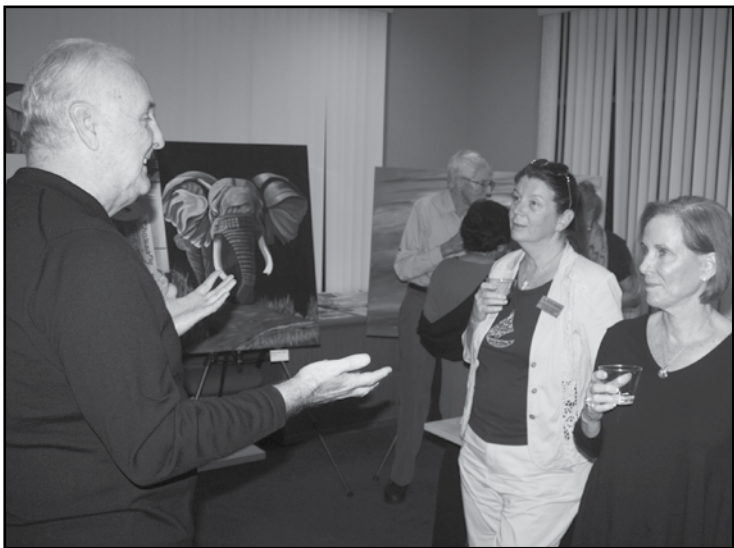
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Artist Bill Adams displays his work



Kylie Trundle and Zoe Gombar from the St. Augustine Distillery

Recorder hosts Chamber 'After Hours' event

By Jon Blauvelt

The Ponte Vedra Recorder hosted an "After Hours" event Wednesday, Nov. 29 for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

The event also served as an artist reception featuring art from various First Coast artists, as well as a holiday open house. In addition to networking, guests enjoyed food from KC's Kitchen and cupcakes from Sweet By Holly; music by Chase Rideman of Chillula; wine from Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room and tastings from St. Augustine Distillery; door prizes and more.

Photos by Jon Blauvelt



SJC Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Rodriguez, PVB Division Director Toni Boudreaux and Chamber Sales and Marketing Manager Erin Cook



Event guests enjoy food from KC's Kitchen.

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Opulence of Southern Pines opens in Sawgrass Village

An Opulence of Southern Pines store recently opened in Ponte Vedra's Sawgrass Village.

Representatives from the business and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce celebrated the opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony last week.

The business offers a wide assortment of luxury items for the home including luxury bed, bath and table linens, bath and home accessories, fragrances and gifts. Opulence also has an extensive department of women's fine lingerie and loungewear and men's shaving and grooming products.

The new Ponte Vedra store is located at 310 Front Street in suite 815.



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
Opulence of Southern Pines and SJC Chamber representatives participate in the business' ribbon cutting event.

Sports

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PVHS wrestlers
place second
at tournament

Page 50

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Win over Colts guarantees Jaguars first non-losing record since 2010, but team has bigger plans

By Jon Blauvelt

With Jacksonville's 30-10 rout of Indianapolis last Sunday, the Jaguars are 8-4 for the first time since 2007, guaranteeing the team a non-losing record for the first time since 2010. However, the Jaguars' sights are set on much bigger outcomes than just a winning season.

"That's great that we got eight wins, but that's not good enough for us," said veteran linebacker Paul Posluszny, who finished the game with 10 tackles, including two for a loss, and one-and-a-half sacks in the place of starter Telvin Smith. "We want to continue to play at a high level and win, get to the playoffs. We haven't reached our goals yet."

Wide receiver Keelan Cole, who reeled in three receptions for 49 yards and a touchdown, spelled out those goals and expectations for the team.

"Playoffs and beyond," he said. "You're not going to think ahead, but we know what we want to do. We for sure want to win a Super Bowl. We feel like we have the tools to win the Super Bowl; we just have to make sure we put it together, and this month is when it matters, so we started out good in December."

The undrafted rookie wideout is definitely right there: The Jaguars started out well this month. They started out very well.

They bounced back after losing to the Arizona Cardinals in a 27-24 heartbreaker the previous week and steamrolled the Colts for the second time this season, thanks in large part to the efforts of quarterback Blake Bortles. The four-year signal caller finished 26 of 35 for 309 yards and two touchdowns.

"I think last week was kind of uncharacteristic of our passing game," said Bortles, "so it felt good to be able to get back on track on really the whole thing, from up front to the guys running around to the guys in the back in protection and check downs. I thought it was a good day all around."

The Jaguars' first strike against the Colts came midway through the opening quarter. A 29-yard fake punt pass



Photo by Rick Wilson/Jacksonville Jaguars

Jaguars Linebacker Paul Posluszny wraps up Colts running back Frank Gore in Jacksonville's 30-10 rout of Indianapolis.

on fourth down from Brad Nortman to James O'Shaughnessy brought the Jaguars inside the Colts' red zone, where Bortles ultimately connected with Marqise Lee for a 4-yard touchdown. Lee finished the contest with seven catches for 86 yards and a touchdown.

The Jaguars added a Josh Lambo 30-yard field goal in the opening minutes of the second quarter, which was answered by an Adam Vinatieri 27-yard field goal to make the score 10-3 in favor of Jacksonville. On the ensuing possession, Bortles orchestrated a 12 play, 75-yard drive that was capped off by a beautiful 8-yard fade from the quarterback to Cole in the corner of the end zone. The Jaguars went into the half leading 16-3.

Jacksonville continued to pour it on in the second half. On the team's first drive in the third quarter, Bortles led the Jaguars to another score, this time by running back Leonard Fournette on a 5-yard carry. The rookie celebrated the score by gathering his teammates in position for a "free throw," in which he shot the football through the field goal posts.

"We haven't been in the end zone a lot," said Fournette regarding why the team de-

ecided to plan the celebration for the Colts game. "We're going to put it up and get it together. It's a different Jaguars team from previous years. We have great leaders in our coaches and younger dudes, like myself, who need to take control of the team."

After a successful two-point conversion, the Jaguars led 24-3.

The Colts would respond with a touchdown of their own: Quarterback Jacoby Brissett connected with receiver T.Y. Hilton for a 40-yard score to bring the game to 24-10. Yet that would be the sole touchdown for the Colts. Brissett finished 21 of 36 for 174 yards, threw two interceptions and was sacked four times. One of those sacks came from Jaguars defensive end Calais Campbell, who broke Jacksonville's single season sack record of 12 set by Tony Brackens in 1999. Campbell now has 12.5.

Josh Lambo added two more field goals for Jacksonville in the game, bringing the final score to 30-10, a game in which Indianapolis was never really close. The lone bright spot for the Colts was Frank Gore, who rushed for 61 yards on 13

KEEPING UP

By Barbara Boxleitner

Special to the Recorder

Maria Kuhlman has been recognized for her basketball play.

The Ponte Vedra Beach resident was among two freshmen to start the first seven games for Belmont Abbey College (Charlotte, North Carolina), and she was named the Conference Carolinas Player of the Week Nov. 27. The 5-foot-10-inch forward was recognized for her 20 points and five rebounds during a win over Coker College.

She entered earlier this week leading the team with an average of 15.6 points a game, reaching double figures every contest but one.

Kuhlman had a career game during a Nov. 29 win over Barton College, finishing with season highs of 23 points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

More women's basketball

Nease graduate **Sydney Searcy** had season highs of 20 points and four rebounds for University of Florida against Savannah State. She added two assists in making her second consecutive start.

University of North Florida sophomore **Kirsten Clement** had four rebounds and two points against Webber International. The Bartram Trail product blocked a shot.

Saint Vincent College freshman forward **Katie Cramer**, a Ponte Vedra resident, had one rebound against Chatham.

Volleyball

Georgia College junior outside hitter **Ebony Powers** was named to the All-Peach Belt Conference second team. The Bartram Trail alumna ranked fifth in kills per set and 13th in digs per set in the conference.

Women's swimming

Centre College freshman **Cat Gleason** won the 500-yard freestyle against Sewanee. The Ponte Vedra Beach resident was second in the 200 freestyle and was a part of the 400 medley relay that placed second.

Ponte Vedra Beach resident **Haley Brown** of Berry College won the 50 and 100 freestyle at the Viking Invitational. She swam the lead leg of the winning 200 freestyle relay and the second-place 400 freestyle relay. She was in the last leg of the second-place 400 medley relay and third-place 200 medley relay.

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

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BOYS SOCCER
**SHARKS
 FALL TO
 FLETCHER**

Nico Gosendi (17) of Ponte Vedra fights for control of the ball during Ponte Vedra's 2-1 loss to Fletcher on Dec. 1. The Sharks beat Orange Park 6-2 on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Photo by Jerry and Chris Norton



BOYS SOCCER
**PANTHERS
 DEFEAT
 ATLANTIC
 COAST**

Nease's Robby Sobol (11) moves the ball against Atlantic Coast during the Panthers' win on Nov. 29. Sobol scored one of Nease's two goals in the game. The Panthers fell to Fleming Island 6-0, on Friday, Dec. 1, and tied St. Augustine 1-1 on Monday, Dec. 4.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Heineman/
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Deercreek Country Club captures JAGA Club Team Championship

The 2017 Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) tournament season came to a close Nov. 27 on a sun-splashed day at Timuquana Country Club, with Deercreek Country Club walking away with a one-shot victory over the King & Bear.

Head professional K.W. Godwin captained his team of Arch Copeland, Lee Fields and Ken Prebola to a winning score of 124 in the two-net best balls format. Fields recorded four birdies and an eagle on his own ball.

A stroke back at 125 was the King & Bear team comprised of PGA member Jonathan Williams and club members Henry Chambliss, Barnes Gray and Nick Stark.

Twenty-one teams representing JAGA member clubs from North Florida and one representing the North Florida Junior Golf Foundation were in attendance.

The tournament was conducted jointly by the Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA and JAGA, with Timuquana head pro Clint Avret and outgoing JAGA president and longtime



Photo courtesy of JAGA

JAGA President Fred Seely (from left) poses with Deercreek CC members and JAGA Club Team Championship winners Ken Prebola, Arch Copeland and Lee Fields (K.W. Godwin not pictured).

Timuquana member Fred Seely serving as co-chairmen.

The start of the 2018 JAGA tournament season begins Jan. 13-15 at Hidden Hills Golf Club with the JAGA First Coast Amateur. Last year's inaugural event featured 77 elite players from 11

states, four countries and 12 colleges. Rising star Brandon Mencheno of Jacksonville and now an Auburn freshman captured the title by three shots, completing all 54 holes without a single bogey. For more information on JAGA, go to www.jaxareagolf.org.

Jaguars

Continued from 47

carries, ultimately passing Jerome Bettis and LaDainian Tomlinson on the NFL's all-time leading rushing list. Gore is now No. 5 on that list, behind Curtis Martin, Barry Sanders, Walter Payton and Emmitt Smith.

As coach Doug Marrone reflects back on the past four weeks and looks ahead to the remaining games on the schedule, he said the Jaguars must have better focus on the little things.

"I always think that the teams that just go out there and play, you play hard, you play your assignment, you win your battles, you do well," he said. "If a lot of other things are going on and you miss anything or bust anything, then obviously you can put yourself in a tough situation. Don't feel any pressure, go out there and play and have some fun."

Marqise Lee echoed his coach's sentiments.

"Yeah, we got a great win today, but at the end of the day, when we go back to the film, we're going to see a lot of mistakes, and that's the thing we've got to correct moving forward to the next one," he said.

The Jaguars will next play host to the Seattle Seahawks this Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4:25 p.m.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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19					20			21	22					
			23					24						
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- Debate position
- Judicial document
- Hawaiian veranda
- Deadeye's forte
- Capital of Egypt
- Lumps of something soft
- Beluga yield
- Ar on table of elements
- *First state to officially recognize Christmas
- *Country which produced first artificial Christmas trees
- Boiling emotion
- Grain in "The House That Jack Built"
- Equinox mo.
- *On Christmas it often includes ham or goose
- In style
- Twelfth month of Jewish year
- *Max and Santa's Little Helper
- Jack Black's Libre
- Saturnalia's place of origin
- Rat's world
- Movie spool
- Actress ____ Perlman, pl.
- Angler's decoy
- Partner of "void"
- "A Connecticut ____ in King Arthur's Court"
- Speed of object divided by speed of sound
- A layer in plywood
- Please do not delay
- * ____ the season to be jolly...
- *Beloved Montgomery Ward creation
- *"Christmas Carol" author
- Avoid, as in taxes
- ENT's first concern?
- Alfred Hitchcock in his own movie, e.g.
- What tailor did
- #19 Across abbreviation
- Driver's 180
- Sin over cos, pl.
- Blade drops
- Mexican coins

DOWN

- Aquarium dweller
- Room border
- Dwarf buffalo
- Torah teacher
- Divest one of a gun
- "For" in Spanish
- Orinoco or Grande
- Opposite of alpha
- *Like holiday memories?
- Capital of Latvia
- Wedge in a golfer's bag, e.g.
- Broadway recognition
- Dairy aisle package
- Bribes of rewards, in the olden days
- Liberty Tree, e.g.
- "Naked Lunch" creatures
- *Like Christmas

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

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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.

- Greeting in the land of "Mele Kalikimaka"
- Part of cow's stomach
- *Yuletide
- Repair, as in socks
- Freeze over
- Conch, e.g.
- *Poisonous Christmas berry
- Plumbing problem
- Red Cross supplies
- Abdominal muscles
- *Like a letter mailed to Santa
- Sixth sense
- Diaphragm spasm
- Best way to shop?
- *The kids do it in opening of "A Charlie Brown Christmas"
- Catch your breath
- Iris holder
- Dracula's bane
- Words from Wordsworth
- Big attraction
- Outback birds
- Infamous emperor of #40 Across
- Daughters' brothers
- Belgian brew

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Photo courtesy of Ponte Vedra wrestling

Coaches Rod Maritato and Steven Griffel and Troy Maritato, Rett Maritato, Evan Merry, Gavin Riccobono, Ethan Baur and head coach Mike Ostlund

PVHS wrestling takes second place at Optimist Invitational

The Ponte Vedra High School wrestling team finished in second place at the Optimist Invitational tournament held at Terry Parker High School this past weekend.

The performance marks the highest finish for the program in a local tournament

in its relatively short history. The Sharks took second place while only fielding eight of 14 available weight classes. Of the eight Sharks that wrestled that day, each of them placed at least third in a pool of 10 teams.

According to the team's coaches, Ponte Vedra's wrestling team is still suffering from a drought in participation at the upper weight levels (182 pounds, 195 pounds, 220 pounds and heavyweight 275 pounds) and therefore has to forfeit five matches each meet. If you know of any potential wrestlers that meet this criteria, please have them reach out to Athletic Director David Scott at (904) 547-7356, or come to the wrestling practice at Ponte Vedra High School from 4 to 6 p.m.

Results (by weight class)

- 113 – Gavin Riccobono (junior), first place
- 120 – Preston Turner (junior), third place
- 126 – Rett Maritato (freshman), third place
- 132 – Jon Soffer (junior), third place
- 138 – Alex De Almeida (sophomore), third place
- 152 – Evan Merry (senior), first place
- 160 – Ethan Bauer (sophomore), second place
- 170 – Troy Maritato (junior), second place

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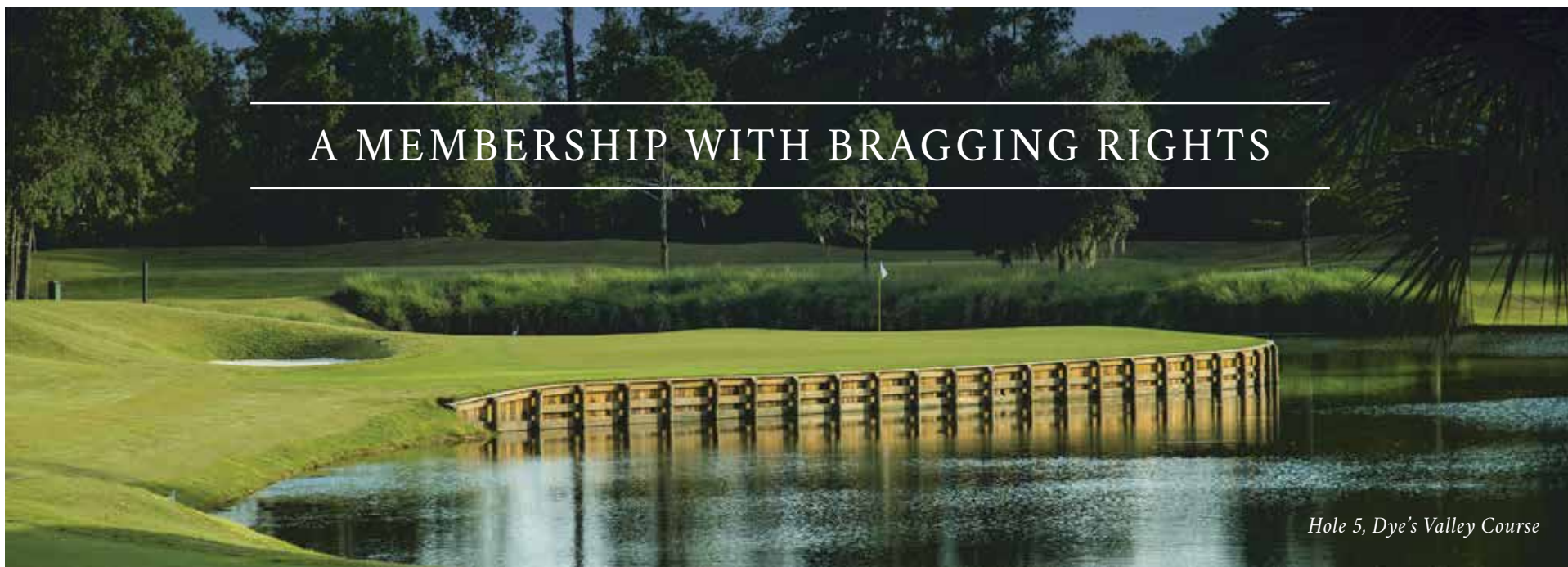
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