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WORLD IMPORTS USA



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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Ponte Vedra Recorder office will be closed on Fri., Jan 1 as we celebrate New Years Day. We will resume normal hours starting 9 a.m. on Mon., Jan. 4.

Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what’s happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we’ll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



Visit our brand new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com
Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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What’s this?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to kelly@opcfla.com by Tuesday at 5 p.m.

We'll throw all the correct answers in a hat and choose the winner with a random drawing. If we receive no correct answers, we'll award four Jacksonville Zoo tickets (two adults, two children) to the best wrong answer we receive.

MANY of you recognized the Nocatee Loop sign — wow! Eleanore Maher was randomly selected from the people who correctly identified the sign. Eleanore, please pick up your zoo tickets!
Better luck this week, guessers! And don't forget — incorrect but entertaining guesses might also be rewarded with a trip to the zoo.



Adoptable pets at the St. Johns County Pet Center

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi there, my name is Fritz and I am an 11 year old male cat who wants to find a new home. I was given up by my owner because they could no longer care for me. I love to receive tons of love and attention and nothing makes me purr louder than getting my chin itched. Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to their new environment. Please reinforce house-training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets. Come visit us today here at the Pet Center! #29129



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi there my name is Beau and I am a 2 year old male dog who is looking for a new loving home to call my own. I was brought to the

Pet Center as a stray. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to their new environment. Please reinforce house-training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets. Come visit us today here at the Pet Center! #29172

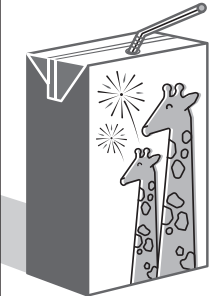
All cat adoptions at the Pet Center are \$20 for males and \$30 for females. Dog adoptions are \$35 for males and \$50 for females. The fee includes neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The Pet Center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. For more information, call (904) 209-6190.

2016

Celebrate Noon Year's Eve at the Zoo.

Ring in the New Year and have a wild time with some real party animals – all before bedtime!

December 31, 2015
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Great Lawn
Free with Zoo Admission



- Live Entertainment
- Party Favors
- Giveaways
- Prizes
- Special Kid-Friendly Activities -
Face Painting, Caricatures, Strolling Magic and More!

Apple juice toast at the strike of noon!



Visit jacksonvillezoo.org for tickets.

2015

JANUARY

Baptist Health hospitals highlighted for chest pain, heart attack care

Baptist Health

Baptist Health adult hospital emergency centers in Northeast Florida have received reaccreditation as Chest Pain Centers, signifying their enhanced quality of care.

Baptist Jacksonville, Baptist South, Baptist Beaches, Baptist Nassau and Baptist Clay Emergency Centers received Chest Pain Center Accreditation from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care (SCPC), an international not-for-profit organization that focuses on transforming cardiovascular care by assisting facilities in their effort to create communities of excellence.

To become an accredited Chest Pain Center, each Baptist Emergency Center engaged in rigorous evaluation of its cardiac care processes in order to ensure they have integrated the most successful practices and newest paradigms into its cardiac care processes, reducing the time from onset of symptoms to diagnosis and treatment.

“From the standpoint of emergency services, reaccreditation as Chest Pain Centers memorializes the excellent, rapid and efficient care delivered to patients

with signs and symptoms of coronary artery disease,” said Richard Stromberg, MD, medical director for the Chest Pain Centers at Baptist Health. “We are very proud of the fact that patients are quickly evaluated, stabilized and treated and that the care is similar and excellent at all of the Baptist hospitals.”

Darin C. Roark, administrator of Emergency Services for Baptist Health, said representatives from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care toured the hospital campuses during the week-long visit and met with Baptist Health leadership. In addition, they interviewed Baptist Health team members, physicians, patients and local Emergency Medical Services providers and conducted an extensive review of records and performance metrics.

Accredited Chest Pain Centers ensure that patients who arrive at the hospital complaining of chest pain or other symptoms of a heart attack receive the treatment necessary during the critical window of time when the integrity of the heart muscle can be preserved. By becoming Accredited Chest Pain Centers, Baptist Health hospitals have demonstrated an enhanced the quality

of care for patients and a commitment to higher standards across the entire continuum of cardiac care. This includes focal points such as emergency dispatch, Emergency Medical Services, Life Flight air ambulance, emergency centers, cardiac cath labs, Baptist Heart Hospital, and community outreach programs.

“This recognition reaffirms our commitment to providing exemplary care and highlights the dedication, skill and collaboration of our physicians, team

members and our community emergency medical services providers who are saving lives every day,” said John Wilbanks, Baptist Health executive vice president and chief operating officer.

Girish Shroff, MD, interventional cardiologist with Baptist Heart Specialists, also added that the accreditation reiterates the work ethic at Baptist hospitals and shows that “our ER and cardiovascular staff and physicians strive to provide exemplary patient care.”

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JANUARY 2015



More than 2,000 bags of food were assembled to be distributed to students in the Blessings in a Backpack program in Duval and St. Johns Counties.

Furyk Foundation delivers 'Hope for the Holidays'

Third annual event helps ensure local kids in need have holiday meal

Carrie Resch
The Recorder

Scores of hard-working elves braved the dipping temperatures to lend a hand for a community-supported initiative that ensures local at-need children in will have a warm meal over the holiday break.

The 3rd annual Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation "Hope for the Holidays" at the Mickler Landing Shopping Center. A large tent covered rows of organized tables that the volunteers moved through assembly-line style, ultimately filling their bags and dropping them off to be loading on to trucks.

More than 2,000 holiday meal bags were prepared during the event to be distributed to St. Johns and Duval County elementary school children who participate in the Blessings in a Backpack program. BIB provides food to elementary school children on the free and reduced price meal programs. The organization feeds approximately 61,000 children in 575 schools in 44 states.

All ages turned out to help for the holiday giving event which was supported by Pepsi Co. and Publix. Students with local high schools including Bolles and Ponte Vedra High School down to toddlers were all eager to help. Volunteers moved through the lines with teal "Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation" reusable bags collecting holiday favorites like stuffing, mashed potatoes, canned green beans, ham and



Jim Furyk and his mother, Linda Furyk.

candy canes.

Tabitha Furyk was thrilled that so many volunteers from the community turned out to support the foundation's effort.

"It's an exciting night," Furyk said, taking brief pause from bustling around the set-up, organizing food and volunteers and breaking down empty boxes. "We love this and it's our third year doing this," she said. "To be able to send them home for the holidays with a warm meal means the world to them."

Volunteer Jennie Case stood head of one of the tables readying bags for the other volunteers. This was her first year volunteering; she was sick last year

and unable to attend. "My sister Mollie works with the Furyk Foundation, so my parents and I came out to help for a good cause," she said as she stuffed a box of Life cereal into one of the bags. "I was sad I missed it last year, so I was glad I could make it this year. It's not too cold," she laughed.

Case and all of the other volunteers had warm smiles on their faces, happy to help ensure the children and families they were serving had a fantastic holiday meal over the holiday break.

For more information about Blessings in a Backpack, visit www.jaxblessingsinabackpack.org.

Nocatee ranks as third best-selling master-planned community in US

The Recorder

Nocatee has again been ranked as the nation's third best-selling master-planned community in the nation, behind only mega retiree community The Villages and The Irvine Ranch in Orange County, California. The numbers were just released by consulting agencies RCLCO and John Burns Real Estate Consulting in their annual master-planned community reports. Nocatee continues to grow at a rapid pace, celebrating its 3,000th home sale at the end of 2014.

While the numbers are consistent with Nocatee's performance midway through 2014—when it was ranked number three by RCLCO's Mid-Year 2014 Update—they demonstrate Nocatee's explosive growth over the past year. The community rose from the number-five position on the 2013 report, while other similar communities showed significant declines. Just three short years ago, the community sat at the number 14 spot. For 2014, Nocatee was the only community in the top five to show growth from the previous year.

"It's gratifying to see how well we're doing not only in North Florida, but when compared to other master-planned communities throughout the United States," said Rick Ray, President and CEO of The PARC Group, Nocatee's master developer in a news release. "Nocatee's success lies in its unique lifestyle, which blends a coastal location with world-class amenities and top-ranked schools."

The PARC Group continued to add amenities in 2014, expanding Splash Water Park to include a new family pool, a children's spray-ground, and additional deck space, shade and covered seating areas. A new kayak launch on the Intracoastal Waterway opened early in the year as well.

Other additions included a junior Olympic-size, eight-lane competition pool with shaded bleachers, restrooms, a scoreboard and an event lawn. Several amenities were added on dry land too, including four half-court basketball courts, lighted pickleball courts and a volleyball court.

For more information, visit www.Nocatee.com.

2015

JANUARY



Photos by Larry Tallis/Special to The Recorder

Chabad at the Beaches visits governor's mansion

A delegation from Chabad at the Beaches was invited to the governor's mansion last month as part of a Hanukkah celebration in Tallahassee. Locals joined Governor Rick Scott and his wife, Ann Scott, for a menorah lighting and talk. Chabad at the Beaches is a synagogue and Jewish organization serving Ponte Vedra, the Jacksonville Beaches and Mayport. For more information, visit chabadbeaches.com or call (904) 543-9301.



Photo by Kelly McDermott

'Today Show' host Kathie Lee Gifford visited the Ponte Vedra Beach Winn-Dixie last week as part of a tour promoting her personally-branded Giff wines. Gifford greeted fans and signed bottles during her visit.

Winn-Dixie hosts signing for 'Today Show' star

The Recorder

Television personality Kathie Lee Gifford visited the Ponte Vedra Beach Winn-Dixie last week as part of a tour promoting her personally-branded Giff wines. Before the signing, Gifford was briefly on air live with the Today Show, broadcasting from Winn-Dixie's wine department via Skype.

Gifford pre-signed the store's stock of bottles to have more time to greet fans, who lined the aisles Thursday.

"I've been in a back room signing wine for the last hour and a half," Gifford said. "But it's going to start getting really good now because I'm about to meet all these wonderful people."

Gifford tweeted about the event later in the day, writing "Thank you again, Ponte Vedra! What a lovely group of people!"

For more about Giff wines, visit giffwines.com.

SJC high schools lead state grades

The Recorder

The St. Johns County School District continues to lead the state in performance and FCAT scores, according to high school grades released in December.

Of the district high schools that received a school grade, Bartram Trail, Creekside, Pedro Menendez and Ponte Vedra all received an A, while St. Augustine and Nease received a B.

High school grades are based on 2013-14 FCAT scores, as well as graduation rate, participation and performance in accelerated programs and college readiness

skills, according to a news release.

"I could not be more proud of all of our high schools," Superintendent Joseph Joyner said in a news release. "It is important to note that the criteria used to determine school grades was raised this year and yet our high schools continued to excel. I attribute this success to the high standards, very high expectations, outstanding teachers, dedicated school leaders and district support. Most importantly, we have very focused and dedicated students with strong parent support. I continue to be astounded at the breadth of choice offerings both within

the school district and at each individual school, high academic achievement and extracurricular participation. It is a great time to be a high school student in St. Johns County."

In addition to grades, the state released four-year federal graduation rate data, which showed an increase in St. Johns County. The rate went up 1.1 percent over last year to 87.8 percent, which ranks highest in the state, according to a news release.

For more information about school grades, xvisit www.schoolgrades.fl DOE.org.

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FEBRUARY 2015

PV volunteers stitch healing hearts for cancer patients

Jasmine Marshall

The Recorder

The Plantation Dining Hall was alive with chatter as Bonnie Talley wove through crowds collecting an arsenal of freshly stuffed, heart-shaped pillows and deposited them in a multicolored mountain. Fabrics of varied hues and patterns littered the hall's tables, flanked by volunteers on every side. Cookie tins filled to the brim with needles, pin cushions and gradually thinning spools of thread sat atop laps and under chairs as the people of Ponte Vedra's community worked their hearts out for a cause.

"It's something that we prepare for all year," said Talley, who founded the Ocean Wave Quilters Guild in 2003. "But today is the big day!"

Talley started 'Work Your Heart Out Day' four years after founding the Ocean Wave Quilters Guild, a group that makes quilts for Northeast Florida Community Hospice every year. She wondered what more she could do to help others while involving everyone in the community.

Now, she and several others stuff hundreds of pillows with polyester filling for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. The completed pillows are collected by Northeast Florida Community Hospice.

"Last year we completed around 400 pillows," Talley said. "This year we're expecting to finish even more."

The special event, lovingly dubbed the 'stitchery,' is the combination of the efforts of several groups in the Ponte Vedra community. The Ocean Wave



Finished pillows are adorned with tags carrying heartfelt messages.



Sonja Rodgers, an Ocean Wave Quilters guild member and long-time participant, dutifully stuffs and closes a pillow.

Quilters Guild cuts and sews the pillows using fabric donated by guild members and several local businesses. Every year the guild welcomes members of the community to meet during the week of Valentine's Day to stuff and sew the pillows shut.

It's a charitable, social experience for everyone involved.

"What I'm enjoying most is the fun and fellowship," said Sally Uhrich, a first year volunteer. "It's for a good cause."

The annual gathering is open to volunteers of varied skill levels from first timers to seasoned seamstresses. Many have helped since its inception in 2007 and are fellow guild members.

But no matter how long they've been involved, the volunteers all agree that it's nice to be able to help those in need.

"I like thinking of the person who is going to have the pillow," said Sonja Rodgers, a long-time participant and guild member.

"We all know someone who has cancer. And the pillows are kind of like a hug for cancer patients."

For more information about the Ocean Wave Quilters Guild and its community service projects with Northeast Florida Community Hospice, visit www.oceanwavequilters.org.

PVHS students take top honors at county science fair

Charis Wang and Cassia Wang, both of Ponte Vedra High School, won top honors as the Best Overall in the Senior Division of the 2015 St. Johns County Science Fair held last week.

Their winning project was "The Prevalence of Beta Lactamase Gense in Oral Streptococcus Species in a Healthy Population: Molecular Analysis by Polymerase Chain Reaction."

Aisha Kothari of Gamble Rogers Middle School won Best Overall in the Junior Division with "What Contact Solution Best Sterilizes Contact Lenses."

Approximately 100 science projects represented by 120 participants were involved in the science fair.

The best overall winners will be recognized at the School Board meeting on Tuesday, March 10.

Sixteen students representing five St. Johns County schools will attend the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair in Lakeland, March 31-April 2.

The participants are Drew Adams, Landrum Middle School; Mark Calvin, LMS; Joshua Fernandez, LMS; Trey Glod, LMS, Aishva Kothari, GRMS; Taylor Kaminisky, LMS; Lillian Neidhardt, Liberty Pines Academy; Luke Snyder, LMS; Madison Toonder, Home School; Jordan Bartfield, PVHS; Harrison Snowden, PVHS; Charis Wang, PVHS; Cassia Wang, PVHS; Matthew Hart, PVHS; Matthew Norton, PVHS and Brighton Ancelin, Creek-side High School; Adam Snowden, PVHS; Steele Tarleton, PVHS; Steven Medarey, PVHS; Maxwell Fine, Allen D. Nease High School; and Aaron Gimmel, NHS.

Charis and Cassia Wang will attend the International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, PA in May.

Bonnie Talley, Ocean Wave Quilters Guild founder and -Quilt Lady, poses with a supply of newly finished pillows.



Volunteers carefully stuff and close heart-shaped pillows cut and sewn by the Ocean Wave Quilters Guild.

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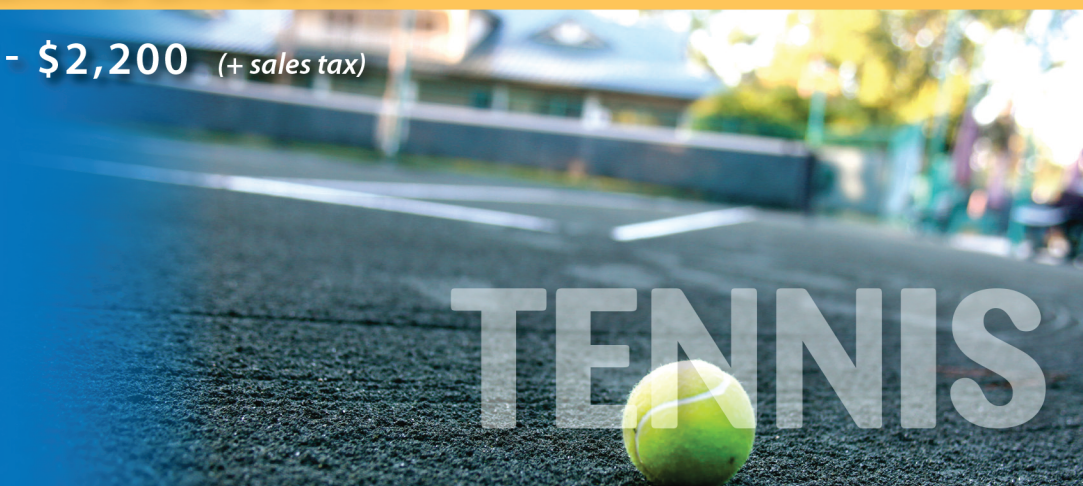
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A YEAR OF

2015

One of Us

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Dianya Markovits

Joni Zwick

Karina Coryell

Mary Anne Metzger

Mary Marx

CHRISTY BUDNICK

Peggy Campbell-Rush

Kelly Barrera

FEBRUARY

John Latshaw

MARCH

John Daigle

Jonathan Dicker

Pud English

John Miller

Dr. Robi Tamargo

Bill DeGrafft

Jennifer Arnold

Kelsey Stevens

APRIL

Todd Tatarek

MAY

Eden Kendall

Jim Clark

Rebecca Bowersox

Walt Courtney

Bill Flechaus

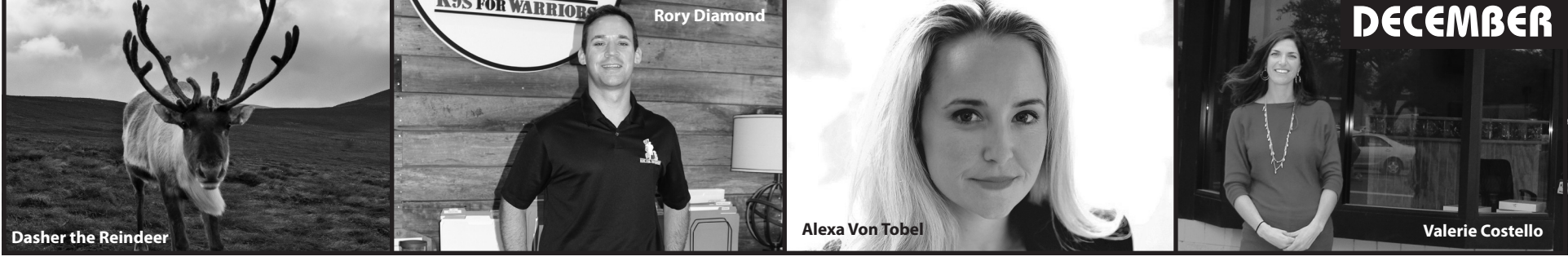
Perry Orth

Hannah Berman

JUNE

Carolyn Zisser

A YEAR OF One of Us



FEBRUARY 2015

Runners hit the streets, beach to finish breast cancer

The Recorder

Parts of Ponte Vedra and the Beaches were closed to traffic Sunday morning as thousands of marathon runners made their way through the course in a blaring sea of pink, all united in an effort to finish breast cancer.

The eighth annual 26.2 with Donna, the only marathon in the country dedicated to breast cancer research and care, not only attracted participants from out of state, race participants also came from other countries, including Britain, Holland, Kenya and Ethiopia. The race started on ATP Tour Boulevard and ended at the Mayo Clinic.

The woman's marathon winner was Serkalem Abirha from Ethiopia who finished in a time of 2:39:10. The men's marathon winner, Elisha Barno from Kenya, set a new event course record with his time of 2:13:19.

Since the inaugural race in 2008, more than \$3.5 million has been donated to breast cancer initiatives with 70 percent of the money raised going to support groundbreaking breast cancer research the Mayo Clinic and the remaining 30 percent going to The Donna Foundation to help the underserved with breast cancer.

Registration has already begun for the ninth annual 26.2 with Donna, which will take place Feb. 12-14, 2016. In the meantime, supporters can participate in other Donna Foundation fundraisers and awareness events such as the upcoming The Players Donna 5k which will be held Saturday, May 2, at 8 a.m.

For more information, visit www.breastcancermarathon.com.



Val Wildesmith, Mercedes Smith and Julie Conley.



Kim Schiffer, Kim Guthrie and Laura Geiwitz.



Cathy and Mike Haga.

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THE INNLET AT PONTE VEDRA- PONTE VEDRA



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SILVER SUN PICKUPS
WITH THE DOG APOLLO
JANUARY 10

OLATE DOGS
WINNERS OF AMERICA'S GOT TALENT
JANUARY 11

TROMBONE SHORTY
& ORLEANS AVENUE
WITH NEW BREED BRASS BAND
JANUARY 15

THE COLLEEN & JOSH SHOW
JANUARY 21

FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC
PROJECT PRESENTS
DAVID BRUCE & MOZART
JANUARY 24

GRAHAM NASH
JANUARY 27

ANA POPOVIC
JANUARY 28

SHAWN COLVIN
WITH LARRY CAMPBELL
& TERESA WILLIAMS
JANUARY 29

GAELIC STORM
JANUARY 30

COLIN HAY
WITH HEATHER MALONEY
JANUARY 31

MOON TAXI
FEBRUARY 2

UNDER THE STREETLAMP
FEBRUARY 5 & 6

YONDER MOUNTAIN
STRING BAND
WITH TROUT STEAK REVIVAL
FEBRUARY 9

ROBERT RANDOLPH
& THE FAMILY BAND
WITH PARKER URBAN BAND
FEBRUARY 11

MARTY STUART
& THE FABULOUS SUPERLATIVES
FEBRUARY 12

THE JAMES HUNTER SIX
FEBRUARY 13

DAVE MASON'S TRAFFIC JAM
FEBRUARY 14

ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES
FEBRUARY 19

GARY CLARK JR.
THE STORY OF SONNY BOY SLIM TOUR
FEBRUARY 21

CHARLES BRADLEY & HIS EXTRAORDINAIRES
FEBRUARY 24

RICHARD MARX
FEBRUARY 27

THE ZOMBIES
FEAT. COLIN BLUNSTONE & ROD ARGENT
MARCH 3

ROGER MCGUINN
MARCH 4

FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC
PROJECT PRESENTS
HAYDN & BRAHMS
MARCH 6

AN EVENING WITH
GEORGE WINSTON
MARCH 8

THE JOHNNY CLEGG BAND
MARCH 18

THE FAB FOUR
2 PERFORMANCES!
MARCH 19

ALAN DOYLE
MARCH 20

FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC
PROJECT PRESENTS
BEETHOVEN & MENDELSSOHN
APRIL 10

AMY HELM
APRIL 12

RITA WILSON
APRIL 15

ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN
APRIL 19

HERE COME THE MUMMIES
MAY 26

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2015

FEBRUARY

K9s for Warriors receives Champion of Service Award

The Recorder

K9s For Warriors, a local non-profit organization that matches military veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and/

or military sexual trauma with service dogs, has been awarded a Champion of Service Award from Volunteer Florida. The honor is bestowed to individuals or groups for outstanding efforts in

volunteerism and service.

“We are honored that Governor Rick Scott is recognizing K9s For Warriors with the Champion of Service Award,” K9s for Warriors Executive Director

Rory Diamond said in a news release.

“We owe a huge debt to our veterans, and K9s For Warriors is dedicated to helping them heal from the wounds of war and their life after battle.”

PV resident chased through Duval, St. Johns Counties

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

Taylor Austin Ryan, 22, of Ponte Vedra Beach was apprehended in Duval county on Friday evening after a dramatic chase through two counties.

Both the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and St. Johns County Sheriff's Office pursued Ryan, who was suspected of armed robbery. Authorities had been seeking Ryan since Thursday, and spotted his vehicle on J. Turner Butler Blvd. on Friday evening. With officers in pursuit, Ryan headed east before turning south on A1A.

Shortly after 8 p.m., Ryan crashed into a parked vehicle near a home in the 100 block of Solana Rd. Ryan then fled on foot, pursued by JSO officers.

“I heard a lot of police cars and kept hearing helicopters,” said Ashley Burrell, a resident near A1A and Solana. “I went on a news site to see what was wrong.”

Burrell said the search on foot, which included K-9 officers, lasted past 11 p.m., when Ryan was apprehended in Duval County.

“It scared me that they hadn't found him,” Burrell said. “I looked out the front window and saw the cops looking with flashlights on the road.”

In addition to being an armed robbery suspect, Ryan was wanted on an

outstanding warrant from the county for failure to appear on a burglary to a conveyance charge from 2010.

Ryan now faces charges of armed robbery, fleeing police and reckless driving. His bond was set at \$261,514.

Burrell said she didn't speak to any officers that night, but added that their presence throughout the search made her feel safer.

“There was a cop standing in my driveway the whole time,” Burrell said. “I just wanted to say thank you—that made me feel safer.”

Body found in PV ID'd as missing kayaker

The Recorder

A body found at the GTM Research Reserve in the 2000 block of A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach last week was identified Friday as missing kayaker Garth Ryan Sangree, 22.

Sangree, a student at the University of North Florida, was reported missing after going kayaking by himself in Jacksonville Beach on Jan. 24.

According to a release issued by the St. Johns County Sheriff, the cause of death has been ruled an accidental drowning.



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MARCH 2015

Former Pres. Bush, wife Laura offer fireside chat

A "Fireside Chat with President and Mrs. George W. Bush" was held Friday night at the Christ's Church Mandarin Campus on Greenland Road.

The couple spoke before a crowd of about 600 as part of a fundraiser for Christ's Church Academy. CCA plans to use the monies raised for capital campaign improvements and additional funds for their financial assistance program.

Peter Dearing, worship leader at Christ's Church, sang the National Anthem to open the program. The president and former first lady discussed their life, family, their faith and more. Members of the media were only allowed to sit in for three minutes of the chat.

"It was very insightful," said Godwin Gumbs, one of those in attendance. "They covered topics from family to faith, current endeavors to the president's own struggles with substance abuse. It was well received."

Roslyn Karstedt moderated the event. Karstedt is the mother of two CCA students and served as the co-chair of this



Photo by Mike Bonts

event. Her background in public speaking and communications coupled with her enthusiasm for this cause made her the perfect fit according to church communications director Daniel Decker.

"The Fireside Chat was a great way to help us celebrate CCA's 20th anniversary. President and Mrs. George W. Bush were a perfect fit because of their candor and their character. We've received such positive feedback about The Fireside Chat, and several attendees have mentioned the life lessons they took away from the

BUSH continues on **Page 17**

Ranking: SJC healthiest in Florida

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

St. Johns County was named the healthiest county in Florida this week for the fourth year in a row, according to the Florida Department of Health's ranking system. The system, dubbed Florida Health Outcomes, was released by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This is the sixth year that the state has utilized the current ranking system.

The study examined the overall health of counties by looking at each community's environment, social and economic factors that impact health, health behaviors and clinical care. The information used to determine ranking is available to the public at www.floridacharts.com.

"Our sustained high ranking is a testament to the commitment and collaboration of our many community partners within the public health system here in St. Johns County," Dawn Allicock, director and health officer of DOH-St. Johns, said in a news release. "We understand what factors beyond medical care influence the health of our community and we all work together."

One of these factors that the DOH

points to is the St. Johns County Health Leadership Council, which is a group of community partners dedicated to improving community health as a whole.

Recently, the council developed a Community Health Improvement Plan which includes strategies to address current issues facing the county, including increasing access to dental and mental health care and increasing the percentage of residents at a healthy weight.

Rachael Bennet, chair of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners pointed to the new county Health and Human Services Center as one concrete example of the county's dedication towards addressing these issues.

In addition to resources provided by the county, the not-for-profit Flagler Hospital has consistently ranked among the top 5 percent in the nation for clinical excellence and patient safety for more than a decade.

"Our positive clinical outcomes reflect an ongoing commitment to quality care on the part of our staff, our community physicians and the many agencies we partner with in our region," said Flagler Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Joe Gordy in the release.

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2015 MARCH

Jacksonville hosts NCAA March Madness events



Photo by Nancy Beecher/Special to The Recorder

The NCAA announced the eight teams for the second and third rounds of the 2015 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship at Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. Attendees at the announcement included Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown, Alan Verlander, Donnie Horner and Leonard Propper.

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Thursday, Dec. 31	Friday, Jan. 1	Saturday, Jan. 2	Sunday, Jan. 3
<p>Noon Year’s Eve at the Zoo Kids can enjoy a special “Noon Year’s Eve” event Thursday, Dec. 31 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens. Festivities include live entertainment, party favors, giveaways, prizes, a live performance by Dalton Cyr and special kid-friendly activities including face painting and caricatures. An apple juice toast will take place at the strike of noon. The party till take place on The Great Lawn; the party is free with zoo admission. For more information, cvisit www.jacksonvillezoo.org.</p> <p>VyStar New Year’s Eve Run The 5K run begins at 3 p.m. and the one mile fun run begins at 4 p.m. in downtown Jacksonville. Register online at www.1stplacesports.com/vystar5k.html.</p> <p>Beach Blast Off 2016 Ring in the New Year at the St. Augustine Beach Pier Thursday, Dec. 31 from 5-10 p.m. The annual fireworks display set to music will begin at 8:30 p.m. The free event also includes a kid zone area with face painting, a mechanical bull, rock climbing wall, balloon twisting, and more. There will also be food vendors on site, beer and wine for sale and a photo booth. For more information, visit www.sabevents.com.</p> <p>New Year’s Eve at The Landing The Jacksonville Landing is hosting a New Year’s Eve Celebration Thursday, Dec. 31 from 4 p.m.-2 a.m. with live music all night long and a fireworks display at midnight. Admittance is for ages 21 and up, those with a military ID or a TaxSlayer Bowl patch only. The Jacksonville Landing is located at 2 Independent Drive, Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 353-1188 or visit www.jacksonvillelanding.com.</p> <p>Toast to the New Year The Jacksonville Symphony is having a special New Year’s Eve performance and after-party Thursday, Dec. 31 beginning at 9 p.m. at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, 300 Water St., Jacksonville. An evening of music , champagne, dancing and fireworks. For more information or to purchase tickets for the event, call (904) 354-5547 or visit www.jaxsymphony.org.</p>	<p>TaxSlayer Bowl Pep Rally The Penn State Nittany Lions Pep Rally takes place Friday, Jan. 1 at 1:30 p.m., followed by the Parris Island Marine Corps Band Performance at 2:50 p.m. and the Georgia Bulldogs Pep Rally at 4 p.m. at The Jacksonville Landing, 2 Independent Drive, Jacksonville. The event is free. For more information, visit www.taxslayerbowl.com.</p> <p>First Friday Cosmic Concerts Experience total-sensory entertainment as laser lights, high-def images and digital sound collide to create a Cosmic Concert! The Bryan-Gooding Planetarium rocks with Cosmic Concert laser light shows at 5, 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Tickets are available at www.moshplanetarium.org or at the door. Tickets are \$5 per person per show; laser glasses cost \$1.</p> <p>ZOOLights Thousands of LED lights will be on display at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens for ZOOLights, Dec. 11-13 and Dec.18-Jan. 2 (closed on Christmas Day). The zoo closes at 5 p.m. and reopens for ZOOLights 6-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday. The cost is \$10 for non-members; \$8 for members. Other activities such as warm weather “ice” skating, train rides, s’mores kits and the 4-D Theater ride featuring “The Polar Express,” are offered for an additional fee. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.jacksonvillezoo.org.</p> <p>MOSH \$5 Fridays Every Friday, come to MOSH to enjoy \$5 admission and extended hours. The museum will be open late every Friday until 8 p.m. (Note: Additional discounts or coupons are not permitted.)</p> <p>First Friday Art Walk The First Friday Art Walk takes place the first Friday of every month from 5-9 p.m. in downtown St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 829-0065 or visit www.artgalleriesofstaugustine.com.</p>	<p>TaxSlayer Bowl Pennsylvania State will play the University of Georgia Saturday, Jan. 2 at noon at EverBank Field. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.taxslayerbowl.com.</p> <p>Beaches Green Market The Beaches Green Market is every Saturday from 2-5 p.m. at Jarboe Park (intersection of A1A and Florida Blvd.) For more information, call (904) 710-2022 or visit www.beacheslocal-foodnetwork.org.</p> <p>Guided Hike at GTM Research Reserve On the first Saturday of every month from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., visitors can learn about the cultural history of the Guana Peninsula as well as the natural biodiversity during a guided hike. Find out about the peninsula’s 5,000 years of human history, including how native peoples used estuarine resources, what European plantation life was like, and current efforts to learn about and save these resources. Meet at the GTM Research Reserve’s Trailhead Pavilion located west of the Guana Dam. Wear comfortable closed toe shoes. There is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. For more information, call (904) 823-4500 or visit www.rgtmnerr.org to reserve a spot online.</p> <p>‘The Best Christmas Pageant Ever’ “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” will be performed on stage at the Limelight Theatre Dec. 11 through Jan. 3, 2016 with a special preview night Thursday, Dec. 10. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. There will be no performances Dec. 24-25. Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 825-1164 or visit www.limelight-theatre.org.</p> <p>Old City Farmers Market The Old City Farmers Market takes place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 1340C A1A S., St. Augustine. For more information, visit www.staugustinefm.com.</p>	<p>Collection Tour Join the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens us on Sundays for a guided tour of our permanent collection. The tour is free with the cost of admission. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p>Practice with Purpose at Big Fish Yoga Practice with Purpose is an all-level yoga class offered on Sundays from 4-5 p.m. at Big Fish Power Yoga. The fee for the class is a \$5 cash donation that goes to the charity that Big Fish Power Yoga has selected for the quarter. Big Fish Yoga has relocated to the South Beach Regional Shopping Center in Jacksonville Beach at 3852 South 3rd St. For more info. call (904) 372-0601.</p> <p>Depression Support Group A Depression/Bipolar Support Group meets Sundays from 6-8 p.m. in the Azalea Room at Baptist Beaches Medical Center, South, 14550 Old St. Augustine Rd., Jacksonville. The support group is free and open to the public. For more information, call (770) 403-4991 or email whitneybat76@gmail.com. The group is facilitated by: Georgia State Certified Peer Specialist.</p> <p>Annual Activity Member Become an Annual Activity Member at The Players Community Senior Center! There are so many reasons to become a member: discounts on fee-based classes, designated events and Coastal Travel, complimentary participation in a wide variety of scheduled activities, to name a few! Please call Darlene Mahany at 280-3233 for all the details.</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity volunteers Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County is currently seeking qualified homeowners. Habitat does not give away homes for free. Instead, homeowners pay an affordable monthly mortgage payment and we help build them a simple, decent place to live. If you know someone who might benefit from Habitat homeownership, please refer them to our website. To find out more about how you can donate, volunteer, or qualify visit habitatstjohns.org.</p>

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Monday, Jan. 4	Tuesday, Jan. 5	Wednesday, Jan. 6	Thursday, Jan. 7
<p>Nutrition Workshop</p> <p>A free nutrition presentation and workshop will take place Monday, Jan. 4 from 6-7 p.m. at the Main Library, 1960 North Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine. This free workshop teaches the science behind weight loss. Discover your unique body composition with a complimentary Body Composition Analysis utilizing state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment and learn the steps you can take to improve your health profile. For more information, call (904) 827-6940 or visit www.sjcpls.org.</p> <p>Caregiver Support Group</p> <p>The Players Caregiver Support Group meets every Monday 12:00-1:00 p.m. at The Players Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Kimberly Weir of Heartland Hospice facilitates a weekly discussion of current concerns and issues of caregivers. It is a great opportunity for caregivers to share resources and ideas. For more information, call (904) 280-3233.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group</p> <p>The Life Enrichment Group is a program designed for those with memory changes who like to stay active mentally, physically and socially while allowing caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. This program is offered weekdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Ashford Court, 1700 The Greens Way in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 568-8174, or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p> <p>For The Love of Driving</p> <p>Volunteer drivers are needed to assist seniors in achieving their mobility goals in St. Johns County. Transportation needs range from trips to the grocery store and classes to spousal hospital visits or social activities. If you are interested, please contact the Mobility Manager at the Council on Aging, 904-315-6505, or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Christina Hope exhibition</p> <p>Artwork from Christina Hope is currently on display at the J. Johnson Gallery, 177 Fourth Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach. The exhibition will run through Jan. 21, 2016. For more information, call (904) 435-3200.</p>	<p>Civil War Discussion Group</p> <p>The monthly meeting if the "Understanding The Civil War" Discussion Group will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 1 p.m. at the Anastasia Island Branch Public Library, 124 Seagrove Main Street in St. Augustine. The topic will be: Study of the Battle of 1st Manassas/1st Bull Run. The meeting is open to the public. For more information , email Charlie Smith at: smithc32@bellsouth.net</p> <p>DAWN Meeting</p> <p>DAWN (Divorce Aftercare Women Need) Recovery Group will be meeting Jan. 5 and Feb. 2 from 7-9 p.m. at The Quick Law Group, 4312 Pablo Professional Court, Jacksonville. DAWN is a Free monthly support group. All women going through or recovering form divorce are invited to be a part of DAWN. Call The Quick Law Group (904) 241-0012 or register online at www.thequicklawgroup.com/events.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club weekly meeting</p> <p>The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call Club President Ron Mott at (904) 460-7092 or email HOJRON@aol.com.</p> <p>Palm Valley Farmers Market</p> <p>The Palm Valley Farmers Market takes place every Tuesday from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>SPLASH at PVPC</p> <p>Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m. the Singles Ministry SPLASH (Single People Loving and Serving Him) gather at Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, 4510 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra: All single adults in the community welcome for fellowship, discussions on applying the Bible in our everyday lives along with a light dinner provided by KC's Kitchen. Mission and social opportunities as well. For more information, email julie@pvpc.com or call (904) 285-8225.</p>	<p>Jacksonville Art Walk</p> <p>The Jacksonville Art Walk takes place the first Wednesday of every month from 5-9 p.m., rain or shine, in downtown Jacksonville. This month's theme is: Celebrating 150 Years of Hemming Park. The Art Walk spans more than 15 blocks that includes more than 50 galleries, museums, cultural venues, restaurants, bars and businesses. Street performers and live music are also part of the monthly event. For more information, visit www.jacksonvilleartwalk.com.</p> <p>After School Crafts with Teens</p> <p>Children (Kindergarten – 5th grade) and their caregivers are invited to make crafts with the teens of Nease High School's Arts in Motion Club Wednesday, Jan. 6 from 4-5 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach. Materials are provided by the Friends of the Library. No registration is needed and it's free. Please Note: All children under the age of 10 must be accompanied in the room by an adult for the entire program. For more information, call (904) 827-6950 or visit www.sjcpls.org.</p> <p>PV Professionals Networking Group</p> <p>The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets every Wednesday from noon-1 p.m. at Mulligans, 43 PGA Tour Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call Gloria at (904) 635-6103, visit www.pvpng.com, or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Toastmasters</p> <p>The Ponte Vedra Toastmasters Club offers opportunities for developing your leadership and communication skills. Join us on Wednesdays at The PLAYERS Community Center at 175 Landrum Lane. The meeting starts promptly at 7:30 a.m. and lasts one hour. Want to know more? Contact Lucy Reep at 904-607-3695 or contact-5199@toastmastersclubs.org</p> <p>The Wednesday Market</p> <p>The Wednesday Market takes place every Wednesday from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the St. Johns County Pier Park, 350 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine. For more information, visit www.thecivicassociation.org.</p>	<p>La Mer</p> <p>The Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra will perform La Mer, Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, 300 Water St., Jacksonville. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 354-5547 or visit www.jaxsymphony.org.</p> <p>Arbor Terrace Life Enrichment Group</p> <p>The Life Enrichment Group Day Program takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For more information, call (904) 497-4346 or visit www.at-pontevedra.com.</p> <p>Art Journaling</p> <p>Begin the journey into art journaling with mixed media artist, Kathy Davis on Thursday, Jan. 7 and Saturday, Jan. 30 at 1 p.m. at the Southeast Branch Library, 670 US 1 South, St. Augustine. This program is free and all supplies provided but feel free to bring along any materials you wish to include in your journals. This is a great opportunity to learn art journaling techniques or work on ones you have in the works. Call the library at (904) 827-6900 to register.</p> <p>Travel Training Program</p> <p>The Council on Aging announces a Travel Training program designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. If you are curious about expanding your transportation options or you would like to increase your confidence as a bus rider, let one of our trained volunteers assist you in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. If you are interested, please contact the Mobility Manager at the Council on Aging, (904) 315-6505, or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</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 carrie@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form, or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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January 2016

Tuesday, January 5th

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6:00– 7:30 PM

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Saturday, January 9th

Chili Cook-Off

Taste chili prepared by our chefs & paired with a selection of Bold City brews.

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Ponte Vedra

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MARCH 2015

Area students collect thousands of pounds of food for local pantries



Photos provided by Feeding Northeast Florida



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Nicholas Alstaedt, cello

Jan. 7 at 7:30 pm

Jan. 8 & 9 at 8 pm

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Michael Krajewski, conductor
Liz Callaway, vocalist

Jan. 15 at 11 am & 8 pm

Jan. 16 at 8 pm

Mayo Clinic Coffee Series
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Concert sponsor: BRASS (Beaches Residents Actively Supporting the Symphony)

THE HOT SARDINES

Nathan Aspinall, conductor
The Hot Sardines

Jan. 22 at 8 pm

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Charles Floyd, conductor
Edward Waters College Choir

Jan. 23 at 8 pm

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The Recorder

St. Johns County students collected 8,815 pounds of canned goods for Feeding Northeast Florida as part of the agency's 500,000 Can Challenge.

Schools, along with businesses and community organizations, collected specific canned foods requested by the 150 food pantries and charities served by FNEFL, including canned fruits and vegetables, pop-top canned meats and peanut butter.

"Our member food pantries are always short of these high-value items, and the students really took that to heart in collecting for the food drive," FNEFL President and CEO Bruce Ganger said in a news release. "We were overwhelmed by how much food these students collected and very grateful for their help."

Participating schools included Crookshank, Cunningham Creek, Hickory Creek, Osceola, Ocean Palms and Wards Creek elementary schools, Landrum and Switzerland Point middle

schools and Patriot Oaks Academy, along with Bartram Trail, Creekside, Nease and St. Johns Technical high schools. Based on pounds collected per students, the top three schools were St. Johns Technical High School, Hickory Creek Elementary and Creekside High School.

"The real winners are the St. Johns County residents in need and the philanthropic organizations that assist them," Megan Laubacker, community partnership coordinator with the St. Johns County School District, said in a news release. "We look forward to working with Feeding Northeast Florida in the future to continue the fight against hunger."

Ganger said the collection will become an annual, community-wide event and that organizers will build on this year's event to generate more teams and engagement in the food drive when it kicks off again.

For more information, visit www.feedingnefl.org.



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Continued from 12

evening,” said Head of Christ Church Academy, Dr. Madison Nichols

The PGA Tour sponsored 20 Wounded Warriors who were contacted through the Wounded Warrior office. Security for the event was very tight and required anyone coming to arrive early. Laura Bush participated in a fireside chat at the school's 2010 fundraiser as well. In the past, the event featured former NFL and University of Florida quarterback Tim Tebow.

2015 **MARCH**

Momentum Transportation USA, Inc. sponsored the Fireside Chat. Joining them in sponsorship were Jacksonville Steel, Inc., The Kent & Christie Stermon Foundation, Majority Strategies, Havoline Xpress Lube, PGA Tour, SunTrust Private Wealth Management and WOKV Radio. The event also featured a rare opportunity for some. A special VIP reception and dinner with the Bush's.

Bush served two terms in office from 2001 to 2009. He also was the governor of Texas from 1995 to 2000 in the oil business and at one time co-owned the Texas Rangers baseball club.



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APRIL 2015



No ruff-housing at Dog Day Afternoon

SJC Cares held its annual Dog Day Afternoon in April in Julington Creek Plantation. The event, which featured a dog wash, pet-icures (nail trims), adoptions, photos, and low-cost vaccinations and microchipping from Julington Creek Animal Hospital, benefitted Ayla's Acres, a no-kill pet rescue organization in St. Johns County. Also at the popular event were Flyball demonstrations and an obstacle course for dogs. For more information about SJC Cares, visit www.stjohnscares.org.



Mission House raises the roof on Good Friday

Mission House staff celebrated in April as the homeless resource center prepared to move up — quite literally — with a ground-breaking ceremony. The day

facility will expand in its existing footprint by adding a second story to its building.

From left are Frank Box, operations manager; Amanda Powell,

case manager; Elizabeth Davis, administrative coordinator; Rhonda Hurley, clinic manager; Mike Russell, operations manager; and Carmen Whisler, case manager.



Photo by Susan Griffin

William Watson Jr., founder of Watson Realty Corp. and Ed Forman, Watson's President, broke ground on the company's newest office last week. The new office, located in Nocatee, will include 4,200 square feet of space for Watson offices as well as 1,800 square feet of additional commercial rental space. The building is slated to open in November 2015.

Watson Realty Corp. breaks new ground in Nocatee

Kelly McDermott
The Recorder

William Watson Jr., founder of Watson Realty Corp., and Ed Forman, Watson's President, broke ground on the company's newest office last week. The new office, located in Nocatee, will include 4,200 square feet of space for Watson offices as well as 1,800 square feet of additional rental space.

The groundbreaking was hosted by Watson Realty Corp. on April 7 at the site of the future building, located at the corner of Nocatee Village Dr. and Marketside Ave.

Founded in 1965, Watson Realty Corp. is host to 41 residential sales offices with a network of 1,200 sales associates throughout Northeast Florida, Gainesville, Starke and South Georgia. Watson Realty Corp. had more than \$2.61 billion in closed sales volume in 2014. The Nocatee office will provide real estate services including sales, leasing, property management, mortgage and title services.

"I am really excited to open a new Watson office in Nocatee," said Ed Forman, Watson Realty Corp. President. "This is a tremendous opportunity to have a location in one of the top selling communities in the country."

Nocatee was the third best-selling master-planned community in the nation in 2013, according to real estate advisory firm RCLCO.

"It is a perfect time to add an office in Nocatee as Watson Realty Corp. celebrates its 50th anniversary," noted William A. Watson, Jr. founder and Chairman of the Board, Watson Realty Corp.

The anticipated completion date of the 6,000 square foot building is November 2015.

2015 **APRIL**

Rezoning proposed in north Ponte Vedra Beach

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

A new neighborhood planned at the end of Marsh Cove Drive in north Ponte Vedra has residents of surrounding neighborhoods raising questions about roads and safety in April. A community open house was hosted at the Ponte Vedra library and was overflowing with residents and concerned parties who attended to learn more about plans for development.

The new development, dubbed The Lakes at Ponte Vedra, will add 68 homes to a piece of previously undeveloped property adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant at the end of Marsh Cove Drive.

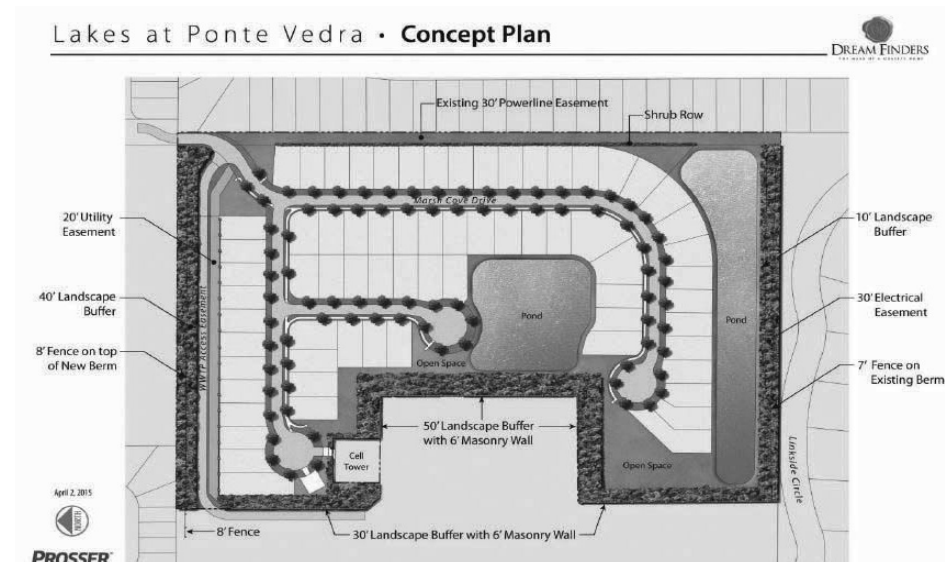
Representatives from the builder, the consulting agency and St. Johns County were on hand to present plans and answer questions.

Residents voiced concerns about the strain of traffic on current roads, the potential addition of sidewalks to the neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods as well as the safety of children during the construction phase of the project.

The project is currently only in the proposal phase for rezoning within the county, but Dream Finders, the builder for the site, hopes to be breaking ground in about a year if rezoning and permitting goes smoothly.

“It could be twelve months or longer,” said Batey McGraw, vice president of land for Dream Finders Homes. “If we’re to get this approval and we go through the development process, as soon as we break ground on the structure we’ll begin pre-selling the homes.”

This approach accelerates the construction process, McGraw said, citing



a similar approach used by Dream Finders in The Palms at Nocatee.

McGraw said homes in the new

development are predicted to start at a \$400,000 price point, with an average of around \$600,000.

Charities the real winners at 17th hole challenge

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

Fifteen local celebs went head to head last Wednesday to take their shot at the infamous 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass. In the end, Curtis Dvorak — better known as his alter ego, Jaxson de Ville, the Jacksonville Jaguars mascot — took home the top spot.

Dvorak earned a \$10,000 donation for the charity he represented, the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund.

Dvorak shot in his mascot costume and on his first try landed 4’9” from the pin.

In second place was Jeff Klauk, a Web.Com Tour Player, who netted \$5,000 for the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida with his 3’5” shot in the second round of play.

The 17th Hole Charity Challenge was covered live by the Golf Channel’s “Morning Drive.”

Other celebs in the challenge included former Jacksonville Jaguar and last year’s winner, Toni Bosselli; former PGA Tour member and founder of K9s for Warriors, Bob Duval; Jaguars kicker, Josh Scobee; sports director for WJXT, Sam Kouvaris; Jaguars quarterback, Blake Bortles and Jaguars head coach, Gus Bradley.



Curtis Dvorak played in his costume and won the shootout with his first shot, landing 4i9i from the pin. Dvorak gives life to the mascot for the Jacksonville Jaguars, Jaxson de Ville.

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MAY 2015



First loggerhead turtle nest of season spotted locally

Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM Research Reserve) Marine Turtle Patrol volunteers have spotted the first loggerhead sea turtle nest of the nesting season, which runs from May to September.

The Marine Turtle Patrol program is a volunteer-based effort for monitoring and evaluating sea turtle nests on the GTM Research Reserve's beach. In April, volunteers began monitoring and evaluating sea turtle nests seven days a week.

Volunteers also educate the community about sea turtles and the patrol program through interactions with beachgoers and the reserve's educational lecture series.

Nest locations are documented with a GPS reading and then staked and ribboned off to protect the section from surface disturbance. The nest is numbered, and a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Com-

mission sign is placed at the site, informing individuals that those who disturb the nest are subject to fines and imprisonment according to Florida Law Chapter 370 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

An average marine turtle nest contains between 80 and 120 eggs.

Loggerhead turtles are considered an endangered species and are the largest of all hard-shelled turtles, with characteristic large heads, strong jaws and a reddish-brown shell or carapace.

During the three months that a female loggerhead breeds, she will travel hundreds of miles to nest, lay more than 35 pounds of eggs and swim back to her home foraging area, all without a significant meal.

For more information about volunteering for the Marine Turtle Patrol program, contact Shannon Rininger, volunteer coordinator at (904) 823-4500.

142-year-old cracker-style cabin moves to new home at Beaches Museum

By Carrie Resch

The Recorder

The Beaches Museum & History Park has grown again, this time with the addition of a 142-year-old cracker-style cabin believed to be the oldest surviving structure of its kind in Northeast Florida.

On Tuesday, May 12, the Oesterreicher-McCormick cabin was moved from its original location on the McCormick Ranch off 20 Mile Road in Palm Valley to the museum located in Jacksonville Beach. The homestead, built by Thomas Oesterreicher in 1873, was moved to make way for new development in the Nocatee community.

The museum recently wrapped up an exhibit that focused on the history of Palm Valley and hosted a day of storytelling about well-known people in the Palm Valley community.

"We just had a Palm Valley historical exhibit in the museum and it was really interesting," Beaches Museum & History Park Executive Director Christine Hoffman said. "I think there are a lot of stories and history in Palm Valley that just aren't generally known in our area and it's so nice to be able to see that," she said.

This cabin, having stemmed from the pioneer days of Palm Valley, will give visitors perspective of not only what it was like to be a pioneer, but it will also help the museum convey historical information about Palm Valley, a lesser known area of our community but an area that is absolutely fascinating, Hoffman said.

The cabin is the latest historic building to be moved to the museum

grounds. In 2012, the Beaches Chapel—also known as the St. Paul's by-the-Sea Church—was moved to Pablo Historical Park after being acquired by the Beaches Area Historical Society. The chapel, which underwent restorative work including repainting and bell tower restoration, is now used for weddings, funerals and other special events such as the Beaches Museum & History Park concert series.

The park also houses the Old Pablo Station Post Office, the Florida East Coast Railway Mayport Depot, the FEC House and the Cummer Lumber Company Steam locomotive.

The museum has plans to restore the Oesterreicher-McCormick cabin as well as install modern amenities such as heating and air conditioning and plumbing. Hoffman said they will preserve the historical integrity of the home while making it a functional building that will be a new exhibit when complete.

The exhibit will focus on the Oesterreicher family, Palm Valley, and the 20 Mile area, and the museum also plans on using the cabin as a ready room for brides and a green room for concert series performers.

The Beaches Museum & History Park is located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach. The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday from noon-4 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays. Admission to the museum is free.

For more information about the museum or its current or upcoming exhibits, call (904) 241-5657 or visit www.beachesmuseum.org.



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2015 **MAY**

Camp K9 facility will help vets 'get a new leash on life'

Carrie Resch
The Recorder

Camp K9, the new K9s For Warriors headquarters located in Nocatee, held a grand opening celebration April 30. The new, larger facility will quadruple the amount of veterans the organization will be able to help.

It is estimated that 22 veterans commit suicide in America each day. The organization is working to combat that number by pairing military veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury with service dogs.

Ponte Vedra resident Shari Duval founded K9s For Warriors in 2011 after her son, Brett Simon, returned from two tours in Iraq with PTSD. After watching her son suffer with the disorder, Duval researched ways she could help him and found that service dogs could help veterans like her son.

PTSD is a medical disability and the main symptoms of it are nightmares, flashbacks, depression and acrophobia. The dogs will wake their warrior companions from nightmares and immediately bring them out of that state. The dogs also serve as a buffer for veterans suffering from PTSD who often don't like being approached. Additionally, the dogs are trained to go ahead of the warriors around corners, helping the warriors feel at ease in public places.

"The dogs give the warriors the freedom to go out again," Duval said in a 2012 interview with The Recorder. "They tend to isolate; they tend to not go into public and they avoid crowds. What they come here to do is change their lives. Not one dog has been returned and not one warrior has not had minimum to maximum results, and every one of them would swear by our program. Our mission



is to return our warriors to civilian life with dignity and honor, and that's our goal," she said. "They walk in here on two legs and they leave on six."

The old facility could house only four military veterans, or warriors as Duval calls them, during their three-week training period. Camp K9 can accommodate up to 16 warriors per month. The program pairs veterans with service dogs free of charge. Ninety-five percent of the

dogs used in the program are either rescue or shelter dogs.

Of the more than 160 warriors who have completed the program, they have had a 100 percent success rate, meaning they haven't lost a single warrior to suicide.

Warriors who have graduated the program often report the reduction or elimination of medication used to treat their conditions.

For more information about K9s For Warriors, visit www.k9sforwarriors.org.



Tony Euabnks/Special to The Recorder

Guts & glory for Fowler

Rickie Fowler, 26, took home The Players Championship trophy after a playoff and sudden death round on Sunday. Fowler's play on the last four holes was the best ever in the history of the tournament.



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JUNE 2015

Community celebrates new fire station in Nocatee

Kelly H. McDermott

The Recorder

Living in Nocatee has become even safer thanks to a new fire station — St. Johns County Fire Station 18 — now operating in the neighborhood.

Although the station began operating officially on May 22, the facility was opened up for a community celebration on Saturday. Families and community members were invited to watch guest speakers, a ceremonial hose uncoupling (which took the place of a traditional ribbon cutting), free food, bounce houses, live music and a tour of the new facility. More than 300 families attended the event.

The new fire station is the product of two years of work and public private partnerships in the Nocatee community and surrounding county, and is the newest fire station in the county.

“I got a call two and a half years ago from a Nocatee resident, Rick Van Brederode, and he said ‘What can we do to get a fire station out here?’” said County Commissioner Jay Morris. “I said the county didn’t have the money to pay for it. That really slowed the conversation down.”

After the initial conversation, however, Morris learned that bringing a fire station to Nocatee could save residents



roughly \$1,000 each on insurance. Bringing a fire station to Nocatee, Morris said, could potentially put millions of dollars back into the economy of St. Johns County.

Morris, along with Assistant County Administrator Jerry Cameron, approached Roger Osteen of the PARC group about securing a non-interest-

bearing loan for the project. Shortly thereafter, the Davis family and the PARC Group agreed to pay \$2.4 million in order to cover the new station and equipment. The money will be paid back by the county through fire district fees paid by Nocatee residents.

“This is the most substantial public-private partnership I’ve seen in the

county,” Morris said.

Morris estimates that the project would have taken at least two more years to accomplish without the help of the PARC Group and Davis family.

Nocatee donated a five-acre site at Crosswater Parkway and Preservation Trail, and the St. Johns County Commission approved the plan for the fire station in November of 2013.

Before the new station opened, the closest station that could respond to homes and businesses in Nocatee was located in Palm Valley—more than seven miles of potentially slow-moving, narrow roads away from the new station. Being located more than five miles from a fire station negatively impacts insurance rates.

The facility is home to a pumper truck, an ambulance and five county employees. St. Johns County Fire Rescue also hopes to secure a SAFER Grant (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) that would pay for added employees at the station.

“It started with an impossible phone call,” Morris said, “but if you get the right people together, working on a project in unison, it’s amazing what you can get done.”

Fire Station 18 is located at 1055 Crosswater Parkway in Ponte Vedra.

Nease NJROTC named top unit in the nation

By Kelly McDermott

The Recorder

The Navy League of the United States presented Nease NJROTC with the Most Outstanding Unit in the Nation trophy during a recognition ceremony on June 3 at Nease High School — an award which recognizes the top unit of 587 Navy JROTC units worldwide.

“I am so excited for our NJROTC program,” said Nease Principal Kyle Dresback. “The students as well as instructors have worked hard and it shows with this outstanding accolade. Captain LaRoche and the Nease NJROTC program continue to be a tremendous asset to our school and local community.”

This is the first time Nease has received this prestigious award. Southold High School from Long Island, New York finished second in the nation.

“The entire unit should feel proud of this achievement,” said cadet battalion commander Michaela



Heinrich. “All 237 cadets contributed to our unit’s success.”

The Navy League sponsors this national award. St. Augustine council president Bill Dudley presented the honor to Cadet Heinrich. The award criteria includes level of academic achievements, field meet performance, orientation activities, school service projects, community service activities, extracurricular activities, annual formal inspection report and summer training activities.

“I could not be more proud of these extraordinary young men and women,” said Captain Scott LaRoche, Nease senior naval science instructor. “Our

senior class leadership was exceptional, and their legacy of commitment and service will be remembered for years to come.”

Among Nease’s noteworthy achievements this year are more than 5,200 hours of community service; first place finishes in Mandarin Drill Meet, Terry Parker Drill Meet, Area 12 Drill Meet Championships, Middleburg Pentathlon, Lithonia Ironman, Bartram Raider Challenge, Lee Ultimate Frisbee Championship and Navarre Academic Postal.

Internally, the unit sponsors its own mentoring and tutoring program to ensure the military and academic development of all cadets in the program.

2015 JUNE



Photo by Kelly H. McDermott

Seen are U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, Florida Senator Travis Hutson, Florida Rep. Cyndi Stevenson and Florida Rep. Paul Renner.

Reps address state's challenges, successes at Chamber meeting

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

Local representatives joined county business leaders on the heels of an unorthodox election cycle to provide a legislative update last week at the St. Johns County Chamber Economic Development Council quarterly breakfast. U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, Florida Senator Travis Hutson, Florida Rep. Cyndi Stevenson and Florida Rep. Paul Renner spoke to Chamber members gathered at the Sawgrass Marriott, reporting on progress made on the state and federal levels for the district.

The representatives in attendance

reflected the recent shuffle in state government, and new state representative Cyndi Stevenson pointed out that the county has endured more elections in the last six months than in the previous four years.

"This isn't how I envisioned my first session as a house member," Stevenson said.

Stevenson and Renner were sworn into the Florida House 37 days into the session, and had just two weeks of session time before the house adjourned. The house was back in session this week, however, to pass a state budget and address remaining policy issues.



New memory center is a community's dream realized

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

One in nine older Americans has Alzheimer's disease—and in St. Johns County, an estimated 4,000 people have a need for memory care.

"In this zip code alone, there are a little over 1,000 people who will be afflicted with Alzheimer's and other memory disorders," said Becky Yanni, Executive Director of the St. Johns County Council on Aging. Yanni was speaking last week at the ribbon cutting for the newest memory resource in the northeast part of the county, the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center.

"At the Council on Aging, we also think of that as really a family issue," Yanni said. "It definitely impacts the



entire family and therefore the community."

The new memory center will have a twofold impact on families facing memory disorders by helping elders in need of memory care while also helping spouses and families shoulder the responsibilities of providing that care.

In order for the vacant building to be a viable site, the facility initially needed \$300,000 worth of renovation.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Chamber honors top members at annual awards

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce met for a special after-hours function at the Sawgrass Beach Club on May 27. The event, dubbed the Membership Appreciation Awards, recognized outstanding members of the local division. Awards included the signature Jeff Jenkins Community Service Award, Pat Morgan Outstanding Member Award and other categories such as Best Networker and Most Sociable. For more information about the chamber, visit www.stjohnscountychamber.com. Pictured above are this year's group of award winners.

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JULY 2015

Questions continue after condos burn

15 families displaced as fire continues to threaten days later

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

Two employees of St. Johns County Fire Rescue have been placed on administrative leave after the county released 911 calls of a condominium resident reporting a possible fire in her complex.

The smoke that the woman reported smelling in her first call was from a fire that tore through a building at the Belleza condominiums in Ponte Vedra early Monday morning. The fire destroyed 20 units in the building. The 30 people who were present in the building during the fire all evacuated without injuries. Those displaced include both unit owners and renters, along with their pets.

The recordings released this week confirm the story of a Belleza resident, who told media on Monday that she called 911 about an hour before flames were visible to report smelling smoke. Her first call was made at 4:05 a.m., with the caller saying she smelled smoke while walking her dog.

At 4:22 a.m., she called back, saying

she had not seen anyone from Fire Rescue on the property. The dispatcher told her that responding officers had arrived, looked for the fire and left when they could not find anything.

"If there is a fire, I'm sure there will be a problem," she said before hanging up. "Thank you."

The resident called back at 4:51, letting the operator hear the sound of fire alarms blaring.

Two minutes later, an employee from Central Station Monitoring called, saying that fire alarms in the building had been triggered. CSM is a national intrusion and fire alarm monitoring station, according to their website.

Fire Rescue returned to the scene after the third call from the resident.

St. Johns County Fire Rescue issued a statement on Tuesday in response to the situation.

"After reviewing the tapes, (SJCFR) has initiated an internal investigation into the initial response to this incident. Two fire department personnel involved in this response have been placed on administrative leave pending the results of that investigation," said agency spokesperson Capt. Jeremy Robshaw.

An estimated 60 to 70 emergency personnel were eventually dispatched on Monday to respond to the fire, including personnel from Jacksonville and Jacksonville Beach. The response was complicated by a triple digit heat index on Monday morning, limiting each firefighter to a short shift.

SJCFR was called back to the scene on Tuesday after a hot spot re-ignited. The property was being monitored round the



Photo by Kelly H. McDermott

The fire remained active through Tuesday, and flames could still be seen from the road mid-morning on Monday.

clock on Wednesday.

The fire consumed the entire building. Residents have not yet been allowed back into the building and it is unclear if they will be permitted to try and retrieve any belongings, as hot spots and structural damage continue to pose major safety hazards.

The cause of the fire is still unknown, and the state fire marshal will be investigating. The building was outfitted with a sprinkler system, but it is unclear whether or not it was triggered.

Volunteers from the Red Cross will continue to assist displaced residents throughout the week. You can donate by visiting www.redcross.org/donate and selecting the local option.



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PV Hilton Garden Inn honored for service efforts

Carol Maurer
Community Submission

The Hilton Garden Inn of Ponte Vedra announced this week that it has been awarded the Best Community Service Project, competing against more than 500 HGIs worldwide for this brand award during Hilton's Inaugural 2012 Global Week of Service.

Team members of the Hilton Garden Inn in Ponte Vedra Beach organized the project, which involved 40 volunteers from three northeast Florida HGIs, as well as the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset and the Interact Club of Ponte Vedra High School. Together they dedicated a November Saturday morning helping Second Harvest of Jacksonville, a local food bank, organize food for

distribution to more than 450 member agencies that help feed hungry Americans across 17 north Florida counties.

During the Global Week of Service, Hilton team members around the world spent seven focused days serving their communities and "spreading the light and warmth of hospitality," a passion of founder Conrad Hilton. Team members completed over 800 volunteer projects in 401 cities across 51 countries, demonstrating the company's year-round commitment to volunteerism.

Recently the Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville/Ponte Vedra was also awarded TripAdvisor's coveted 2012 Certificate of Excellence, honoring excellence in

HEAL SURF CAMP 2015 | RIDING THE WAVE OF AUTISM

Camp gives kids with autism a chance to enjoy summer fun

Carrie Resch

The Recorder

It's something that many of us take for granted.

A day at the beach surfing, kayaking, sailing in a catamaran. For parents of children with autism, it can be difficult—if not impossible—to take their children out on their own to have them experience all the fun the ocean has to offer.

That's exactly why the City of Jacksonville Beach started a surf camp almost a decade ago for children on the autism spectrum. The Riding the Wave of Autism Summer Surf Camp is a two-day camp that takes place on the heels of the annual summer surf camp for children without disabilities.

"We're excited as always," said Jimmy Wilkins, recreation/ocean rescue superintendent for the City of Jacksonville Beach. "We take this for granted because we can just do it whenever we want. These children cannot. So, that's our main thing—to give them the experience that we all have that we take for granted every day."

This is the ninth year for the surf camp, which took place on June 22 and 23. The camp is a collaboration of the City of Jacksonville Beach who puts the

surf camp on and a mix of instructors from the basic surf camp and volunteers from the community. The goal of the surf camp is to give kids an opportunity to experience a variety of ocean-related recreational activities including surfing, boogie boarding, ocean kayaking and sailing.

There is no fee for the families who sign up for the camp. Instead, the camp is funded by sponsors. The major sponsors include the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club, Sunrise Surf Shop and the HEAL Foundation, an Autism awareness and outreach organization based in Ponte Vedra Beach. Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary member Ken Smith and his grandson, Turner Street, have been volunteering at the camp every year since it began.

"It's one of the charities that we support every year," Smith said of the Rotary's involvement. "It's an opportunity for the Rotary members to come out and participate with the kids, get involved with the kids."

He also said it's a win-win for the children, who he said sometimes have a fear of the water but then find out that it can be fun, and the parents.

"It's a great thing for the parents to



Photo by Carrie Resch

Volunteers Steve Moser and Richard Hana assist Anthony Magana.

have a little time off and bring the kids here. The instructors take time — they're with the kids all the time, so the parents can just sit and watch and enjoy how much their kids are enjoying it."

Of the 24 who signed up for the surf camp this year, eight are returning campers. The rest experienced the camp for the first time.

Rochelle Seiler's 13-year-old son, Sean, has mild autism and has been attending the camp for the past six years, along with his 10-year-old brother, Ryan and 6-year-old sister, Rebecca who also get to participate in the camp along with their older brother.

"I'm glad that they do this," Rochelle Seiler said. "It is so nice that these people take time out of their busy lives because this is no expense to us. It's so good for the kids and they love it, and it's so good for us as parents because there's no way we could do it without these people. I'm very grateful that they put this on. Sean loves it, and he looks

forward to this every year."

That same enthusiasm for the camp is shared by Jessica Hancock's son, Angel. This is the family's second year attending the camp. A friend told her about the surf camp last year and she was able to snag one of the last two spots. Angel, who has autism, tried out everything the camp had to offer last year, but once he tried the catamaran, that instantly became his favorite activity, Hancock said.

"It's all he talked about for a year," Hancock said. "He said it was his best day ever. He keeps saying it was his best day ever and that he had so much fun," she said.

Hancock also brought her 7-year-old daughter, Vanessa and 3-year-old nephew, Cody, whom Hancock babysits for her sister, with her. The summer camp has been inclusive for siblings to participate in the activities as well. "That's the cool thing is that all get to participate, so it's not just his surf camp, it's a family surf camp," Hancock said.



Photo provided by Carol Maurer

Randy Pickering, Assistant General Manager of the Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville/Ponte Vedra, is shown with the hotel's Certificate of Excellence award, presented by TripAdvisor.

Honored

Continued from 24

hospitality, an accolade given only to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews on TripAdvisor. Only approximately 10 percent of accommodations listed on TripAdvisor receive this prestigious award.

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AFTER

BEFORE

AUGUST 2015

Community breaks ground for mission church building

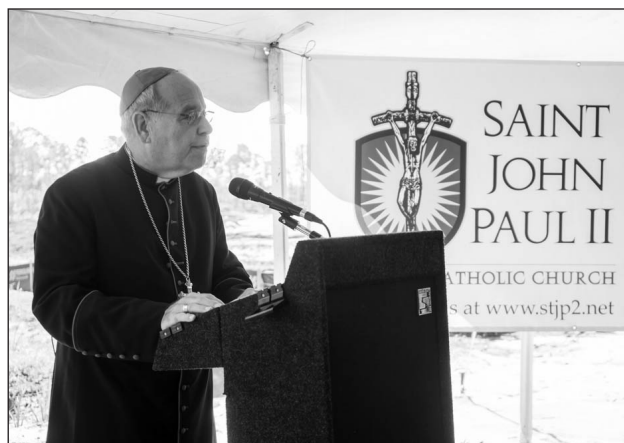
Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

On Saturday, members of the community gathered with representatives from Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Ponte Vedra Beach, the St. Augustine Catholic Diocese and supporters from Sauer and Kasper to break ground at the site of the future St. John Paul II Catholic Mission Church in Nocatee.

“It is such a joy this Saturday to be with the community of St. John Paul II in Nocatee,” said Bishop Felipe J. Estevez of the Diocese of St. Augustine. “This family needs a space to worship and to know one another. We are blessing the ground of this great project, building a temple for the Lord, a temple for the community of Nocatee.”

The groundbreaking and blessing was hosted at the future site of a 12,000-square-foot, single-story multipurpose building that will serve as a temporary worship space until the mission can afford to build a church.

Sauer Inc. of Jacksonville was awarded the contract to build the new multi-purpose building, and Kasper Architecture of Jacksonville is providing design services for the project.



Bishop Felipe J. Estevez, above, of the Diocese of St. Augustine spoke to those gathered for the blessing and groundbreaking. The 35-acre plot of land for the new mission multipurpose building was donated to the Diocese of St. Augustine by the Davis family.

Photos by Woody Huband

The mission is scheduled to open around Easter of 2016 on a parcel of undeveloped land in Nocatee.

The 35-acre property was donated by the Davis Family to the Diocese of St. Augustine.

The land for the site is off of Valley Ridge Blvd., roughly between Kelly Pointe and The Villas in Nocatee and across from The Palms.

The mission church currently serves 136 registered Nocatee families by hosting Saturday evening mass at the St. Francis in the Field Episcopal Church on Palm Valley Road — but in order to better serve the rapidly growing population in Nocatee, the church will soon have a closer home in the master-planned community.

Msgr. Daniel Logan, retired pas-

tor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, celebrated the first Mass of the mission community on July 9, 2012, at St. Francis in the Field Episcopal Church.

Since then — and until the new building is completed — Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish continues to lease space from St. Francis for the mission to celebrate Mass on Saturdays.

Bishop Estevez appointed Father Edward Shaner to serve at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish as a parochial vicar in March 2014, and he is overseeing the new mission in Nocatee.

“It is a momentous time,” Bishop Estevez said.

For more, visit St. John Paul II Catholic Church’s website at www.stjp2.net.

Walking tour app brings St. Augustine’s history alive

While strolling along the historic streets of St. Augustine, visitors can now listen to the stories of the people who lived there more than four centuries ago. They can learn about the tall ships and adventurers who came ashore from far flung parts of the world, the battles and pirate raids and raging fires that almost destroyed this Spanish colonial city, the political intrigues — and more.

“Florida Stories,” a new walking tour mobile app, brings this important human drama alive. Produced by the Florida Humanities Council, this 10-stop, self-guided, illustrated audio tour is now available for free download to mobile phones. It is also available online for listening and download to computers.

“We are excited to provide this convenient way for Floridians and visitors to hear the fascinating stories of our oldest city,” said Janine Farver, executive director of the Florida Humanities Council, affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. “People can listen to the behind-the-scenes stories of St. Augustine while exploring its historic buildings and streets.”

The app was launched with a party at the Pena-Peck House in St. Augustine on Aug. 14. Attendees were invited to meet the script writer and take a free tour of the Pena-Peck House after a wine and cheese reception.

The app is available just as the city celebrates the 450th anniversary of its 1565 founding. Visitors can download the app directly onto their Apple or Android mobile phones, or via a QR code shown on rack cards in St. Augustine’s Visitors Center. The tours are also available online at www.flstories.org.

The Florida Humanities Council developed the app with funds from the State of Florida and NEH. This is the first in an anticipated series of “Florida Stories” walking tours of distinctive communities around the state.

The St. Augustine script, written by public historian Elsbeth Gordon and read by actor Chaz Mena, brings the city’s past alive. Gordon is author of the book, *Walking St. Augustine: An Illustrated Guide and Pocket History to America’s Oldest City*, published by the University Press of Florida. In it, she focuses on the people who lived in what was once a little wooden city at the edge of a vast ocean and untamed wilderness — and on the landmark events as the city evolved and key points to visit today. Mena, a Miami-based actor, has portrayed St. Augustine’s Spanish founder Pedro Menendez on stage in the Florida Humanities Council’s “Dreamers & Schemers” programs.

Kinne presented with lifetime achievement award

Chelsea Yanochik
Fleet Landing

Fleet Landing Resident Frances Bartlett Kinne, past president and Chancellor Emeritus of Jacksonville University was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award on Aug. 13 at the Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville for the 12th Annual Women of Influence Awards.

“Dr. Kinne is an extraordinary woman who exemplifies leadership and class. She deserves to be recognized and honored for the impact she has had on thousands of lives. Our world is a better place because of Fran. She is a strong role model for people everywhere and her story is truly an adventure,” said Josh Ashby, Chief Executive Officer of Fleet Landing.

Kinne, 98, was first recognized when former Governor Bob Graham inducted her into the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame. She received her undergraduate and



graduate degrees from Drake University and her Ph.D. from the University of Frankfurt (Germany), where she was the first American to be awarded a doctorate after World War II. She is listed in *Who’s Who in America*, as well as 23 other publications of notables.

Kinne is noted for being the first woman university president in Florida and for her involvement in bringing the Mayo Clinic to Jacksonville. Because of this, Kinne is

the only honorary staff member at Mayo, and for her efforts Mayo named the auditorium in the Canaday Building, Kinne Auditorium.

Kinne served as Jacksonville University President for 10 years where she established the College of Business, the College of Fine Arts and the College of Arts & Sciences, the School of Nursing and the Aviation Program. Due to her prior involvement with the University, as a humanities professor, and Dean of the College of Fine Arts, it was only fitting that she would make a great president.

After stepping down as president in 1989, Kinne served as the Chancellor from 1989-1994, and today holds the title Chancellor Emeritus of Jacksonville University.

Before beginning her journey at Jacksonville University, Kinne was a music and English teacher, a U.S. Army Hostess and a supportive Colonel’s wife.



Photos by Nancy Beecher

The bulk of the crowds for St. Augustine's 450th gathered around the main stage near the Bridge of Lions.

St. Augustine's birthday bash

City commemorates 450-year history with music festival, fireworks and other special events

Carrie Resch
The Recorder

A spotlight shined on the nation's oldest city during its 450th commemorative anniversary celebration last week, and despite the inclement weather, multitudes of people turned out to mark the historic occasion.

The celebration took place over several days from Sept. 4–8 at various locations throughout historic St. Augustine.

A highlight of the festivities was a free three-day music and street festival with live entertainment on five stages featuring local and national headlin-

ers such as veteran R&B singer, Aaron Neville, rhythm & blues gospel singer, Mavis Staples, Justin Townes Earle, JJ Grey and Mofro and Emmylou Harris with Rodney Crowell.

Saturday night closed out with a bang with a fireworks show over the Matanzas River.

The official anniversary was marked Sept. 8 with a countdown clock ceremony at the Visitor Information Center, a reenactment of Pedro Menéndez' landing in St. Augustine in 1565 and a procession to the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine followed by a commemorative mass.



Great Ponte Vedra Paddle raises thousands for autism

The 4th annual Great Ponte Vedra Paddle held on Labor Day at Mickler's Landing in Ponte Vedra Beach, drew hundreds of participants, spectators and supporters to the annual Stand Up Paddle Board competition benefitting local individuals on the autism spectrum. The fundraising event, one of the largest for the HEAL foundation, raised over \$40,000 that will go towards Autism ESE classrooms, iPads, programs, camps and seminars across Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. Almost 200 paddlers competed in four events: a 5-mile race, 3-mile race, a 1-mile sprint and an "Anything That Floats" challenge. The event, touted as the largest paddle board event on Florida's east coast, draws mostly local participants, but this year's event also drew participants from out of town and abroad, including one couple from St. Croix. For more information about HEAL, visit www.healautismnow.org. Photo provided by HEAL.

Recorder launches all-new website

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

You spoke. We listened.

The top complaint our staff has run into in the community over the past two years is that our website, www.pontevedrarecorder.com, is simply too difficult to use. Whether it was the cumbersome paywall, difficult navigation or near-impossible system for downloading PDFs, our old website's features simply did not cater to your needs.

Starting today, if you navigate to www.pontevedrarecorder.com, we hope that you will breathe a sigh of relief. We've launched a completely new website. Not only does the site have an updated look, but the back-end technology has also been completely revamped to make it easier to use.

DIRECT LINKS—NO LOGIN REQUIRED!

Our articles are easier than ever to share — whether you want to send a link via e-mail, Facebook, Twitter or any other social media outlet.

MORE PICTURES

Whether you're a local sports fanatic or you want to know if you were spotted while out and about at a social event, you'll love our new photo gallery options. We can now offer you even more photos than what you currently find in our print editions.

YOUR EVENT LISTINGS

Our event calendar is easier to use than ever, and allows anyone in the



community to submit an event listing.

E-EDITION

Powered by the easy-to-use JOOMAG technology, our entire print paper will be available online each week. Look for our bi-monthly magazine, *The First Coast Register*, online too!

MOBILE

Our new flexible design translates beautifully for mobile browsing, whether you access us via your tablet or phone.

What you'll love about the new website but won't be able to see is the fact that we have more flexibility than ever to respond to your preferences as readers. Want to see a feature that's currently missing on the site? Having trouble with navigation? Simply send us your feedback, and we will set to work on making the new site exactly what you want.

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Ponte Vedra Recorder
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OCTOBER 2015

Whitney sea turtle rehab, research hospital opens in St. Johns County

Carrie Resch
The Recorder

A grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting for The Sea Turtle Hospital at UF Whitney Lab in St. Augustine took place Saturday, Oct. 24. Hundreds were in attendance on Saturday to tour the new facility and participate in family-friendly activities.

The sea turtle hospital will focus on three cornerstones: rehabilitation, research and education. There are four 1,100 gallon tanks that can hold up to four turtles each located at the hospital. Each tank has its own filtration system and the capability of using the center's sea water

system or it can be self-contained for quarantined sea turtles or for other special circumstances, for example, if red tide is present in the area.

The sea turtle center fills a void we've had here in Northeast Florida, sea turtle founding trustee committee member, John Perkner articulated. Prior to the opening of this facility, injured or sick sea turtles found in Northeast Florida had to be transported miles away for treatment, the closest treatment and rehabilitation facility being the Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island.

The Sea Turtle Hospital at Whit-

TURTLE continues on **Page 29**



Photo by Carrie Resch

The treatment room: Steven Nelson, certified veterinary technician at the sea turtle hospital, answers visitors' questions during the grand opening celebration.



Club management broke ground on The Plantation's newest project last month: a \$6 upgrade to the golf course. Photo provided by Nicole Novena

Plantation breaks ground \$6 million renewal project

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

Improvements are coming to The Plantation and Ponte Vedra Beach, and members kicked off the newest project with a night of community celebration in September.

On Sept. 19, approximately 400 members of The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach attended a special Golf Course Groundbreaking Celebration. Members enjoyed a variety of food and beverages, live music and dancing. The highlight of the event was a bulldozer and tractor race down the 18th fairway which provided great entertainment and laughter.

"We were delighted to see the majority of our members attend this event," said Rob Schlingmann, General Manager at The Plantation. "The Plantation is a truly special community."

The golf course revitalization is a \$6 million dollar project in which the greens, tees and bunkers will be rebuilt, the drainage system will be upgraded and a new irrigation system will be installed. The golf course will reopen in

October of 2016.

The golf course revitalization is one of three initiatives that make up The Plantation's Facilities Improvement Plan. An amenities park, Plantation Commons, is underway and will be home to The Plantation's newest sport, Croquet and will also include a playground and pavilion. In addition, The Beach House will be undergoing significant renovations this winter.

Enthusiasm for the project was clear with the huge attendance at the kickoff of the revitalization.

"This event was one of the highest attended events at The Plantation in years," Schlingmann said.

The Plantation is a private residential neighborhood in Ponte Vedra Beach with amenities including a championship golf course, private beach club, tennis facility, fitness center and a clubhouse with dining and social activities for all ages.

For information about The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach, call (904) 543-7534 or visit www.theplantation-pvb.com.

Recorder honored at statewide conference

Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

The Ponte Vedra Recorder was recognized with 11 awards for excellence in September by Community Papers of Florida for publications including The Recorder weekly newspaper and Living Here annual newcomers' guide. The awards were presented last month as part of CPF's annual conference.

The Recorder staff received recognition in the following categories: retail advertising, automotive advertising, real estate advertising, professional services advertising and agency-produced advertising. Staff were also awarded second place best newsprint cover design for a special section, second place best creative content and second place best overall special publication for Living Here.

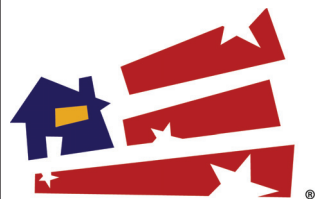
"We are honored to be recognized

among the industry's leaders by CPF," said Recorder Publisher Susan Griffin. Griffin attended the award ceremony on behalf of her staff. "We always look forward to the annual Awards for Excellence presentation. It's a great opportunity to learn from other community publications in the state, and to show the quality of the product we offer at The Ponte Vedra Recorder."

Griffin sits on the CPF board. Community Papers of Florida's membership is comprised of owners, publishers, general managers and sales managers of community newspapers throughout the state of Florida. Members range from small, independently-owned publications to free paper/shopping guide divisions of major communications companies. To learn more, visit www.communitypaper-sofflorida.com.



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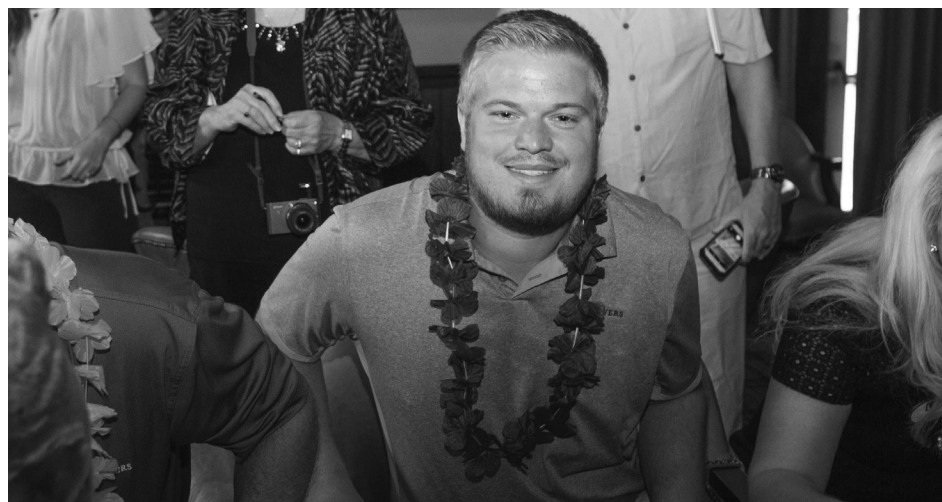
NOVEMBER

Dream comes true for local golf fan

Brad Ratzlaff lowered his head, his eyes welling up with tears as he squeezed his mother's hand. Orange and blue Hawaiian leis were placed around the necks of Ratzlaff and his family after PGA Tour player Jim Furyk announced the entire Ratzlaff clan will be heading to Hawaii in January to attend a Professional Golfer's Association tournament.

"Knowing that you love the PGA tour, we thought you might want to attend another golf tournament on the PGA tour," Furyk said at a Dreams Come True surprise party held at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse on Nov. 2. "You're an inspiration to all of us."

GOLF continues on Page 30



Astronaut surprises PVPVR students with special visit

Casey Carroll was a 2nd grader at PVPV/Rawlings Elementary when he received the opportunity of a lifetime. Last September 2014, his grandfather, local resident Bruce Kern took him on a special trip to Houston to visit the Johnson Space Center. Casey and Bruce spent 5 hours with Terry Virts, the NASA Commander of Expedition 43. Commander Virts launched in November of last year and spent over 6 months at the International Space Station completing science experiments and investigations, repairing the ISS, and taking amazing photographs. Fast forward to November 19, 2015. Casey was asked by his 3rd grade teacher to share his trip meeting Commander Virts and visiting the training facility in Houston. During his presentation, Terry Virts walked into the classroom to surprise Casey and spend time talking to the students about his time as an astronaut and answering many questions about life in space.

OCTOBER 2015

Turtle

Continued from 28

ney will also treat turtles affected by the Fibropapilloma virus, a mysterious disease that impacts the health and well-being of sea turtles. Through the Fibropapilloma research initiative. Faculty at the sea turtle hospital will also be researching the mysterious virus in order to better understand it.

Director of the Whitney Laboratory, Mark Martindale, thanked addressed the crowd and thanked them for supporting the sea turtle hospital.

"I'm constantly amazed at the dedication that the local community has for sea turtles and for their natural world," Martindale said.

"This opening of the sea turtle hospital here is an immense opportunity for biologists like us to learn more about the transmission of disease in the marine environment about immunology, about the ecology and behavior of sea turtles and there's plenty of faculty, for example in Gainesville, that are interested in utilizing this facility and I think that you're going to see enhanced involvement, and a bridge if you will, between Whitney Lab and

the Gainesville main campus," he said.

Martindale also noted that they have had constant support from the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research at the University of Florida in Gainesville, as well as the Aquatic Animal Health at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine and Dr. Terry Norton, director and veterinarian of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. He also said that an emerging pathogens institute in Gainesville that's also expressed a lot of interest in utilizing this resource for their own research. The Sea Turtle Conservancy located in Gainesville helped outfit the surgery center.

Funding for the sea turtle hospital was accomplished through private donors and a State License Plate Grant from the Sea Turtle Conservancy, making it truly a community and grassroots-type effort, according to Martindale.

The Sea Turtle Hospital at UF Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience is located at 9505 Oceanshore Blvd., St. Augustine.

For more information, to make a donation to the Sea Turtle Research and Rehabilitation fund, or to join the Friends of the Sea Turtle Hospital, visit www.whitney.ufl.edu/education-conservation/sea-turtle-hospital.

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NOVEMBER 2015

Local team sets record at Bike MS PGA Tour Cycle to Shore

Ponte Vedra Beach's Elise Beard (in photo above) crossed the first-day crosses finish line above in the recent 29th annual Bike MS PGA TOUR Cycle to the Shore. The two-day, 170-mile event, Ponte Vedra Beach to Daytona Beach and back, attracted more than 1,600 cyclists who raised \$1.5 million for multiple sclerosis. Beard is a member of the 30-person Big Banana bike team, which raised \$126,241, out-fundraising more than 100 corporate and friends and family teams this year.

Three members of the top fundraising team Big Bananas, pictured from left are team captain Bruce Reid (Ponte Vedra Beach), Linda Bushong-Reid (Ponte Vedra Beach), and Michael Muraski (Atlantic Beach),



finish the first day of the recent Bike MS PGA TOUR Cycle to the Shore in Daytona Beach. The 30-person bike team is comprised mostly of beaches residents, who this year, as a Friends & Family team, out-fundraised more than 100 teams, including corporate-sponsored teams. The \$126,000-plus raised by Big Bananas set a record for the event, which drew more than 1,600 riders.



Golf

Continued from 29

Ratzlaff, 19, a 2014 graduate of Orange Park High, is fighting acute lymphoblastic lymphoma and is an avid golfer. He will attend the tourney with his brother Tyler and parents Guy and Laura, who were on hand to watch in the dream presentation. Brad Ratzlaff was extended the offer to walk inside the ropes alongside Furyk at the pro-am event in January.

"It's going to be unexplainable, honestly," Ratzlaff said, who was born and raised in Orange Park. "I'm just so ready to walk some holes with him, hit the ball around and hopefully get a lot of good tips to help my golf game."

Ratzlaff is one of 3,000 young adults with life-threatening illnesses who have had specific dreams fulfilled by the Jacksonville-based nonprofit Dreams Come True. The Players volunteer leadership team, called the Red Coats, partnered with Dreams Come True to plan and fund the trip. The 19-year-old, who fell in love with golf in the last two years, also received a new set of Callaway golf clubs and \$5,000 in spending money for the vacation.

DECEMBER 2015

Bolles PVB MaliVai Washington food drive yields 10,000 cans

Students on the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus collected more than 10,000 cans and nonperishable items for the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation last month.

A large covered U-Haul truck parked in front of the school was filled to the rim with food, a visual reminder of the hard work students applied toward the charitable undertaking.

The 2015 drive was one of the largest in school history. Students were eager to support the initiative, which also included a fitness participation component.

"Throughout the year, and especially as the holidays approach, Bolles students learn how they can help meet needs in our community," said Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus Head Peggy Campbell-Rush.

"This was a success by all accounts, and linking philanthropy and fitness made the undertaking a fun competition."

More than half of the food collected came from ConAgra Foods, which offered to match students' collection thanks to the direction of Bolles PVB dad and ConAgra sales manager, Chris Barksdale and wife, Cari.

Bolles parents Stacy and Jim Philip led the food drive challenge.

Coach Melissa Stone directed the fitness portion of the food collection, which required participating students to earn the amount of food they could donate through a running and physical activity



challenge.

During early November P.E. classes, students in all grades ran laps for their can donations. Running 13 laps, or a mile, afforded each student the opportunity to donate five cans.

Stone said most students ran more than two miles

as part of the challenge.

The Bolles School is a co-educational college preparatory day and boarding school serving students on four campuses in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve.

Visit www.bolles.org for more information.

2015

DECEMBER

4-H Team shines at Marine Ecology Event

The GTM Research Reserve/St. Johns County 4-H Marine Ecology Club earned first and third place team awards at the statewide Marine Ecology Event recently held in Kissimmee, Fla. Some club members also placed first and second in individual competitions.

“The 4-H Marine Ecology Club continues to be one of our mentoring success stories,” said Michael Shirley, director of the GTM Research Reserve. “The volunteer leaders and the 4-H teams are very dedicated and enjoyed great success at the recent statewide competition.”

Sponsored by the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, the competition was divided into five sections: marine and coastal plant identification; marine invertebrate animal identification;

marine vertebrate animal identification; natural history scavenger hunt; and knowledge of marine habitats, concepts and issues.

During the awards ceremony, it was announced that the St. Johns County 4-H team received a \$300 Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation grant through the University of Florida/IFAS Extension 4-H Youth Development Program to study Estuary Restoration through Hydroponically Grown Spartina alterniflora. The club will be working with Kenneth Rainer, GTM Research Reserve education coordinator, to grow Spartina alterniflora (smooth cordgrass) hydroponically on different substrates and to plant in an area where there has been erosion. GTM Research Reserve volunteers will serve as 4-H leaders in this joint educational effort.



Champions for Child Safety Pro Am raises more than \$150K

World-renowned golfers and local teams recently came together to raise more than \$150,000 at the 18th Annual Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc.'s Champions for Child Safety Pro Am Golf Tournament. Pictured, l to r, are Lynn Layton, executive director, Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc.; Mark McCumber; Mary Katherine Fechtel, Miss Florida; Ed Burr, chairman and founder, Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc.; Fred Funk; Jim Furyk; and Ed Orender.

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TAXSLAYER BOWL



The TaxSlayer Bowl kick off at noon on Saturday and Georgia will play before a national audience on ESPN. The broadcast team will feature Allan Bestwick, play-by-play, Dan Hawkins, analyst, and Tiffany Greene as sideline reporter. (Photo courtesy Penn State)



A win over Penn State would give Georgia seniors 40 wins and a 10-win season including Bulldogs standout senior linebacker Jordan Jenkins (59) (Photo by Andy Harrison)

Nittany Lions, Bulldogs continue bowl preparations

By Mike Bonts

Both Penn State and Georgia continued to prepare for their Saturday meeting in the TaxSlayer Bowl in Jacksonville.

Under partly cloudy skies and temperatures in the upper 70s, Georgia resumed practice Monday.

The Bulldogs worked out in jerseys, shoulder pads, helmets and shorts on the campus of the University of North Florida. Georgia interim head coach Bryan McClendon confirmed that senior fullback Quayvon Hicks would miss the TaxSlayer Bowl game due to an injury.

"Quayvon will not play in the bowl game; he has a lot to look forward to as he moves on, and you hate to see a senior not get to play in his final game because of an injury," McClendon said.

With Hicks out, Georgia's depth at fullback will consist of sophomore Christian Payne and redshirt sophomore Glenn Welch. Hicks had appeared in all 12 games with three starts. Payne has played in seven games this year with no starts while Welch has appeared in 11 games with no starts.

The Bulldogs are looking to win 10 games in a season for the 22nd time in school history. Additionally, the senior class enters the game with a 39-13 record.

"The seniors are extremely important to this program; any program you need good leadership period,"

McClendon added. "Our guys have done an extremely good job this year. The opportunity to get 40 wins in a career and a 10-win season that is huge for them."

Georgia is making its 51st appearance in a bowl game when it faces the Nittany Lions. The Bulldogs are playing in a bowl game for a school record 19th consecutive season.

Penn State held their media day on campus.

"The bowl game is a tremendous opportunity to play a storied program in the University of Georgia. I was very impressed with Coach McClendon in the time that I had to spend with him," said Penn State head coach James Franklin.

At media day at Penn State Franklin said it was going to be great having some of their guys back.

"Obviously, we missed (defensive end) Carl Nassib at the end of the year. He really didn't play the last three games of the year, so we're excited about the opportunity to having him back," Franklin said.

Franklin called Georgia a talented team.

"They have the No. 1 pass defense in the country. Offensively, they are big and physical," Franklin said at media day. "Wide receiver, Isaiah McKenzie, has been electric returner, so that's going to be a real focus for us the next week and a half, trying to contain him."

SHERRE, ROCKER TO BE RE-

TAINED - Georgia assistant coaches Tracy Rocker and Kevin Sherrer will be retained on the UGA football staff according to an announcement by Bulldog head coach Kirby Smart. Rocker coaches' defensive line while Sherrer handles the outside linebackers and Star position. They both joined the Georgia staff in 2014.

MCCLENDON JOINS MUSCHAMP - New University of South Carolina head football coach Will Muschamp announced that Bryan McClendon will become co-offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach. A former wide receiver at UGA, McClendon held several titles during the 2015 regular season, including wide receivers coach, assistant head coach and passing game coordinator. He was named interim head coach after Mark Richt left and will serve in that capacity through Georgia's appearance in the TaxSlayer Bowl.

MORE HONORS FOR NASSIB - Penn State defensive end Carl Nassib capped off his All-America selections with a unanimous selection to the NCAA's consensus All-America team. Nassib leads FBS in sacks (15.5) and forced fumbles (6) and is second in FBS and first in the Big Ten in tackles for loss (19.5).

The TaxSlayer Bowl will kick off at noon on ESPN on Saturday, Jan. 2. The broadcast team will feature Allan Bestwick (play-by-play), Dan Hawkins (analyst) and Tiffany Greene (sidelines).

Sharks enjoy winning record at halfway point of season

By Jim Moyes

After losing virtually their entire roster due to graduations and transfers, one could virtually paint a bleak future for this season's Ponte Vedra boys' basketball team.

However, after an impressive third place finish at the recent St. Augustine Holiday Classic, this 2015-16 very young Shark team will take a winning record into the current season's second half.

The Sharks won their opener on Dec. 21 against John I. Leonard High School, a huge 8A school with a student population over 3300, 69-66. The following night the Sharks once again had to face a powerful Bolles team, but had no answer for the gigantic Bolles starting five and fell 64-39.

Playing with some extra incentive against the host St. Augustine Yellowjackets, who stunned the Sharks in overtime in the season opener on November 17, the Sharks atoned for that earlier defeat by topping St. Augustine 51-47.

With a winning record of 7 wins against 6 defeats against some very tough competition, the Sharks quickly jumped back into action with their second Holiday tournament on Monday (Dec 28) when they played Deland High School in the first round of the Clay Co. Classic.

Following Monday's contest with Deland, the Sharks resumed action Tuesday (Dec 29) and Wednesday (Dec 30) at Clay High School against teams determined by how they fared in earlier action.

Ponte Vedra captured third place honors, despite missing a couple of players from their normal rotation, but coach Bud Beech received some much needed help from some of his reserves who undoubtedly have earned additional playing time as the season moves forward.

As early as game one against John I. Leonard, all 16 of Ponte Vedra's first quarter points were scored by players that were starting their first game of the season.

Jack Shannon, for the second straight game, continued his sizzling out court shooting from long range by canning three 3-pointers in the game's first eight minutes with Chris Tomacewski and Spencer Turner supplying the rest of



The Jaguars sacked Saints' QB Drew Brees once in the 38-27 loss. Middle linebacker Paul Posluszny (51) got him for a 10-yard loss. The Saints finished with 537 total yards, the most allowed under third-year Jaguars coach Gus Bradley. (Photo by Rick Wilson/Jacksonville Jaguars)

Jaguars' comeback falls short against New Orleans, 38-27

Jacksonville plays Texans in season finale on Sunday



Running back Tim Hightower (34) ran for two TDs against Jacksonville. The Jaguars, eliminated from the playoffs, allowed New Orleans QB Drew Brees to throw for 412 yards and three scores in the 38-27 loss. (Photo by Rick Wilson/Jacksonville Jaguars)



Jaguars QB Blake Bortles threw two interceptions early, but completed 27 of 35 passes for 368 yards and four scores to Allen Robinson, Allen Hurns and Marqise Lee (11). (Photo by Rick Wilson/Jacksonville Jaguars)

Sharks

Continued from 32

the Shark tallies.

However, it looked bleak for the Sharks when they trailed by as many as 10 points midway through the second quarter before the Sharks went on a 14-0 run to completely turn the game's momentum their way as yet another reserve, Clay Welch, came off the bench to fire in a couple of long range 3 pointers as the Sharks rallied to take the lead 35-32 at halftime.

John I. Leonard would not wilt and went on a 14-0 run before the tide changed in favor of the Sharks.

It was at this point that junior Shark forward Easton Hensley put together an incredible stretch of basketball that saw him score the next 14 points for Ponte Vedra, as the Sharks rallied to lead by a slim 52-51 margin heading into the game's final eight minutes.

After building a seven point lead with 2 minutes remaining in the game, the Sharks made it more than interesting in the game's closing moments as they missed five free throws to prevent the locals from pulling away.

After the Shark's missed two free throws with 0:08 remaining, Leonard had a chance to tie the game, but a long shot missed the mark and Hensley pulled in his eighth rebound of the contest to secure the victory.

Hensley and Shannon shared high point marks for the victors with 17 points with Matt Johnson the other Shark in double figures with 12 points to go along with a team high 6 assists.

On Tuesday, Ponte Vedra may have been out matched against a much taller and more experienced Bolles five, but they certainly were not outworked in the Shark's 64-39 loss in the second round of the St. Augustine Holiday Classic.

Bolles put a starting five on the floor to begin the contest that featured five Division I players. With 6'7" Jack Johnson on a family vacation, coach Beech was unable to insert one player in his lineup that was taller than 6'3".

It was the second straight defeat the Sharks have suffered at the hands of one of the premier basketball teams in Florida and each time Ponte Vedra got off to a very slow start.

The Sharks had their chances against the talented Bolles squad, who would go on to take first place honors in the tourney, but many of their long range bombs that found the bottom of the net on Monday, missed their mark on Tuesday.

Ironically, it was a former Ponte Vedra middle school student who did the most damage for the victors against the Sharks. 6'9" Jonathan Dewane, an Air Force commit, led all scorers with 18 points. The very athletic Dewane burned the Sharks inside and out, with a pair of three pointers and a couple of thunderous dunks.

The Sharks help defense did do a good job defending 6'10 Collin Smith, one of the area's top scorers who will be playing for George Washington University next season. Boasting of an average of 25 points per game, Smith had to settle for 14 points against the Sharks.

Austin Williams, a 6'6" performer who will play next season for Yale, had a strong game for Bolles. The former

Nease player was also in double figures for the Bulldogs, while 6'6 senior Lawrence Lorenzo added 10.

Although the Sharks were not sharp on the offensive end of the floor in their 51-47 victory over St. Augustine, this game was won with an excellent defensive showing.

In their earlier meeting in November, won by St. Augustine in overtime 72-68, the Yellow Jackets Ryan Burkhardt destroyed the Sharks by pouring in 22 of his game high 31 points in the first half.

However, in the rematch, Burkhardt tallied but 3 points in the opening half of play and finished with but 10 markers for the game, well below his average.

Once again Coach Beech got some admirable play from his deep bench. Beech gave the starting nod for the first time this season to a pair of juniors, Clay Welch and Spencer Turner.

Welch played a great defensive game for PVHS and also led all Shark rebounders with a game high 7 while Spencer chipped in with 6 first half points.

Beech also got a tremendous effort from another player who had seen little action on the season prior to the St. Augustine tournament — Chris Tomacewski.

Prior to the St. Augustine game, Chris had tallied but 10 points for the entire season, but he more than matched his season total in this game with 12 points.

Just as in their first tournament game victory over John I. Leonard, Ponte Vedra had a seemingly secure seven point lead late in the game, only to see their failure at the free throw line once again nearly cost them a victory.

A couple of Shark turnovers, as well as costly missed free throws, gave St. Augustine life, and twice the hosts had the ball trailing by two points, but each time the Yellowjackets were guilty of traveling violations.

It was not until Tomacewski nailed his two last second free throws that the Sharks could breathe a sigh of relief and pull out the victory.

The two lone regulars from last year's team, junior JD Pirris and senior Matthew Johnson lead the Sharks in the majority of the team statistics at the midway point of the season. Pirris leads in points (15 ppg) and rebounds (7 pg.) while Johnson leads to steals and assists while scoring at a 14 ppg. clip.

However, there is one stat where the Sharks must see improvement if they are to maintain their goal of finishing with a winning record. From the free throw line the Sharks, as a team, are shooting a very poor .54%, with Pirris and Johnson collectively meshing but 58 of their combined 109 free throw attempts, well below their percentages from the preceding season.

Following the 3 game tournament at Clay County, the Sharks will return home to begin a very busy home stand in January, where they will have the home court advantage in 7 of their next 9 games, including home tilts against state powers Providence and undefeated Bishop Kenny.

Followers of Ponte Vedra basketball can get schedules, stats and many other interesting tidbits for PVHS basketball by clicking on their website: <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=pvsharksbasketball&sid=669578252>

A New Year's prescription: Choose to be grateful

Want something inspiring and possibly life-transformative to do for the new year? Try putting more effort into being grateful.

There are many experiences, emotions and events that have happened to you that no doubt you are not grateful for. If you don't have enough money to make ends meet, if you lose a loved one or have to put a beloved pet down, if you have enduring marital difficulties or have an anemic sex life, you are not likely to feel grateful for such things.

But if you focus your attentions toward all the bad things in your life, you will feel lousy. Only when you focus your attentions on what is good will you feel better. So try this exercise—it will help you to feel better.

Create as extensive a list as you can about the experiences, the people and the events that you are grateful



Neil Rosenthal
Columnist

for over this past year. What happened to you that you are thankful for? Whom did you meet? What have you accomplished or experienced? Who have you influenced? Where you have used your skills and talents? What have you done that you are proud of?

And what have you done to have fun? When have you been romantic? How do you creatively express yourself? When were you open to people or experiences that were foreign or new? How have you utilized your originality and your ingenuity? When have you been courageous or brave? To whom have you exhibited kindness

or generosity? Empathy? How do you display integrity? Honesty? When have you persevered through challenges or adversity?

What aspects of your life bring you the greatest sense of happiness or well-being? Which parts of your life do you find most rewarding? Whom have you loved well—and whom have you allowed yourself to be loved by? What activities have offered you the greatest opportunity for personal growth or self-betterment? How have you been resilient? How have you taken care of your health, body and diet? When have you exercised good self-control?

Finally, what do you want to accomplish or experience this next year? What does the new year offer that you're looking forward to? How can you commit yourself to better love and be loved this next year? How

about taking time to play and have fun, or to travel?

One way to express gratitude on a daily basis is to write down what you are thankful for that day. Another way is to do what I do. When my head hits the pillow at night, but before I fall asleep, I recount all the things I am proud of that I did that day, or all the things I am grateful for that happened to me. Today, I will include you for reading this article.

Neil Rosenthal is a licensed marriage and family therapist in Westminster and Boulder, Colorado. His column is in its 24th year of publication, and is syndicated around the world. You can reach him at 303-758-8777, or email him through his website: www.heartrelationships.com. The second edition of his book: "Love, Sex and Staying Warm: Creating A Vital Relationship," recently hit the #1 best seller list on Amazon.

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Quilts in quilt shows and museums

Bonnie Talley
Quiltlady

Probably the most fascinating quilt museum is in Paducah, Kentucky. The museum was started several years ago after the American Quilt Society started having a humongous quilt show in a hotel in Paducah.

I went to one of the early shows there, and was blown away by the lack of security for the quilts. Children were running through the quilts with ice cream cones in their hands, no one was monitoring the quilts and all in all, it was pretty sad to see.

I decided then and there that I would never exhibit one of my quilts in that show.

After miniature quilts started disappearing from quilt shows around the country, exhibitors got the message. Security is a must.

There is even a website showing quilts that have been stolen from shows or en route to the exhibits. One must never mark a package for mailing with contents, a quilt.

I must say that now, the Quilt Museum in Paducah is fabulous. Security is very tight, and one can see some of the most beautifully made quilts that have ever been made. It is a “must see” for all quilters.

Most people have no clue how valuable most quilts are. Hand pieced, hand quilted quilts are now almost all heirlooms, since the sewing machine industry has tweaked their machines to do everything, even talk to the quilter!

Many quilters hand piece their quilts, then have someone else machine quilt them. There are fabulous quilting machines out there, now.

Some of the “purists” who do mostly hand quilt work, enjoy the time consuming sewing while watching TV or listening to a book tape.

I happen to be one of these people. Hand quilting is my passion. If I hand applique a quilt, I want it to be hand quilted. If I hand piece a quilt, I want it to be hand quilted.

There are quilters who do everything by machine who do fabulous work. It takes a real skill to know how to do machine quilting nicely.

A beautifully made quilt may be

completely ruined by the incorrect type of machine quilting.

After being very precise in piecing the quilt, machine quilting may totally destroy the seam intersections distorting the whole block. Don’t assume that every machine quilter knows how to machine quilt your quilt.

Be very exacting in your instructions to her. I learned that lesson the hard way. Several years ago, I decided that I would get some of my hand pieced quilt tops machine quilted, just to say that they were finished.

I took them to a quilt shop to be quilted, not knowing who was going to do the work, nor what kind of quilting she planned on doing for each quilt.

Bad news was when I picked the finished quilts up and saw how they were actually ruined by the incorrect machine quilting. The borders were distorted, the binding was put on incorrectly, and every moment got worse as I looked at my poor quilts. Needless to say, I have never made that mistake again.

Looking at quilts in museums usually makes me sad. Most of them have “Maker unknown” on them.

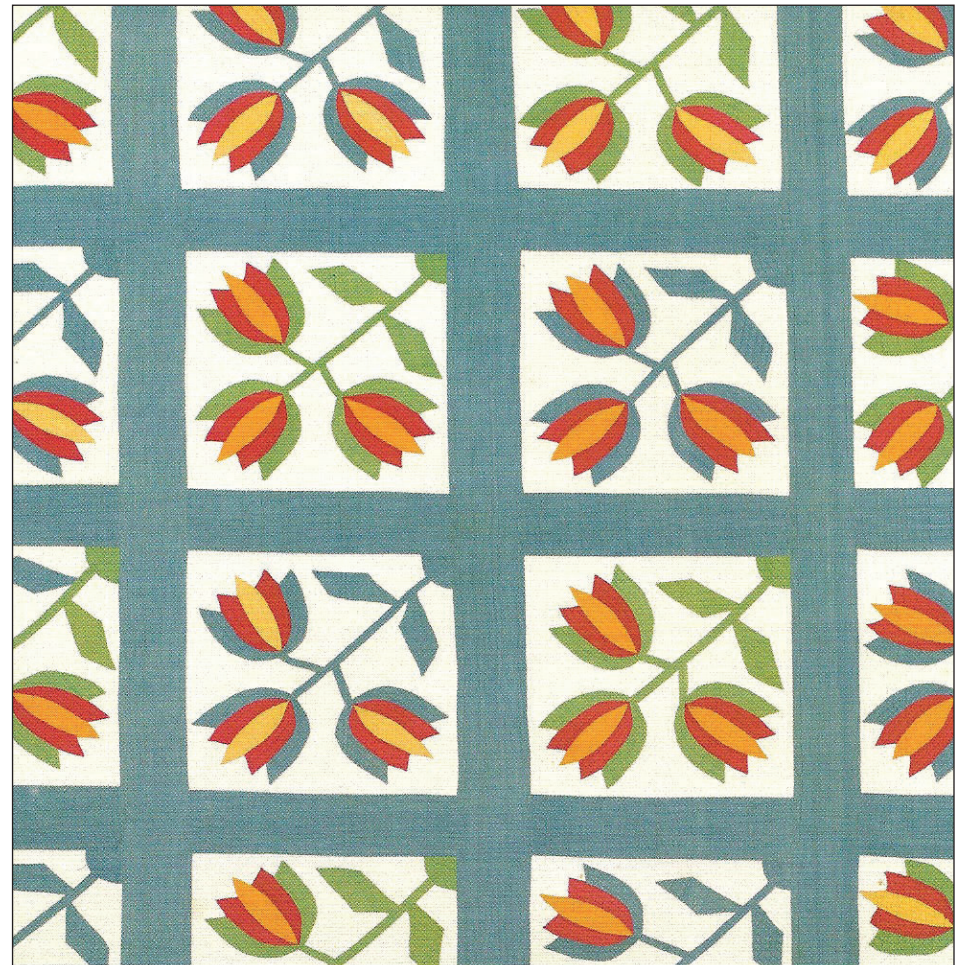
They are dated, due to the fabrics used in them. It would have taken a few minutes for a quilter to write her name on the back of the quilt and date it.

If you own quilts that you know the maker, take time to write her name on the back and the date it was made, if possible.

The quilt pictured is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. It is a hand appliqued Tulip pattern quilt, maker unknown. By looking at the fabrics, it was made between 1850-1880.

The quilter’s workmanship is fabulous. The colors are vibrant, to say the least.

If you are a quilter and would like to join a quilt guild, visit the Ocean Wave Quilters Guild in Ponte Vedra Beach, the second Friday of every month at 10:00 to 12:00, at The Players Community Center on Landrum Ln., off CR-210, behind the Shell station. You’ll be astounded at all this group does for the community!



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Maybe we'll get some answers in the New Year

Editor's note: Mims has been benched this week with an injury! Please enjoy this reprinted column, which originally appeared in The Recorder on Jan. 5, 2012.

Here are some questions I'll ponder while sitting around the fireplace this January. I'm sure you have your own list.

Why is it that, when I buy a new, "efficient" scale it doesn't help me lose weight more efficiently?

Why is it that, when I buy a can of "Oak Color" to paint my kitchen cabinets it looks like, as one friend told me, "baby diarrhea?" Does that suggest that my oak floors look like baby diarrhea?

Why is it that my kids require Blackberries? If the Blackberry people had decided to call them "Rutabagas," the whole concept would have flopped. Rutabagas are not sexy. I can't imagine people saying, "Hey, gimme a call on your Rutabaga."

Why is it that I've told 200 students in my memoir classes to carry pens when



Mims Cushing
By the Way...

they are out and about, to write down story ideas, yet I never have them in my own handbag? And why did Mother not allow us to say "purse?" or "pocketbook?" We had to say "handbag."

Why is it that, when I can't make it to Yappy Hour at the Dog Park four Saturdays in a row, on the fifth Saturday when I CAN go, it's pouring dogs and dogs?

Why is it that the minute I figure out how to use any techno-product, a camera, printer, or iPhone, a newer, "easier to use" model comes out? Except that it isn't.

Why is it that, when I want to find one single, measly business card in my handbag, not purse, I can't find any, yet my desk drawer is overrun with the

things?

Why is it that, when my grandkids and I draw Christmas trees mine look no more creative than when I was eight years old? And their trees could be on the cover of an art magazine? (Well, I'm a grandmother. Indulge me.)

Why is it that phone companies find it amusing to invent brilliant fancy phones? Is it just to make us feel dumb? Lately I have completely forgotten the code to retrieve messages from my home phone.

Why is it that the receipts I am most careful to save for tax purposes are ones I don't need?

Why is it that a friend will offer me one totally irresistible, freshly baked, hot-out-of-the-oven chocolate chip cookie when I've been on a diet for 72 hours?

Why is it that a week before I fly up to see my grandkids, my back goes out and they catch me walking around doubled over, when I want them to see me as spry?

Why is it that those numbers on the

bottom of containers are so infinitesimal? Hey, guys out there in Product Land: if you want us to recycle correctly make the figures bigger.

Why is it that, when I see the hazardous waste dump is open, I only have one lousy double A battery to recycle?

Why is it that when there was talk of "PAY TV" everyone was horrified, and now we don't give it a second thought?

Why is it that every year four phone books are delivered at our curb from four different companies. One book is PLENTY, folks. Three of them go into the recycle bin.

Why is it that journalists say, "How are you feeling?" to people who have lost a loved one. Or stare into the eyes of someone near death after a 7.0 earthquake and say, "Are you doing OK?" Or look at a person's demolished home, ruined in a mudslide and ask, "How does this make you feel?" There ought to be better phrases for times like these.

May all your questions and mine be answered one of these years.

ACROSS

- 1. Raise a barn, e.g.
- 6. Cribbage piece
- 9. Tear violently
- 13. Specialty
- 14. Luau welcome
- 15. Japanese-American
- 16. Junk yard stuff
- 17. Make mistakes
- 18. *Gothic novel "The Asylum" by _____ Mitchell
- 19. Archimedes' exclamation
- 21. *"Just Like Heaven" creator
- 23. Bathroom label
- 24. Swank
- 25. Sis' sibling
- 28. Cap and gown accessory
- 30. Put down
- 35. Plural of lira
- 37. Whoopi Goldberg's opinion, e.g.
- 39. Artillery burst
- 40. Between ports
- 41. Type of poetic stanza
- 43. "Hurry up and _____"
- 44. Burns to charcoal
- 46. State of Israel
- 47. *SS Gothic, ocean liner owned by White _____ Line
- 48. Ransom precursor
- 50. Made in Vegas
- 52. Compass point between E and NE
- 53. Deadly sin?

- 55. Debt acknowledgement
- 57. *Stoker novel
- 61. *Goth, literally
- 64. Finger or toe
- 65. Boiling blood
- 67. Goodbye to amiga
- 69. Popular gemstone
- 70. Teresa of Calcutta, e.g.
- 71. Ma Bell, e.g.
- 72. Ready and eager
- 73. Dynamite
- 74. Illegal firing

DOWN

- 1. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
- 2. *The Vampire Chronicles author
- 3. Beige
- 4. It carries good luck?
- 5. Conical dwellings
- 6. Type of bargain
- 7. Poetic "always"
- 8. Fat Albert's problem
- 9. Reduced Instruction Set Computer
- 10. Biblical twin
- 11. Getting warm
- 12. Needed for craps
- 15. Brother's daughters
- 20. Between 10 and Queen
- 22. Concealed oneself

THEME: EVERYTHING GOTHIC

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