

Ponte Vedra Recorder

November 30, 2017

Volume 47, No. 48

75 cents

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PonteVedraRecorder.com



Business Weekly

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In the Arts

Pages 28-31



Sports

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CRASH LANDING

A few local businesses are recovering after a car accidentally crashed into their stores last week. Read more on page 26.

Photo by Walter Monnig



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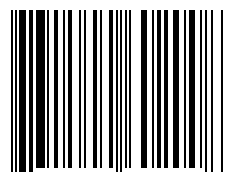
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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening.
E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com
or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to jonb@opcfla.com by Monday at 5 p.m.
All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

Three readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Zula Surf Company sign. Good job, everyone! The winner of the random drawing was **Alexa Bohanon**. Congratulations, Alexa – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET



CAT OF THE WEEK

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

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

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



DOG OF THE WEEK

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

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

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Photo courtesy of the Florida Lottery
Linda Danish (right) claims her winnings at the Florida Lottery headquarters in Tallahassee.

Ponte Vedra woman gets an early birthday present from Florida Lottery

Ponte Vedra resident Linda Danish recently got a million-dollar birthday surprise.
Danish, 67, claimed a \$1 million prize in the Florida Lottery’s \$10,000,000 World Class Cash scratch-off at the lottery headquarters in Tallahassee in early November, three days before her birthday. Danish chose to receive her winnings as a one-time, lump-sum payment of \$748,000.

Danish purchased her winning ticket from the Publix at 120 Marketside Avenue in Ponte Vedra. Publix received a \$2,000 bonus commission for selling the winning ticket.
The \$25 game, launched in February, features more than \$549 million in total cash prizes, including two top prizes of \$10 million and 46 prizes of \$1 million. Overall odds of winning are one-in-2.89.

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Murray Beard | 904.465.2784
MurrayBeard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com
Elise Beard | 904.463.7774
EliseBeard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

**NEPTUNE BEACH**
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DianaKelly@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

**ATLANTIC BEACH**
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Enjoy beach living at its best in one of the most sought after areas of Atlantic Beach. This home offers newer interior and exterior paint and a living/dining/kitchen combo that opens to a deck for entertaining family and friends. There's also a workshop and concrete patio located behind parking that's perfect for family fun, projects and storage. The roof, AC, gutters and protectors, electrical panel and circuit breaker have all recently been replaced. MLS 909618
Charlotte Shepherd | 904.463.6618
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Poll: Ponte Vedra Beach residents overwhelmingly support beach renourishment project

By Benjamin Naim

A survey being circulated by the organization Save Ponte Vedra Beach has revealed that 93 percent of the respondents would support a self-funded and state-funded beach renourishment project to save Ponte Vedra's beaches from damage caused by recent hurricanes.

The survey, which will be available at savepontevedrabeach.com until the end of December, has garnered 400 responses from individual property owners, according to Ponte Vedra resident and Save Ponte Vedra Beach leader Dr. Shyam Paryani. The survey has also received positive responses from communities like The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach and Sawgrass Country Club. In total, Paryani said about 700 people back the project, which group representatives say will span from the Ponte Vedra county line to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Those who support the measure are voting to self-fund a coastal "assessment" and ultimate beach renourishment project, potentially via a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU).

"It's not a tax per se," clarified Paryani. "Our goal would be to do an assessment based on the utility of the beach. This is not related to a property tax. It's a separate assessment only done to property owners who will decide to participate. They would agree to an assessment based on an economic study from a third-party to determine what economic benefits arise from the actual renourishment of the beach."

Save Ponte Vedra Beach also plans to lobby the state for matching funds to set the plan in motion. The group has engaged Jacksonville-based engineering firm Olsen Associates to initiate a study of the beaches and determine which renourishment program would be best. The residents also plan to hire an economic consultant who can determine what is fair for each homeowner to pay for the proj-

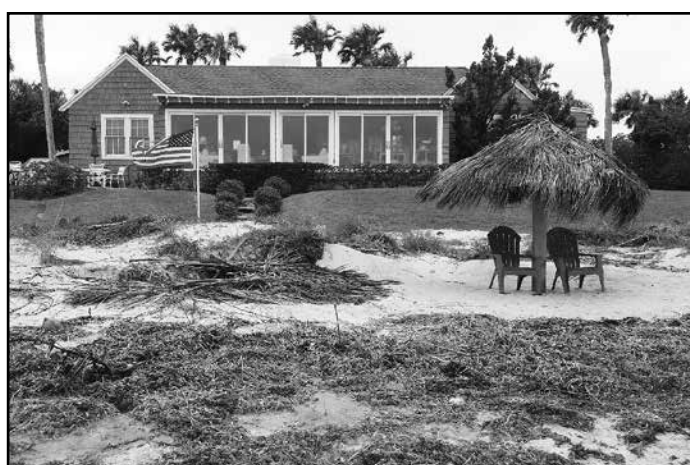


Photo by Clare Berry

Homeowners on the 1000 block of Ponte Vedra Boulevard are working to restore their property's dune structure.



Erosion plagues the coastline between Mickler Road and Sawgrass Country Club.



Photos courtesy of Dr. John Scott Boggs

A tiki hut sits in an eroded dune on Ponte Vedra Boulevard.

ect. Paryani said Save Ponte Vedra Beach members plan to meet with St. Johns County officials next week to further discuss the project and get plans formalized. The exact cost of the Ponte Vedra group's proposed renourishment project is to be determined.

According to Paryani, similar efforts were executed successfully in Amelia Island where locals formed a self-funded project that eventually received federal and state funding.

"If you look at what happened

in Amelia Island, they started that process in 1995, and they now have a sustainable project that they renourish every few years whenever damage is done," he said.

If nothing is done to renourish the coastline, Ponte Vedra residents within the organization are concerned that the beaches will soon be unusable, and homes could be threatened due to significant erosion triggered by hurricanes, nor'easters and high tides.

"You can't even walk on Ponte Vedra Beach at high tide," said Paryani. "There's very little beach to walk on, so that shows significant erosion. On top of that, there's coastal erosion with the dunes significant on many of the homes to the point where the homes have actually been threatened."

For more information on Save Ponte Vedra Beach, visit www.savepontevedrabeach.com or contact the organization by email at SavePVBeach@gmail.com.

Reviewing regulations to prevent property damage

Another local resident who is concerned with beach erosion is Dr. John Scott Boggs, who lives on Ponte Vedra Boulevard. He attended the first Save PVB meeting, but has since been collecting facts on his own with a coastal engineer and reviewing the coastline to determine how to avert damage from severe weather events in the future.

Boggs thinks it's possible to do so by tightening regulations on a home's proximity to the water. The Ponte Vedra Beach resident said homeowners are disregarding the dunes by building too close to them.

"It appears to me that the structures that are significantly threatened are the ones that have been built too close to the coast," Boggs asserted. "Certainly, they should not be built in any way seaward of the coastal construction line. The thing about that is, the coastal construction line has not been changed even though we've lost somewhere between 30 and 60 feet of beach."

Boggs explained that the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) program regulates properties built on the coast that can harm the beach environment, destabilize dunes or cause erosion. Boggs believes the line should be changed because he said the shape of the coast has been warped over the years due to erosion, but he also believes redefining the line would be difficult.

According to David Krieger of the CCCL program, the coastal construction line was last changed in St. Johns County in January 1988.

To protect property along the coast, Boggs believes beachfront owners and the rest of the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District should be raising awareness and pushing for a more stringent permitting process. Although tightening regulations is not an easy task, Boggs believes it can and must be done.

Sawgrass Village to host 'Oh What Fun!' holiday event

"Oh What Fun!" at Sawgrass Village will take place Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The holiday event will feature horse-drawn carriage rides, visits with Santa, live music performances, holiday activities and more. Attendees are invited to play "Stuff Your Stocking" and enter to win their dream stocking from Sawgrass Village merchants.

One of those merchants, Cutter & Cutter Fine Art Galleries, will host

artists Lyn Asselta and Mark Wood for demonstrations.

Fundraising raffles at the event sponsored by the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club will allow attendees to win more than \$4,000 in prizes. The "Spirit of Giving" raffles will benefit Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM), Gabriel House of Care, Rethreaded, SAYS (St. Augustine Youth Services) and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.



Recorder file photo



Photo courtesy of the PGA Tour

PGA Tour player Sam Saunders (second from right) talks with some of the beneficiaries of Thanksgiving baskets he delivered to benefit the Angelwood group homes last week.

PGA Tour player Saunders helps deliver Thanksgiving baskets to Angelwood

Staff members of THE PLAYERS Championship and PGA Tour, accompanied by PGA Tour player Sam Saunders and his wife Kelly, delivered Thanksgiving baskets to Angelwood last week. The baskets provided Thanksgiving meals for the residents of one of the six group homes Angelwood operates.

Saunders, the grandson of the late golf legend Arnold Palmer, recently moved to Atlantic Beach and is eager to follow his grandfather's example of philanthropic endeavors. He shot 59 at the Web.com Tour Championship played at Atlantic Beach Country Club in October.

"Being here with the PGA Tour and THE PLAYERS was awesome," Saunders said. "I just made a bunch of new

friends, and these are some great people here at Angelwood. It's really cool to see what these folks are doing to help these residents feel part of the community. This was a special day for me and my wife Kelly to come be a part of this event and make a difference."

Angelwood assists families in caring for the special needs of their loved ones across their lifespan through a variety of programs suited to each person's individual goals. It helps children and adults with developmental disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, Prader-Willi and spina bifida.

This year marks the PGA Tour's 20th annual staff Thanksgiving basket drive for Northeast Florida families in need.

Throughout November, staff members prepared more than 300 Thanksgiving baskets, which were dispersed to charities throughout the region.

"Throughout the year, the tour's mantra has been to 'Make Mr. Palmer Proud,' therefore, we are beyond honored Sam could join us," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS Championship. "Being headquartered in Ponte Vedra, it's important to the entire PGA TOUR staff to give back to the Northeast Florida community, and this is just one example of how we plan to contribute during this holiday season."

For more information on Angelwood, visit angelwoodjax.org.

THE PLAYERS offers special holiday ticket packages

THE PLAYERS Championship is offering a special holiday ticket package that includes two Stadium passes, unlimited youth tickets and a pair of island green Stance socks. The packages are \$116 (Thursday and Sunday) and \$130 (Friday and Saturday).

Another package is also available that includes one weekly ticket, unlimited youth tickets and a pair of island green Stance socks for \$195. Prices do not include tax.

The special offer is available through Jan. 1, 2018, at THEPLAYERS.com/holiday. Additional ticket options are available by calling (844) 868-7465.

"The Stadium pass is a perfect holiday gift that the whole family can enjoy," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS Championship. "The Stadium Course is designed with the fan in mind, offering unparalleled views of the best field in golf as they compete for the right to be called THE PLAYERS champion. With youths admitted free with any ticketed adult, it is extremely affordable to bring the family to enjoy the best fan experience in sports."

Ages 18 and younger are admitted to THE PLAYERS Championship free of charge when accompanied by a ticketed adult. There is no limit to the number of youth 18 and younger who can attend with a ticketed adult.

THE PLAYERS Championship is also seeking volunteers. New volunteer registration begins Jan. 2, 2018. To apply to be a volunteer at THE PLAYERS Championship this year, or for more information, visit THEPLAYERSvolunteers.com.

For more information about THE PLAYERS, go to THEPLAYERS.com.

A Ponte Vedra Beach resident, Heather Quick is the CEO of The Quick Law Group who has garnered national recognition for her legal career and business achievements and has authored books for women on divorce and entrepreneurship. The Quick Law Group is located in Jacksonville, with offices in St. Augustine and Winter Park, Florida.

Heather Quick

By Jon Blauvelt

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I am the founder and CEO of the only divorce and family law firm for women in Florida, The Quick Law Group. Graduating from Stetson University's College of Law in 2000, I began my career as a prosecutor in St. Petersburg and then moved back home to Jacksonville Beach in 2002. I have conducted hundreds of trials, including criminal, civil and family law. My experience as a litigator combined with my desire to help women has allowed me to build my firm specifically around the needs of women through divorce.

As a successful business owner, I have won several awards, including being named to the Law Firm 500 Honorees List of the top 100 fastest growing law firms in America in both 2016 and 2017, and as one of the top 20 fastest growing companies in Northeast Florida by Jacksonville Business Journal in 2017. This past year I was recognized by the Jacksonville Business Journal as an "Ultimate Attorney" as well as a "Woman of Influence." In an effort to bring women together, we sponsored the Women's Empowerment Conference in 2015 and 2016 with Morgan Stanley at TPC Sawgrass, where over 200 women were able to come together for great content and education from phenomenal women of the First Coast and throughout the country.

What makes family law so important to you?

For years, I watched women give up on themselves and the process during a divorce. I knew that I could make a difference in the way they experienced divorce and hopefully equip them with the necessary skills to not only succeed in divorce but in life as well. Divorce is difficult and not only do women blame themselves, they tend to think of everyone else before themselves. My firm places a focus on them and meeting their needs through the divorce process, as well as strategizing through the litigation to provide women with the best possible outcome based upon their individual goals.

What's one piece of advice you'd give to women going through divorce?

Make smart decisions based upon the future you want to have. Many times, women either do not seek legal representation or do not adequately interview their choice for attorney. It is important for women to have representation but to also align with an attorney who understands their ultimate goals and plans a strategy to achieve those goals. Without goals and a plan, you are doomed to failure in the divorce process.

What do you find to be the primary reason for divorce today? What can couples do to avoid it?

In a marriage it takes a lot of communication and compromise, which is difficult for some people. As humans we are growing and hopefully learning more about ourselves as we age. Sometimes we find that our partner is not growing with us; maybe they do not want to, and that leads to living separate lives and ultimately divorce.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

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

As a native of the First Coast, I love the lifestyle. It is the best place to raise a family, and our city still has the feel of a small town. I can hardly go anywhere without seeing a friend or relative, and I love that.

What do you do in your free time?

I spend a lot of time with my children and husband, watching their many athletic activities, as well as going to the beach and playing tennis.

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

Ponte Vedra woman honored as hero for brain cancer patients

Ponte Vedra resident Kay Verble was recently heralded as one of CURE magazine's "Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM) Heroes" for 2017. Presented by brain cancer survivor Maria Menounos, Verble received the award at a Nov. 16 gala, held during the 22nd annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology in San Francisco.

Now in its third year, the GBM Heroes Award recognizes those who have made a difference in the lives of GBM patients. Recipients are nominated by patients, health-care professionals, advocates and peers.

As executive director for the Sontag Foundation, Verble works closely with early-career researchers and clinicians who have received Sontag grants for brain cancer research. She created a program of high-touch patient navigation services provided by a multidisciplinary team of nurses and social workers. Verble also serves as executive director for The Brain Tumor Network, a local nonprofit that offers information and support for those diagnosed with brain cancer.

"Each year, we are honored to award these heroes, who have made significant impact in the GBM community," said Michael J. Hennessy Jr., president of Michael J. Hennessy Associates, Inc., parent company of CURE magazine. "We are proud of their contributions and are pleased to bring these heroes forward to be recognized for their hard work."



Ponte Vedra resident Kay Verble (far right) stands with other 2017 Glioblastoma Multiforme Heroes and Maria Menounos (center) at the Nov. 16 gala.

Photo courtesy of CURE Media Group

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Magnificent Mediterranean style

As you pull up the circular drive you will be captivated by the beautiful landscaping and moss covered oak trees. The stunning chef's kitchen with custom cabinetry and oversized island is the perfect setting for entertaining everything from large celebrations to simply enjoying intimate moments with family. **\$1,540,000**



Steps from Ponte Vedra Beaches

Do you enjoy listening to the ocean waves while you relax with a glass of wine? Do you enjoy entertaining friends and family in an elegant environment? How about receiving concierge service upon your arrival home? The Carlyle provides a luxury beach lifestyle with a beautifully updated lobby for guests, and concierge service during the day. **\$650,000**



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PV2-LV44976

Thursday, Nov. 30	Friday, Dec. 1	Saturday, Dec. 2	Sunday, Dec. 3
<p>Beach Cruisers History Happy Hour: TPC Sawgrass</p> <p>The Beaches Museum's Young Professional group, the Beach Cruisers, will host History Happy Hour Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. with a VIP tour of the Clubhouse at TPC Sawgrass. Attendees will learn about the history of THE PLAYERS Championship and the venue that hosts the event each year. This event is free to Beach Cruisers members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. The Clubhouse is located at 110 Championship Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Yoga for Survivors</p> <p>The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Nov. 30 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>Joe Machi at The Comedy Zone</p> <p>Joe Machi will perform at The Comedy Zone Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Machi, a winner of multiple comedy festivals, came in fourth on season eight of NBC's "Last Comic Standing." He has also appeared on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" and "Red Eye" with Greg Gutfeld on Fox News. The Comedy Zone is located at 3130 Hartley Road in Jacksonville. Purchase tickets at www.comedyzone.com.</p> <p>Holiday book sale</p> <p>Friends of the Library will present a holiday book sale Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Johns County Library's Southeast Branch. The library is located at 6670 US 1 S. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Afternoon tea and movie</p> <p>Guests are invited for an afternoon tea at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe. Enjoy seasonal savories, sweets and classic tea favorites plus a screening of the movie "Gosford Park" Wednesday through Sunday at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$45. Visit www.corazoncinemaand-cafe.com for more information.</p>	<p>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting</p> <p>Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Cannon Firing Demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos</p> <p>National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Free exercise program</p> <p>THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center in Ponte Vedra is partnering with the Arthritis Foundation to provide a free exercise program on Wednesdays and Fridays through Dec. 1 from 2 to 3 p.m. The class will feature a low-impact workout proven to reduce pain and decrease stiffness, and gentle range-of-motion exercises suitable for all fitness levels and abilities. Call (904) 280-3233 to reserve a spot. The PLAYERS Community Senior Center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>Enchanted Christmas Village</p> <p>Enjoy Christmas with Santa and his elves at the Enchanted Christmas Village, located at Hope Pavilion starting Dec. 1. This event features holiday musical performances, bounce houses, wagon rides through the enchanted trail, pictures with Santa, yard games, photo ops, food and more. The Village is open from 5 to 10 p.m.; admission costs \$19 for adults, \$10 for youth ages 17 and under and \$50 for a family-of-four ticket. Visit www.jacksonvillechristmas.com for more information and to purchase tickets. This event will take place at 899 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra.</p>	<p>'Bamboozled' starring Viktor Zenko</p> <p>This magic show, taking place Saturdays through Dec. 30 at Courtyard by Marriott in St. Augustine, features Vikto Zenko - a magician/ mentalist who will float an audience member above the stage and manipulate a deck of playing cards, among other skills. Seating begins at 7 p.m., and the performance starts at 7:30. Tickets cost \$18 for adults and \$15 for youth ages 17 and under. For more information, visit www.vzmagic.com or call (904) 342-2550. This event will take place at 2075 S.R. 16 in St. Augustine.</p> <p>'The Messiah' at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall</p> <p>George Frideric Handel's 1741 composition of "The Messiah" will be performed at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. Admission costs \$25 for adults and \$15 for students, seniors, teachers and veterans. Tickets can be purchased at www.unfchristmasmessiah.eventbrite.com. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.</p> <p>Flagler College Art and Design Department faculty exhibition</p> <p>This exhibition at the Crisp-Ellert Art Museum, located at 48 Sevilla St. in St. Augustine, runs through Dec. 2 and features works by the faculty of Flagler College's Art and Design Department. The artists' bodies of work vary in method and material and encompass painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, video, photography, print and digital design and animation. The museum's hours are Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.</p> <p>Book fair at Barnes & Noble</p> <p>Learn to Read will present a book fair at Barnes & Noble St. Augustine Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A portion of all book sales, cafe purchases and online sales will be donated to Learn to Read with the use of voucher #1210747. The book fair will feature a Lego building competition for the entirety of the event. Authors, including Susan Calfee, M.C. Finotti, Diane Quick-Machaby, Nancy Haddock and others, will be on hand for book signings, readings and talks beginning at 11 a.m. This book fair will take place at 1930 US-1 in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>Nights of Lights</p> <p>Selected by National Geographic in 2011 and 2012 as one of the 10 best holiday lighting displays in the world, St. Augustine's Nights of Lights features millions of white lights that create a magical atmosphere in the nation's oldest city. Tracing its origins to the Spanish tradition of displaying a white candle in the window during the Christmas holidays, the lighting reflects the city's history and illuminates the setting for lasting holiday memories. Nights of Lights will run through Jan. 31, 2018 at Plaza de la Constitution on King Street.</p> <p>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service</p> <p>Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Santa Claus at the Pirate Ship Black Raven</p> <p>Every weekend through Dec. 24, Santa Claus will appear on the Black Raven pirate ship, which departs on treasure hunt trips at 2:15 p.m. from the St. Augustine Municipal Marina. Visit www.blackravenadventures.com for more information.</p> <p>Guana 50K and 12K trail races</p> <p>The Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve will host a 10K and 12K Dec. 3. The 50K individual and team races begin at 8 a.m. and the 12 K begins at 1 p.m. The races will consist of a winding loop throughout the park; registration ranges from \$25 to \$120 (team entry day of race). The GTM Research Reserve is located at 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. Visit www.1stplacesports.com/races/guana to register.</p> <p>St. Augustine Winter Spectacular</p> <p>St. Augustine Winter Spectacular is a performance about a young girl's journey home for the holidays. Performances start at 7 p.m. Dec. 2-3 at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College. Tickets cost \$25-30 at the door and \$15-20 in advance. Visit www.staugustinewinterspectacular.com for more information.</p>

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Monday, Dec. 4	Tuesday, Dec. 5	Wednesday, Dec. 6	Thursday, Dec. 7
<p>WinterFEST 2017</p> <p>Adventure Landing in Jacksonville Beach will transform its Shipwreck Island Water Park into a winter wonderland for the annual WinterFEST celebration. This year's festival runs from Nov. 18 through Jan. 8, 2018. The event will feature outdoor ice skating, an alpine ice slide, visits and pictures with Santa, s'more roasting and other attractions. Additionally, visitors can wind through a snowy village and enjoy window displays, hologram lights and decorations. Adventure Landing is located at 1944 Beach Blvd. Call (904) 516-9739 or visit https://jacksonville-beach.adventurelanding.com for more information.</p> <p>Kids Bridge Open House</p> <p>Locals are invited to help care for kids in the neighborhood who are less fortunate at this open house Dec. 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Families can enjoy cookies and cocoa, children's crafts and photos with Santa. An after-hours Kids Bridge, which will provide a safe way for children to visit their parents when their families go through a difficult time, will also be provided. This event will take place at the Kids Bridge Supervised Family Visitation Center at 238 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Sierra Club meeting</p> <p>Erin Handy of Oceana will deliver a presentation on current federal government proposals allowing the oil and gas industry to drill for oil off the coasts of Florida, and the risks these measures could pose to marine life, healthy oceans and clean beaches. This meeting will take place Dec. 4 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, located at 101 Library Blvd. For more information, email Brian Paradise at bgparadise@comcast.net.</p> <p>High Tea at Cafe Alcazar</p> <p>Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the full experience of the Dressing Downton exhibition with a special tea at Cafe Alcazar, located in the pool area of the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine. Teas will take place at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday until Jan. 7.</p>	<p>Tapas Tuesday</p> <p>The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p>Drive thru Christmas lights</p> <p>Jax Illuminations' Drive Thru Holiday Light Show is a 1-mile drive thru featuring two mega trees, a 300-foot tunnel of lights, custom Christmas scenes and more. Shows take place nightly through Dec. 31 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Morocco Shrine Center, located at 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road S. in Jacksonville. Email info@jaxilluminations.com, call (904) 361-6257 or visit www.jaxilluminations.com for more information.</p> <p>Chabad Beaches women's book club</p> <p>Chabad at the Beaches' women's book club will feature "Karolina's Twins" Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. The group offers an opportunity for guests to meet new people and share thoughts and opinions. "Karolina's Twins" chronicles the journey of a young Jewish Polish schoolgirl who becomes a Holocaust survivor wracked with regret, but also with much resolve. As the book club is hosted at private homes, the address is provided with reservations. For more information on this event, visit www.Chabadbeaches.com or call (904) 543-9301. To RSVP, email leah@chabadbeaches.com or text (904) 504-0451.</p> <p>'Crafternoon for Kids'</p> <p>Elementary School-aged kids and their caregivers are invited to get creative from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at "Crafternoon for Kids" at the Ponte Vedra Library, located at 101 Library Blvd. All supplies will be provided; no registration is required. These special monthly events foster creativity, friendship and positive interactions between children and teens. "Crafternoon for Kids" is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Kids attending must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the event.</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club</p> <p>Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Yoga at church</p> <p>Join St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal for Yoga every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a mat to this yoga class, which is suitable for all skill levels and ages. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Wednesday Market</p> <p>Each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., approximately 60 to 80 vendors participate in the Wednesday Market in St. Augustine Beach. Vendors and artists display produce, prepared foods, local seafood, art, crafts and more, placing an emphasis on home-grown and homemade items. The Market is held at the St. Johns County Pier Park at 350 A1A Beach Blvd, St. Augustine Beach.</p> <p>'Just for Teens' gaming event</p> <p>Connect with a diverse group of teens through a common interest – gaming. Teens aged 13 to 18 are invited to have fun and meet new friends at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library's "Just for Teens" gaming event, taking place at 5 p.m. at 101 Library Blvd. Teens can play videogames on Playstation 3 and two Nintendo WiiU's set up on three televisions for simultaneous gameplay. Snacks, board games and gaming books will be provided as well.</p> <p>GTM and SJC family conservation night</p> <p>St. Johns County Parks and Recreation and the GTM Research Reserve will host an event about wacky weather at THE PLAYERS Community Center from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about Florida's weather, how to be prepared for hurricanes and more at this event through hands-on activities. Register online by searching for the keywords "Everyone Can Conserve: Wacky Weather" on Eventbrite.com.</p>	<p>Yoga for Survivors</p> <p>The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Dec. 7 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>Fall portfolio exhibition</p> <p>This exhibition from Dec. 7 to Dec. 9 in the Crisp-Ellert Art Museum features works by Flagler College students in portfolio courses. Admission is free. The museum is located at 48 Sevilla St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Zen meditation & mindfulness</p> <p>Visitors are invited to settle their minds and bodies and sit in still quietness at this zen meditation event from 4 to 5 p.m. The program is ideal for those interested in relaxing the mind in a peaceful setting. Chairs will be available for participants who can't sit on the floor - guests must bring a cushion. This event will take place at the St. Johns County Library's Southeast Branch, located at 6670 US 1 S. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Hope for the Holidays event</p> <p>The Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation's Hope for the Holidays event at TPC Sawgrass will take place Dec. 7 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Families will have the opportunity to volunteer together at the event, which started six years ago with student volunteers from local schools packing 500 bags for poverty-stricken children. Visit www.jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com for more information.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to recorderintern@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-53939.</p>

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Hugs Across the County holding 'No Hungry Holidays' food drive

Local nonprofit Hugs Across the County is collecting food for St. Johns County kids in need again this holiday season and is asking for your help.

The organization's "No Hungry Holidays" drive is gathering various food items for local kids that depend on free school-based breakfast and lunch programs to ensure they don't go hungry over the holiday break. The nonprofit plans to pack over 500 bags of food this year after filling 260 last year.

Hugs Across the County's shopping list includes Chef Boyardee meals, fruit cups, 28-40-ounce peanut butter jars, Saltine or Ritz crackers, Cheerios, Chex and Life cereals and Chewy granola bars.

Drop off locations for the food include Ponte Vedra High School, Bartram Trail High School, Creekside High School, St. Johns County School District's main office and Old City Web Services in St. Augustine. Advanced Disposal is providing collection bins.

Visit the Hugs Across the County Walmart online wish list at [www.bit.ly/No-](http://www.bit.ly/No-HungryHolidays)



Photo courtesy of Hugs Across the County

Olivia Ross (Creekside High School), Allie Venturi (Nease High School) and Mohammad Alam (Nease) collect food for Hugs Across the County's "No Hungry Holidays" food drive.

HungryHolidays or sponsor one bag with a \$30 donation at <http://www.stjohnshugs.org/give/>.

Hugs Across the County works closely with the St. Johns County School District to confidentially identify children in need of assistance and provide them with necessities such as food, shoes, clothing and now school supplies. Email info@stjohnshugs.org or call (904) 580-4847 for more information.

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Ponte Vedra's Jerry Wilson recognized for service as Mercer University trustee

Jerry S. Wilson, CEO and founder of JSW Consulting, LLC, retired senior vice president at the Coca-Cola Company and Ponte Vedra resident, was recognized for completing a five-year term on Mercer University's Board of Trustees during its annual Homecoming meeting Nov. 3.

Wilson is a 1988 graduate of Mercer's Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics.

Other trustees who rotated off the board and were recognized for their service included Neville Callam of Falls Church, Virginia; Jimmy Carter of Plains, Georgia; Claude M. Kicklighter of McLean, Virginia; Molly McCorkle Jones of Jacksonville; Thomas W. Malone of North Palm Beach; M. Diane Owens of Lilburn, Georgia, and Raymond M. (Thad) Warren of Atlanta.



Jerry S. Wilson (left) is presented a certification of appreciation from Mercer President William D. Underwood in recognition of Wilson's service on the university's board of trustees.

Photo provided by Mercer University

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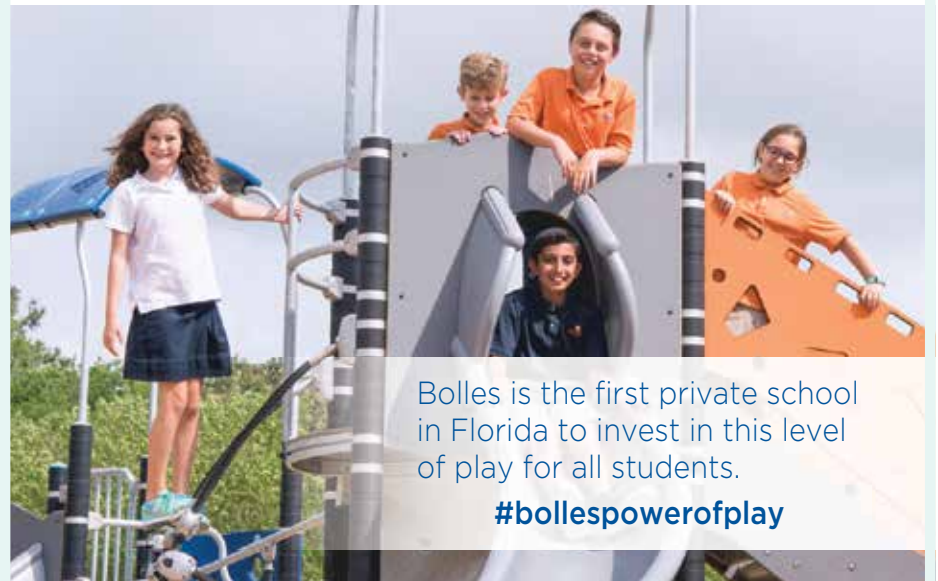
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Photos courtesy of The Bolles School

PVB students round up support for book fair to benefit Florida Keys library

The Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus recently wrapped up its Scholastic book fair benefiting a library in the Florida Keys that was devastated by Hurricane Irma.

The final day of the book fair took place Nov. 17. In celebration of “Reading Round Up” week, students also came to school dressed in cowboy attire and hosted a special flag ceremony complete with ukuleles and patriotic music.

The idea to benefit the Florida Keys library originated with teacher, librarian and information specialist Christina Karvounis, who helped coordinate the book fair with the Bolles Parent Association. Bolles earns Scholastic dollars based on how many books are sold at the fair, but instead of using the dollars for the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, the school’s student council voted to give the dollars to the Keys school.

“Our students immediately were excited about helping others,” Karvounis said. “What a wonderful moment to give young students an opportunity to activate their personal commitment to Bolles values through meaningful projects!”



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PV2-LV45028

PVB STUDENTS COLLECT FOOD BAGS FOR MALIVAI WASHINGTON FOUNDATION



Students in every classroom on the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus collected nonperishable food items for the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation in November, gathering more than 100 bags of food for local families in need. The students helped representatives from the foundation load bags into a van before they were delivered to the non-profit's food bank.

Photos courtesy of The Bolles School

OBITUARIES

Jack T. Cheek

Jack T. Cheek Jr., 83, was born in Augusta, Georgia, on April 6, 1934, to the late Jack T. Cheek Sr. and Neva Price Cheek. He died and went to be with his Lord on Nov. 15, 2017. He is survived by Mary, his beloved wife of more than 64 years, and his three children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In his younger years, Jack loved riding his motorcycles and flying his acrobatic airplanes. He started his own meat and food brokerage company in 1968 and had been a member of the River Club and Lions Club International. He was also a major benefactor of Mayo Clinic and a founding member of TPC Sawgrass.

Jack loved his church, Ponte Vedra Presbyterian, where he served as a deacon. He was a strong advocate for stray and abused animals. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to K and C Pet Rescue, P.O. Box 389, Glen St. Mary, FL 32040.

A memorial celebration of his life will be held at Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church on Friday, Dec. 1, 2017 at 11 a.m.



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Marjorie Luke

Marjorie Miller Luke, 99, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017, at McGraw Community Hospice. She was born on May 3, 1918, in Philadelphia. Mrs. Luke graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, served as a lieutenant junior grade in the United States Navy from 1944 to 1946 and was married to William Guthrie Luke Jr., who died June 9, 1997.

She is survived by her stepdaughters, Bobbie Luke Bareham and Sandra Luke Stephenson; the widow of her stepson William G. Luke III, Barbara Luke; her godchildren, Willa Luke Schweitzer and Heather McLeod Graecen; and by seven step-grandchildren as well as two cousins, Carol Diane Terry Brownlee and Nancy J. Terry.

A funeral service will be held in the Chapel of Christ Episcopal Church at 400 San Juan Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach on Dec. 4, 2017, at 11 a.m., followed by a reception at the Seahorse Room at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to McGraw Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257. Please visit the online tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Services are under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



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Patricia Borno

Patricia Ann Borno, 77, of Atlantic Beach, died Nov. 19, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Julius Cirino

Julius J. Cirino, 88, of Jacksonville, died Nov. 19, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Cornie Ferrell

Cornie G. Ferrell, 86, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Nov. 20, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Albert Hornback

Albert Ray Hornback, 81, of Jacksonville, died Nov. 19, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Christian Nees

Christian Nees Jr., 71, of Jacksonville, died Nov. 20, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Hamilton Todd III

Hamilton Smith Todd III, 50, of Fleming Island, died Nov. 18, 2017. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

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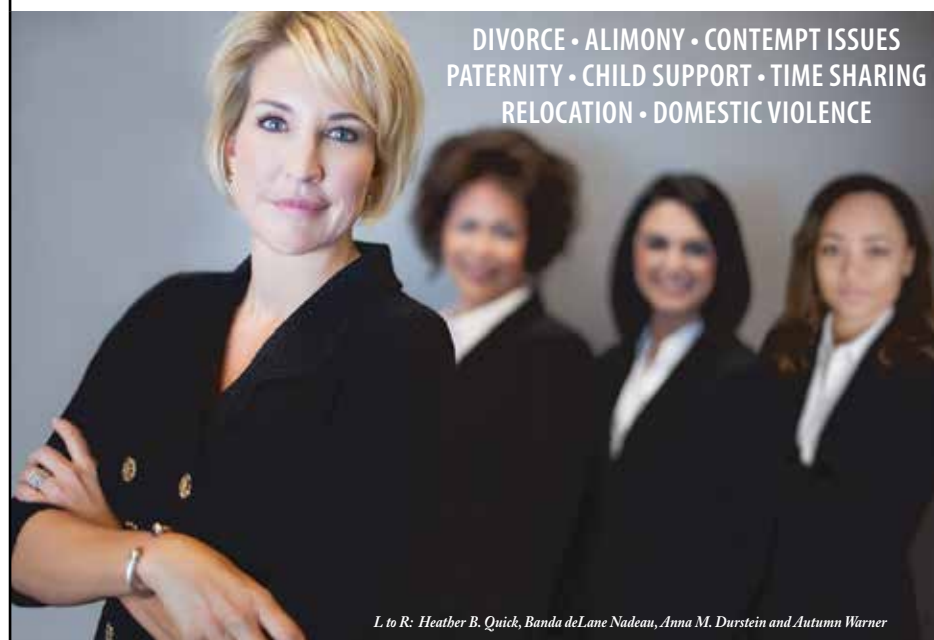
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Photos courtesy of Allen D. Nease High School

Nease NJROTC celebrates winning its fifth consecutive Mandarin Drill Meet Championship on Nov. 18.

Nease Navy JROTC varsity team victorious at Mandarin drill meet

Area-12 Drill defending champions qualify for Florida-Georgia Championship

Nease Navy JROTC's varsity drill team won in Personnel Inspection, Academics and Athletics to take home the championship at the Mandarin High School NJROTC sanctioned drill meet Nov. 18 in Jacksonville, beating out 11 other units from Northern Florida and Georgia.

With the victory, Nease has secured its slot in the Area-12 Drill Championship to be held in Douglas, Georgia, on March 3, 2018, where they will attempt to defend their title as three-time defending Area-12 Drill Champions.

In addition to claiming the overall trophy, Nease picked up first-place trophies for Personnel Inspection, Academics, Overall Athletics, Armed Basic Drill, Push-ups and Sit-ups. The team also placed second in the 16 x 100 Relay and third in Overall Drill, Armed Basic Drill and the 8 x 200 Relay.

"We won today, but we recognize we have so many areas to improve," Battalion Commander Krista Ecker said. "After Thanksgiving break, it'll be daily practice as we start prepping for our next competition at Terry Parker."

Several cadets took home individual medals for exceptional performance. Lilly Short, Mac Davis, Erin Sass and Scott Cummings won first place in Female Sit-ups, Male Push-ups, Female Push-ups



Nease NJROTC's Armed Basic team competes at the drill meet.

and Academics, respectively.

"Our senior class has qualified for the National Drill Championship the past three years, and our focus is making it back again in April," said Davis, a senior. "We've got an 'all hands on deck' mentality of working hard together."

Other top schools in the competition were South Effingham High School

(second place), Middleburg High School (third place), Terry Parker High School (fourth place) and Coffee County High School (fifth place).

The event marked Nease's fifth consecutive championship win at Mandarin. The drill team will similarly attempt to claim its fifth title in a row at Terry Parker's Sanctioned Drill Meet on Dec. 9.

CHARACTER COUNTS! 6 Pillars 6K/3K Run/Walk coming to St. Augustine

The CHARACTER COUNTS! Steering Committee is calling all walkers, runners and fitness enthusiasts to participate in the CHARACTER COUNTS! 6 Pillars 6K/3K Run/Walk Feb. 3, 2018 at 9 a.m. The run/walk will begin and end at Palencia Elementary School, located at 355 Palencia Village Drive in St. Augustine.

Walkers and runners will enjoy a course running through the neighborhoods of Kensington and Las Calinas and can choose to participate in the 6K (3.73 miles) or 3K (1.86 miles) marathon. Registration fees cost \$25 for the 6K before Jan. 1, \$30 from Jan. 1 to Feb. 2 and \$35 on race day. The 3K costs \$20 before Jan. 1, \$25 from Jan. 1 to Feb. 1 and \$30 on race day.

Registration forms and more information are available online at www.racesmith.com/races/CHARACTER-COUNTS.html.

Race proceeds will support CHARACTER COUNTS! initiatives throughout the St. Johns County School District (SJCSD). The run/walk is open to all ages, and the top three winners will be awarded in each of the age categories as well as the overall male and female finishers. A cash donation will be awarded to the top three to five schools with the most registrants.

Last year, Ocean Palms Elementary, Mill Creek Elementary, Valley Ridge Academy and Timberlin Creek Elementary had the most participants. All race registrants will receive a tech T-shirt and other accessories from area businesses and organizations. At the finish line, each race participant will receive a commemorative dog tag.

The 6 Pillars 6K/3K Run/Walk is produced by the CHARACTER COUNTS! Steering Committee and is presented by Beaver Toyota with support from businesses and community groups. Action News Jax CBS47/FOX30 is the official media sponsor of the event.

The SJCSD, along with area businesses, youth organizations and civic groups, selected the national character education program of CHARACTER COUNTS! as a countywide initiative to instill positive character traits in young people throughout the county. Additionally, the SJCSD became the first school district in Florida to implement Pursuing Victory With Honor in all of its athletic programs.

Poll

Continued from 4

Boggs said current regulations allow a building to be built along the coast as long as it does not adversely impact the dunes or its neighbors, and it is located

landward of the 30-year erosion projection. Krieger confirmed this to be true but said a few exceptions apply to these rules. For instance, he said a continuous frontal dune must be established, and the building must have been platted prior to 1985.

Regardless of the exceptions, Boggs believes the regulations, in general, are

out of date.

"I'm not entirely sure anybody knows exactly what that [erosion] projection is," Boggs noted. "Right now, after Irma, Matthew and the nor'easter did a number on us too ... the 30-year erosion projection has changed because the beach has lost 30 to 60 feet."

Over \$80,000 raised for Kate Amato Foundation at Aqua Grill wine dinner and Marsh Landing golf tournament

By Jon Blauvelt

Over \$80,000 was raised for the Kate Amato Foundation at a fundraising wine dinner hosted by Aqua Grill on Sunday, Nov. 26, and a golf tournament at Marsh Landing Country Club Monday, Nov. 27.

"It went terrific," said Cary Hart, the owner-operator of Aqua Grill, whose restaurant sponsored the wine dinner. "I have really enjoyed getting to know Lisa and Jeff Amato, and it's an honor to have the opportunity to help them, however we can, to bring awareness and funding to the Kate Amato Foundation."

According to its Facebook page, the Kate Amato foundation is "dedicated to funding and promoting innovative research that accelerates the pace of progress in pediatric cancer research." It was formed earlier this year by the parents and friends of Kate Amato, who passed away in November 2016 at age 11 from rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare and aggressive form of pediatric cancer. The \$84,000 in donations from the weekend's events will go directly toward four research projects to be determined by the foundation's scientific advisory board.

Hart said over 68 people attended the sold-out Kate Klassic wine dinner, which also featured a live auction hosted by News4Jax anchor Nikki Kimbleton. Dr. Timothy Cripe, who served as Kate's clinical trial oncologist and currently serves as a member of the foundation's scientific advisory board, addressed event guests and emphasized that funding is desperately needed for pediatric cancer research. The sold-out Kate Klassic golf tournament the following day, which was organized by Alan Henderson, also contributed greatly to the proceeds and featured a silent auction.

"This far exceeds our expectations for



Photo by Alex Quijano, Art and Alex Photography

Participants in the Kate Klassic Golf Tournament gather at Marsh Landing Country Club Nov.



Photos courtesy of Cary Hart

Jeff and Lisa Amato address the wine dinner attendees.



Dr. Timothy Cripe discusses desperately needed funding for pediatric cancer research.

the weekend, and we could not be more pleased and grateful," said Lisa and Jeff Amato. "We especially want to thank Cary Hart and his great staff at the Aqua Grill, not only for donating all the proceeds from the fabulous dinner but for engaging all their friends and customers and sharing with them our objectives for the foundation. It's an extraordinary network of very caring and generous people."

Visit www.kateamatofoundation.org/ and www.facebook.com/support.Team-Kate/ for more information on the Kate Amato Foundation.

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Local residents celebrate U.S. Marine Corps' 242nd birthday

On Nov. 10, veterans, families and friends gathered at Sawgrass Country Club to celebrate the 242nd birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Attendees paid tribute to the fallen and recognized veterans in attendance from all branches of service and wars. It was the first time such an event was held at the Sawgrass Country Club. The event will continue next year, with plans for it to be held Friday, Nov. 9, 2018.



Veterans, families and friends gather at Sawgrass Country Club Nov. 10 to celebrate the 242nd birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps.



Dave Pereira, Joseph D'Aloia (Tarawa veteran in WWII) and Quang Pham

Photos courtesy of Quang Pham



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Bob and Carol Zoeller



Event attendees enjoy a cake celebrating the 242nd birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps.

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Can't wait to see you!
Santa



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The Enchanted Christmas Village supports the Bairfind Foundation, which helps find missing children in the USA.
 It takes a Village to find our missing children!



Hey Kids ... Send your letters to Santa



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

Dear Santa,



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



Sincerely,

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

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



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Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

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

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



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

Letters mailed to Saint Nick to receive responses

By Jon Blauvelt

First Coast children seeking to send their Christmas lists to Santa Claus may drop them off at Santa's mailbox located near Nona Blue in Sawgrass Village and at the Ponte Vedra Recorder office at 1102 A1A N., Unit 108.

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

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

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

Photos by Jon Blauvelt and Samantha Logue



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

18 ideas for making special holiday memories

Counting down to Christmas means many different things to people across the globe. Although families likely have several different traditions they anticipate each year, it can be fun to incorporate some new activities into the festivities. Here are some festive ideas to include in the days leading up to Christmas.

1. Annual memento: Have the kids or adults make one new handmade ornament each year. This way, the tree is always evolving, and everyone can track milestones.

2. Cookie day: Devote one day to making Christmas cookies. Invite friends or family members over, and distribute some cookies to elderly neighbors.

3. Holiday classic: Spend a night in and watch a classic Christmas flick you've never seen before. Streaming movie services often put classics and obscure titles into rotation during the holiday season.

4. Christmas concert: Host a gathering of children where they can sing or perform their favorite tunes for an audience. Take it on the road to a nearby nursing home.

5. Dine out: Take a break from cooking, shopping and hosting, and stop into a restaurant you've been meaning to try. Keep it local to support nearby businesses.

6. Assist a child/family: Volunteer with a charitable organization that provides for less fortunate families. Answer the Christmas desires of a needy child or family by purchasing an item on their wish lists.



Photos courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com



7. See the sights: Pack the children into the family car to tour nearby areas and look at Christmas lights displays. Bring along cookies and hot chocolate.



8. Trim a tree: Get together with adult friends at a tree-trimming party. Rotate the hosting house each year.

9. Play dress-up: A gentleman can

dress up as the man in red and pop into a friend's holiday gathering.

10. Wilderness walk: Enjoy the crisp air and snow and see a local park from a winter perspective.

11. Acts of kindness: Choose any act of kindness and make it happen this Christmas. It can include feeding the hungry or helping a disabled person shop for the season.

12. Kids' Secret Santa: Spread the joy of giving by having the kids choose a sibling or friend's name from a hat and purchasing or making a gift for that person.

13. Hand out hot chocolate: Make a big thermos of hot chocolate and give it out to shoppers or workers who have been out in the cold.

14. Read religious stories: Understand the true meaning of the season by reading biblical passages.

15. Camp-in: The first night the tree is decorated, allow the kids to sleep beside it under the glow of Christmas lights.

16. Scavenger hunt: Plan holiday-themed trivia questions, and hide small trinkets for children to find.

17. Surprise box: Put a gender and age nonspecific gift into a box. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, the person who finds a hidden gift tag under their chair at dinner gets to open the box.

18. Family portrait: Wear your holiday outfits and pose for a portrait that actually will be printed and framed.

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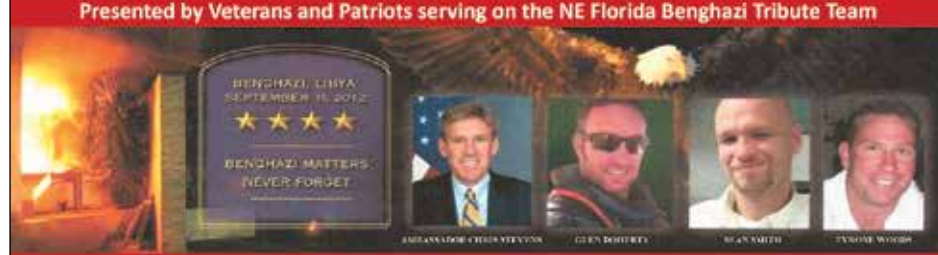
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Maragarita J'Ville raises glasses and funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida

Margarita J'Ville brought nearly 250 guests to One Ocean Resort & Spa in Atlantic Beach Saturday, Nov. 18, raising \$100,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida (BBBSNEFL).

Presented by Sauza Tequila, the event featured an island-inspired menu, unlimited margaritas, signature drinks, raffles and live and silent auctions. Live music, courtesy of South City Live, kept attendees dancing on the Verandina—an outside patio decorated with a full tiki bar, an oversized flamingo and tiki torches.

Margarita J'Ville was created in 2004 by former BBBSNEFL CEO Warren Grymes, who hosted the event each year through 2010. Grymes recently lost a long battle with kidney cancer, and during this year's program, his widow Cheryl Grymes took time to thank guests for honoring his legacy.

"I know Warren would have been proud to see all of you here and to see what we've done with Margarita J'Ville," she said. "As you know, this is an event he loved and treasured, and I'm so happy to look out and see many of Warren's closest friends and family here to

celebrate and honor all he's meant to Big Brothers Big Sisters."



Guests embrace the tropical theme of Margarita J'Ville during a Nov. 18 fundrasier at One Ocean benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida.

Photos courtesy of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida



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Photos courtesy of Girl Scouts of Gateway Council

Three generations of Girl Scouts join Girl Scouts of Gateway Council CEO Mary Anne Jacobs (second from left) outside of the Beaches Little House in Neptune Beach.

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council turn over Beaches Little House to City of Neptune Beach

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council (GSGC) recently relinquished control of one of its properties – Beaches Little House – to the City of Neptune Beach so that the city can move forward on improvements in Jarboe Park.

“This is a bittersweet moment for Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, but we are excited for what the future holds for Jarboe Park,” said Girl Scouts of Gateway Council CEO Mary Anne Jacobs. “We fully support the City of Neptune Beach and the plans to reinvigorate, enhance and beautify Jarboe Park. We look forward to all the opportunities the Girl Scouts will enjoy visiting an inspired park and enjoying its new facilities.”

Located near the intersection of Flor-

ida A1A and Florida Boulevard, Jarboe Park is a community park within walking distance of the beach. The City of Neptune Beach is planning a complete makeover of the park with new features including a multi-use lawn, ADA-compliant multi-use building, expanded community garden and a trailhead. The trailhead and new building will be situated in the same vicinity as the Beaches Little House, which will be torn down to accommodate the new facilities.

More than 40 Girl Scouts, alumnae, and supporters recently attended the closing ceremony of Beaches Little House. According to the website, VintageGirlScouts.com, Girl Scout Little Houses were not a single place, but a

movement across America. Starting in Washington, D.C., the very first Little House was donated to the Girl Scouts by the General Federation of Women’s Clubs and was the model for hundreds of Little Houses in every Girl Scout town and city that could manage one.

The Rotary Club of Jacksonville presented Beaches Little House to the Girl Scouts in 1952. Over the past 65 years, Girl Scouts troops have visited the property for camping trips, service projects and other events, including the 100 Years of Girl Scouts Celebration in 2012.

For more information about Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, visit www.girlscouts-gateway.org.



Tim Conlan



James Stege

Conlan, Stege elected to Betty Griffin Center Board of Directors

Tim Conlan and James (Jim) Stege were recently elected to the board of directors at the Betty Griffin Center.

Conlan is the chief operating officer for the general contracting firm Auld & White, where he has worked for 25 years. Conlan — who has extensive experience in the construction industry as a field engineer, assistant superintendent, superintendent, estimator, project manager, senior project manager and division manager — is responsible for management of all construction operations and obtaining successful performance at project and company levels.

In addition to serving on the Betty Griffin Center Board of Directors, Conlan completed Leadership St. Johns in 2016 and is a board member and team leader with ACE Mentoring at Creekside High School. He is also an assistant scout master with the Boy Scouts of America, Troop #280.

With more than 40 years of experience in the engineering and architectural (EA) industry, Stege currently contracts with POND — a 500-person EA firm — on ongoing architecture projects, and is also the owner/operator at Stegbone’s Fish Camp located in Satsuma.

Before entering semi-retirement, Stege was the managing principal with SchenkelShultz Architecture in St. Augustine from 2004 until 2015.

In addition to his new role on the board at the center, Stege serves as a board member with Investing in Kids (INK!), the St. Francis House and the St. Augustine Historical Society. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of St. Augustine, the Welaka (Florida) Historic Preservation Committee and the St. Johns County Democratic Executive Committee.

“We’re excited to have the professional experience Tim and Jim bring to our board roster,” said Betty Griffin Center CEO Joyce Mahr. “Their experience in the business community, along with their past and current civic engagement, will be a tremendous asset in providing oversight and support for our nonprofit agency.”

For more information, visit www.bettygriffincenter.org.

Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty hosts Thanks In Giving Winter Clothing Drive to support Mission House

Realtors and associates from Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty collected winter clothing for the area’s homeless at the business’ Thanks In Giving Winter Clothing Drive Nov. 17. The clothing was donated to Mission House, a Jacksonville Beach-based nonprofit that provides food, clothing, medical care and support services to help the Beaches-area homeless.

A combined donation of \$150 was also collected for Mission House to assist in the nonprofit’s ongoing efforts. The event was held in conjunction with the office’s Thanksgiving celebration.

For more information on how to assist Mission House and the homeless, visit www.missionhousejax.org.



Photo courtesy of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty

Realtors and associates from Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty in Ponte Vedra collect winter clothing to assist Mission House in helping the area’s homeless.

Upcoming holiday events in Nocatee

As we transition from November to December, keep in mind the following holiday events taking place in Nocatee over the next several weeks.

Nocatee-A-Glow

Nocatee-A-Glow, presented by Fields Auto Group, is taking place **Friday, Dec. 1 and Saturday, Dec. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m.** at Nocatee Splash Waterpark. The free event will feature North Pole visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus, a live nativity scene,

horse drawn carriage rides, train rides, a food truck village, a letters to Santa station, various live musical performances, a “snow” zone, Christmas caroling, a strolling magician, a balloonist, photo opportunities and more. Both nights will feature a tree lighting countdown, followed by the

kick off of Splash Waterpark’s Christmas light show.

Friday night will be for residents only; guests of residents will be admitted entry on Saturday evening for \$7 per person (ages 3 and under are free). Tickets can be purchased in advance online at <https://nocaglowguest2017.eventbrite.com>.

Breakfast with Santa

Residents can enjoy breakfast, visits and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus and kids activities at Splash Waterpark **Saturday, Dec. 9** for this annual Nocatee tradition. This will be a ticketed event with limited seating for residents only. Tickets will be \$5 (ages 3 and under free) and are non-transferable and non-refundable. Seating times include 7:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tickets will go on sale Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. in the Nocatee Room.

Nocatee Farmers Market: Winterfest

The Nocatee Farmers Market on **Saturday, Dec. 16** at Swim Club Green will feature the annual Christmas festival. To be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., event guests will be able to enjoy local shopping and live music by the Ramona Quimby Band. Santa Claus will also be visiting and taking photos for little ones with any last-minute Christmas wishes.

Family Movie Night: ‘A Christmas Story’

On **Dec. 22 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.**, Nocatee residents are invited to enjoy the Christmas comedy, “A Christmas Story,” at Nocatee’s Splash Waterpark. Complimentary popcorn will be available for attendees to enjoy. Beverages and candy will also be available for purchase at the bar. Some seating is provided for families, but bringing chairs is suggested. RSVP by emailing fun@nocatee.com.

Noon Year’s Eve Party

Kids get a chance to join in on New Year’s Eve celebrations at the Nocatee Noon Year’s Eve Party **Saturday, Dec. 30 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** at the Swim Club Green. The event will feature games and activities, a DJ, a comedy and magic show and more. Be sure to RSVP to fun@nocatee.com.

New Year’s Eve Gala

On **Sunday, Dec. 31**, Nocatee residents are invited to ring in the new year at Nocatee’s New Year’s Eve party. Tickets go on sale Wednesday, Dec. 6 for residents only at \$15 (includes a free champagne toast), and may be purchased in resident services. Make sure to buy your ticket early as prices will increase to \$25 on Dec. 20. Tickets for guests will be available starting Dec. 20. Child watch will be available in the fitness studio for \$10 per child (potty trained children only; space is limited).


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Palms Preschool & Childcare Center earns NAEYC accreditation

Palms Preschool & Childcare Center in Jacksonville Beach has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) — the world’s largest organization working on behalf of young children.

“We are very proud to once again be recognized by NAEYC as a top-quality program,” said Lauren Lee, director of Palms Preschool & Childcare Center. “This honor speaks to all the hard work our teachers, staff, families and students have contributed to our school, and motivates us to continue using best practices and meeting only the highest of standards for our students.”

NAEYC accreditation is a quality-improvement system that uses a set of 10 research-based standards to collaborate with early education programs to recognize and drive quality-improvement in high-quality early learning environments.

To earn NAEYC accreditation, Palms Preschool & Childcare Center went through a self-study and quality-improvement process, followed by an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors to verify and ensure that the program met each of the 10 program standards, and hundreds of corresponding individual criteria. NAEYC-accredited programs are always prepared for unannounced quality-assurance visits during their accreditation term, which lasts for five years.

In the 30 years since NAEYC accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 7,000 programs are currently accredited by NAEYC, which means less than 10 percent of all child care centers, preschools, and kindergartens nationally achieve this recognition.

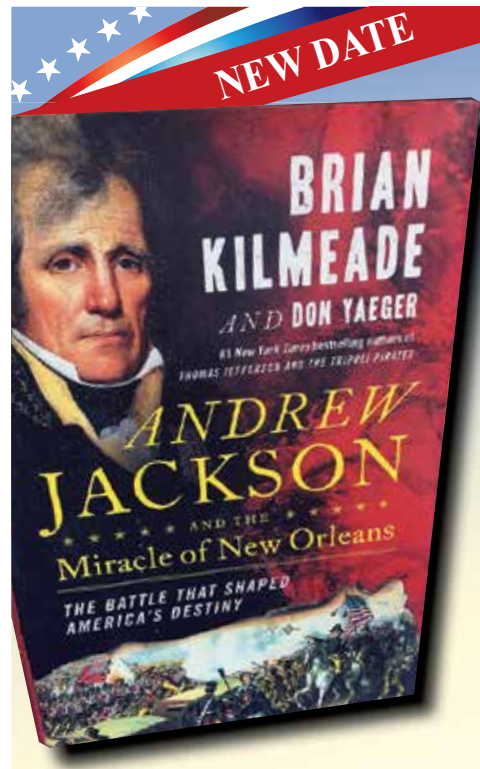
“NAEYC-accredited programs bring

our definitions of excellence for early childhood education to life each day,” said Kristen Johnson, senior director of early learning program accreditation at NAEYC. “Earning NAEYC accreditation makes Palms Preschool & Childcare Center an exemplar of good practice for families and the entire community.”

Established in 1985, Palms Preschool’s goal is to provide an environment that nur-

tures a positive learning experience, one in which the preschool child may feel secure and happy away from home and provide an opportunity to build and maintain a positive self-concept so that he/she may develop to his/her greatest potential — intellectually, physically, socially, spiritually and emotionally.

For more information about NAEYC accreditation, visit www.naeyc.org/academy.



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Business Weekly

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Retirement plan
changes for 2018

Page 27

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



The cash register at Down South Barbecue sits open among the debris.

Local businesses recover after car crashes into their stores

By Samantha Logue

Down South Barbecue and the UPS Store on A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach are recovering this week after a regular customer of both businesses accidentally plowed into their stores with her red Cadillac Tuesday, Nov. 21.

According to Deputy Nate Datsko, who was dispatched to the scene by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the driver of the car was an older woman whose foot had slipped off the brake pedal and onto the accelerator, causing the car to crash into the stores. Although the businesses' front windows and the wall that separates them were damaged, no one was injured by the incident—a fact for which staff of both stores are grateful.

"Luckily nobody was hurt," said Wally Monnig, owner of Down South Barbecue. "We had one lady out front that was waiting on a 'to-go' order. She wasn't 8 feet from where it happened, and she went running for her life. It was just an interesting experience that



The boarded-up front window of Down South Barbecue requests that drivers refrain from parking in the store.

Photos courtesy of Wally Monnig

got a little scary."

According to Monnig, glass was blown about 30 feet into his restaurant, and it was a mere twist of fate that removed him from the path of the car, which crashed right into his usual spot at the cash register.

"I was walking back to the kitchen to take dishes back, and just heard a big boom," he said. "I'm lucky I wasn't standing there."

UPS Store Manager Erica Vona echoed Monnig's sentiments, stating

she was shocked, but thankful that no one was harmed.

"There was no one on the sidewalk, there was no one in the parking lot," she recounted. "It just happened so perfectly that nobody got a scratch on them, nobody was hurt."

Having since resumed full operations, staff at both businesses are determined not to let the incident bring them down.

"We're just chalking it up to a Tuesday," Vona laughed.

Chamber partners with FPL to help local businesses participate in Nights of Lights

In partnership with Florida Power and Light Company (FPL), the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce is helping more St. Augustine businesses twinkle with holiday lights for Nights of Lights this year in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

The Chamber and FPL launched an effort last year to help businesses get their lights back on after many were damaged during Hurricane Matthew. The businesses are decorated for St. Augustine's Nights of Lights, an annual holiday tradition that runs until Wednesday, Jan. 31, and attracts international visitors, shoppers and locals to the historic downtown area.

According to Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Rodriguez, business partners benefitting from the funding efforts and receiving lights include Firestone Complete Auto Care, Athena Restaurant, RE/MAX COAST 2 COAST, Crème de la Cocoa,

DOS Coffee & Wine, the American Legion, Tempo Restaurant & Bar, Romeo's Café, Ancient City Brewing Company and Old City Gifts.

"We are dedicated to helping FPL customers in the local communities where we provide utility service," said Jim Bush, FPL's area manager. "Florida is our home, and we believe it's the best place to visit, work and raise a family. Our sponsorship of Nights of Lights and assisting local business owners to participate in the world-renowned event helps to make the yearly display a win for the local economy."

Mary O'Brien, who serves as chairperson of the board of directors for the Chamber, is very pleased that the organization was able to partner with FPL.

"Chamber members and business owners



Photo courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com

St. Augustine's historic Casa Monica Hotel is decorated for Nights of Lights.

CHAMBER continues on Page 27

New contribution limits for retirement plans in 2018 released by federal government



By Ric Schilling
Special to the Recorder

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

Ric Schilling
Guest columnist

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

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

Another item in the news involving retirement plans is a proposal being tossed about in Congress that would do one of

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

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

That said, who would be most affected by these changes if they come to pass? I regularly recommend to younger folks (those in

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

If you are currently contributing to a pre-tax retirement plan, you may want to consider maxing out your contributions this tax year both to take advantage of the current rules and limits and to gain a greater tax advantage if, by some chance, rates are lower next year. If all your contributions are after-tax, then contributing more next year when rates may be lower might make more sense than accelerating contributions you had planned to make next year into this year. As always, seek the opinion of your tax professional who can best advise you in the context of your specific situation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In light of the #MeToo campaign and the allegations against prominent figures, sexual harassment is on the forefront of headlines across the nation.

Whether it's a Hollywood executive, an all-star sports figure or eminent politician, the issue of unlawful harassment continues to show its pervasive face across our contemporary world. Unfortunately, sexual harassment in the workplace is very real, and it happens every day.

In its most fundamental definition, sexual harassment is unwelcome behavior that happens to workers because of their sex. It occurs when a person's submission to or rejection of sexual advances is used as the basis for employment decisions about him or her, or submission to sexual advances is made a condition of his or her employment (quid pro quo harassment). It may also occur when sexual conduct or gender-based hostility is sufficiently severe or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment (hostile work environment harassment). Regardless of the intent, sexual harassment in the workplace should never be tolerated. Fortunately, there are remedies.

As the agency charged with shining a light on discrimination in the State of Florida, the Florida Commission on Human Relations is committed to eradicating all forms of harassment that can impact each and every one of us. The Commission offers trainings to businesses, agencies and individuals, teaching them how to avoid creating or permitting a working environment where sexual harassment exists.

I encourage all employers and employees to become aware of the issue of sexual harassment and carefully address inappropriate behavior. Remember, you do not have to keep it to yourself. If you think you are a victim of sexual harassment, you can file a complaint with the Commission by visiting our website at <http://fchr.state.fl.us>, or by contacting us directly at (850) 488-7082.

By knowing what to do and who to call, business owners, managers and employees can assist the Commission in its goal to shine a light on sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination in the workplace.

Michelle Wilson,
Executive director, Florida
Commission on Human Relations

Stinton addresses Chamber Economic Development Council breakfast

Dale Stinton, CEO emeritus of the National Association of Realtors (NAR), shared several of the innovative initiatives NAR implemented during his tenure at the helm of the trade association at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council (EDC) breakfast on Nov. 17 at the Casa Monica Hotel in St. Augustine.

Stinton directed NAR for the past 12 years. The largest trade association in the world, NAR boasts more than 1.3 million members, and the association's Second Century Ventures investment fund incubates start-ups in the real estate industry.

"While advocacy for our members is our prime mission, it is an intangible asset," Stinton explained. "Our Second Century Initiatives program brings incredible



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

St. Johns County Chamber leaders gather following the Economic Development Council breakfast. Pictured from left: Rob Matthews, president of Matthews Design Group and Economic Development Council chair; Isabelle Rodriguez, president and CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce; Victor Raymos, CEO of the St. Augustine & St. Johns County Board of REALTORS & MLS and Mary O'Brien, chairman of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

value to our membership, and its strategic investment fund helps finance entrepreneurial businesses that have the potential to influence the industry."

Among the quarterly event's attendees was Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Rodriguez, who said, "We were thrilled

to host such an innovative leader. He has an impressive track record at the largest organization of its kind."

For more information about future Chamber events, including the next Economic Development Breakfast on Jan. 19, visit www.sjccchamber.com.

Chamber

Continued from 26

in Downtown St. Augustine rely heavily on visitor and local traffic," she said. "Holiday shopping that comes with the famous Nights of Lights is imperative to

their financial success. Additionally, we're not only helping businesses that suffered loss, but also employees who missed or lost work as a result of the storm and its aftermath. The Nights of Lights will be as beautiful as ever this year. And, we are proud to be associated with such a fantastic annual event."

According to Rodriguez, the Chamber works hard to help businesses in St. Johns County thrive and expand through a wide variety of business and sponsored partnerships along with programs and services. To find out more information about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, call (904) 829-5681 or visit sjccchamber.com.

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St. Augustine Orchestra to hold 'Sounds of the Season' Christmas Concert Dec. 8



Photo provided by St. Augustine Orchestra

The St. Augustine Orchestra (SAO) will hold its "Sounds of the Season" Christmas concert Friday, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. at the River House in St. Augustine.

With doors opening at 7:30 p.m., this year's performance will feature 14 pieces, including classics like "A Charlie Brown Christmas" by Vince Guaraldi and "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson.

"Christmas and its traditions evoke strong emotional responses in us, and music is particularly powerful in pulling at our memories," said Maestro Scott Gregg.

Tickets are \$22 for adults 18 and over; \$12 for children/teens 11-17 and free for children 10 and under. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at <https://staugustineorchestra.org> and will also be available at the door. The River House is located at 179 Marine Street in St. Augustine.

The St. Augustine Orchestra is one of the city's longest running cultural entities, playing for 56 years. Guided by a mission to expand awareness and music appreciation, the SAO's approach is to provide quality live performances at an affordable cost to the community.

For more information, contact SAO Business Manager Allyson Breger by calling (904) 540-6664 or by email at allybreger@gmail.com.

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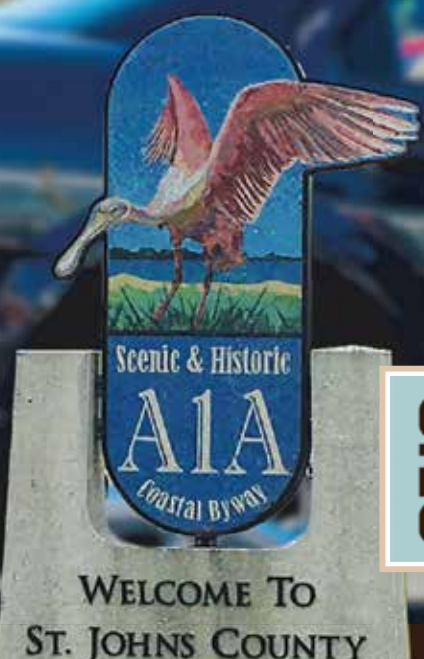
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Jacksonville Symphony to present concert of 'German Giants'

The Jacksonville Symphony will present a concert with three of the largest names in classical music — Schoenberg, Mendelssohn and Beethoven — Dec. 1, 2 and 3 at Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

"This fourth Masterworks concert, 'German Giants,' is one I'm especially looking forward to," said Music Director Courtney Lewis, who is in his third season as music director of the Symphony. "I can't wait to share it with our audiences in Jacksonville."

To be held at 8 p.m. on Dec. 1 and 2 and at 3 p.m. on Dec. 3, the concert is book-ended by two pieces that were considered to be modern for their time period: Schoenberg's "Five Pieces for Orchestra" and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3.

The Schoenberg is presented in five movements and will be paired with visual projections of artwork by Egon Schiele, an Austrian 20th century painter. Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, featuring guest artist Tai Murray, will provide a haven of repose between the two iconic pieces it is paired with.



Jacksonville Symphony, led by Music Director Courtney Lewis, will perform 'German Giants' concert Dec. 1-3.

A former BBC young generation artist, member of the Marlboro Festival and of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society, Murray gave her London Proms debut during the summer of 2016 with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Living between New York and Berlin, Murray has been

heard on stages such as the Barbican and London Royal Albert Hall, and aside orchestras such as Chicago Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

At the time of its creation,

Beethoven's Third Symphony was the largest to date. It is more commonly known by the name "Eroica" and is widely considered to have ushered in the Romantic era. Originally to be dedicated to Napoleon Bonaparte, the piece was to be called "Bonaparte." When Napoleon decided to de-

clare himself emperor, Beethoven was so disappointed in the supposed hero that he was said to have ripped up the first page and scribed "Sinfonia eroica" on the front.

During the extensive search for a new concertmaster, the Jacksonville Symphony will be bringing in seven candidates to perform with the Symphony during the season. For this concert, Vivek Jayaraman will take the stage with Courtney and the Symphony. Previously, Jayaraman performed with the Symphony Nov. 25 for "Home Alone."

Jayaraman is a member of The Florida Orchestra in St. Petersburg, and has played with several major orchestras in the United States, including The Cleveland Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. Jayaraman was concertmaster of the Canton Symphony Orchestra (OH) from 2015-2017 and has performed as concertmaster with the New World Symphony.

The Symphony will host a pre-concert conversation begin-

SYMPHONY continues on Page 30

G. Love & Special Sauce to perform at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Feb. 10

Pioneering alternative hip-hop blues act G. Love & Special Sauce will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, in partnership with JaxLive, on Saturday, Feb. 10. Tickets are currently on sale.

G. Love certainly has come a long way in the 20 years since drummer Jeffrey "The Houseman" Clemens discovered him performing in a Boston pub. The two started playing together and, after Clemens brought in upright bassist James "Jimi Jazz" Prescott, G. Love & Special Sauce was born. Their self-titled debut, featuring the hit "Cold Beverage," wound up going gold. The band became known for their live shows and performed around the world. G. Love has played with and without Special Sauce over the years, but now the trio is back together. G. Love believes the current manifestation of the band is stronger than ever and is riding a creative high, adding "and we didn't want to kill each other."

"When you get the spark, you got to ride that energy," says G. Love, and that spark certainly ignites on his 10th studio full-length "Love Saves The Day."

He calls the latest release "the fullest realization of the hip-hop blues" that he first pioneered with Special Sauce in the early 90s. The album, out now on Brushfire Records, not only features G. Love's long-term Special Sauce rhythm section —

Prescott and Clemens — but also prominent guest performers including Los Lobos guitarist David Hidalgo, Lucinda Williams, Citizen Cope, Ozomatli, DJ Logic, Money Mark, Zach Gill and Adam Topol.

To create their down and dirty "trashcan blues" sound, G. Love & Special Sauce returned to Brushfire Records' Solar

Powered Plastic Plant in Los Angeles. The band was excited to reteam with Sugar engineer and producer Robert Carranza (Jack Johnson, Beastie Boys, Mars Volta). They recorded live with few edits to capture the immediacy of the music: G. Love making his guitar snarl and his harmonica moan, bassist Prescott bringing nimble funk to

the bottom end and Clemens' drum work crackling with power.

The new album completes the trilogy for G. Love that started with 2011's "Fixin To Die." That disc stripped his music down to its roots and saw him record with The

G. LOVE continues on Page 31

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Symphony

Continued from 29

ning one hour prior to the Masterworks concerts on-stage in Jacoby Hall. Using an informal half-hour format, Lewis and occasionally other guest conductors/artists will discuss the music to be presented that evening, complete with audio examples and questions from the audience.

Visit <http://www.jaxsymphony.org/> for more information.



Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Symphony

Tai Murray will perform during the Symphony's Mendelssohn portion of the concert.

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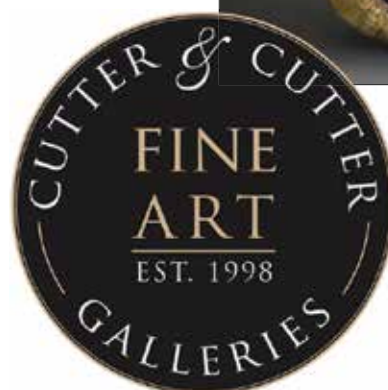
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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER



SHARKS FINISH IN TIE WITH CREEKSIDE

ABOVE: Cassidy Bierwagen (8) and Lillian Mace (18) successfully block out the Creekside players as Ponte Vedra controls the ball during a 0-0 tie Monday night.

RIGHT: Julia Deal's hair flies as she heads the ball for the Sharks.

Photos by Jerry and Chris Norton



SHARKS SHUT OUT ORANGE PARK 8-0

ABOVE: Ponte Vedra's Tatum Taucher (5) sends a shot toward the Orange Park goal during the Sharks' 8-0 win over Orange Park on Tuesday.

LEFT: Cassidy Bierwagen (8) fights for control of the ball for the Sharks against the Raiders.

Photos by Jerry and Chris Norton



Marsh Landing WGA holds its Ibis Classic event with 'Diamonds in the Rough' theme

The Marsh Landing Women's Golf Association held its Ibis Classic Member-Guest Tournament Nov. 16 and 17.

The theme was "Diamonds in the Rough," complete with bejeweled birds hidden on the course, a fashion show, putting contest and jewels strewn on all the tables. The format was best two balls of the foursome, and the team of Kathleen Walker, Sach Price, Andi Phillips and Chi Daniels won the overall low net with a score of 256.

Other winning teams were:

Diamond Flight low net winners Duffy Kopriva, Diana

Stewart, Helen Short and Sue Ottenstroer (262).

Sapphire Flight low net winners Adrienne Whitman, Deborah Meyer, Sara Strom and Erika Schneider (266).

Emerald Flight low net winners Sherri Lubin, Vicki Arnold, Judy Tyndal and Elana Dietz (268).

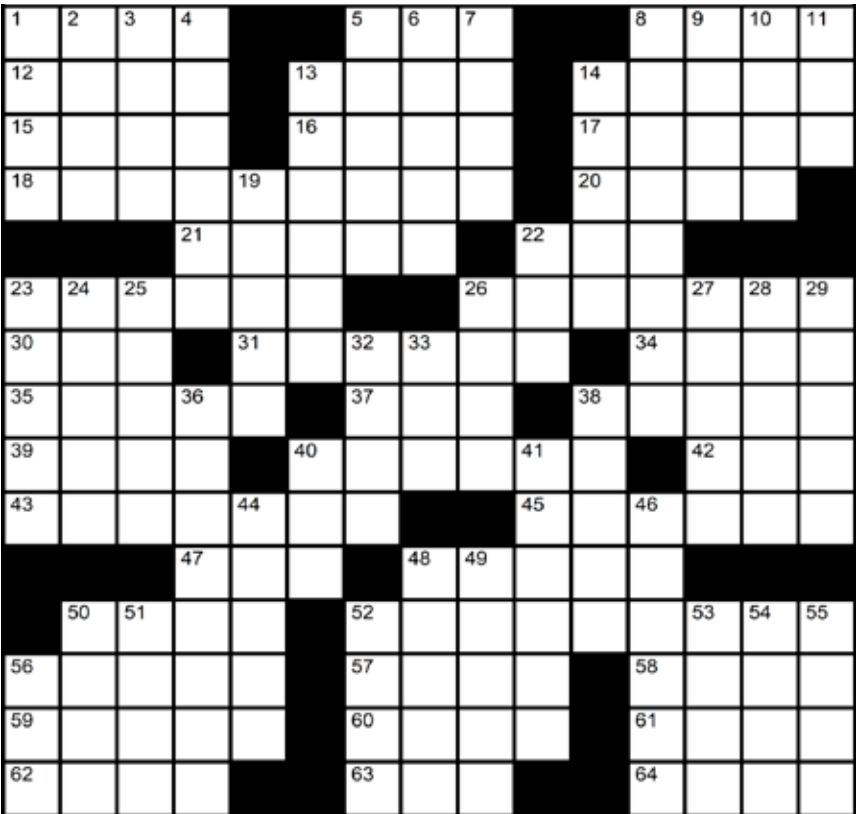
Yellow Diamond Flight low net winners Pat Hickerson, Darlene Deo, Pong Mattiace and Jane Rollinson (264).

Ruby Flight low net winners Florrie Redick, Julie Byrd, Mary Ann Imbriani and Lonnie Smith (289).



Photo courtesy of Isobel Spink

Overall low net winner Kathleen Walker (from left), Sach Price, Andi Phillips and Chi Daniels



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ACROSS

- 1. Big ____ at 7-Eleven
- 5. Plays for pay
- 8. Not counterfeit
- 12. Largest continent
- 13. Field worker
- 14. Eagle's nest
- 15. Shade-loving plant
- 16. River in Bohemia
- 17. Choice or delicious dish
- 18. *Vince Vaughn's title role, 2007
- 20. Research facil.
- 21. "Colorful" announcement
- 22. Humor magazine
- 23. Sherlock Holmes' esteemed friend
- 26. Wedge-shaped
- 30. "Fat chance!"
- 31. Ancient liturgical hymn
- 34. Jet black
- 35. Like Bushmills' whiskey
- 37. *"Jingle ____ the Way," 1996
- 38. Speak like Pericles
- 39. Cleopatra's necklace
- 40. They're often bolt action
- 42. Tucker of "Modern Family"
- 43. Football play, pl
- 45. *Nicholas Cage's "The ____ Man," 2000
- 47. Egg cells
- 48. "The Metamorphosis" author
- 50. Nursery rhyme old woman's home

- 52. *Kevin McCallister's story, 1990
- 56. Opposite end of alpha
- 57. "It's beginning to look ____ like Christmas..."
- 58. Like desert climate
- 59. Apple leftovers
- 60. Container weight
- 61. *"Trappd in Paradise" with Jon Lovitz and ____ Carvey
- 62. Matured
- 63. "C' ____ la vie!"
- 64. Big Bang's original matter

DOWN

- 1. Fishing pole
- 2. Olympic castaway?
- 3. Pre-euro money
- 4. Bamboo forest dwellers
- 5. *Like Express to the North Pole
- 6. Overthrow by argument
- 7. Miners' bounty, pl.
- 8. *Clarice, e.g.
- 9. Spans of time
- 10. Not a word?
- 11. Type of Christmas lights
- 13. Helen in France
- 14. Type of deadly flu
- 19. Lamé or serge
- 22. " ____'s the word"
- 23. *Like Bing Crosby's Christmas
- 24. Packers' quarterback
- 25. Like Hitler's Reich
- 26. Reject

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	1		3		2			

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

- 27. Olden day calculators
- 28. The whole amount
- 29. *Henry F. Potter in "It's a Wonderful Life," e.g.
- 32. Oration station
- 33. *Will Ferrell's 2003 role
- 36. *Based on "A Christmas Carol," 1988
- 38. Port city in Japan
- 40. Ribonucleic acid
- 41. Affected or pretentious
- 44. Part of eye containing iris, pl.
- 46. Unwellness
- 48. Trees producing caffeine-containing nuts
- 49. Like a duel in France, usually
- 50. Smoke plus fog
- 51. At this point
- 52. Antonym of love
- 53. Unwritten exam
- 54. Number of baseball fielders
- 55. Dutch cheese
- 56. Edible tuber

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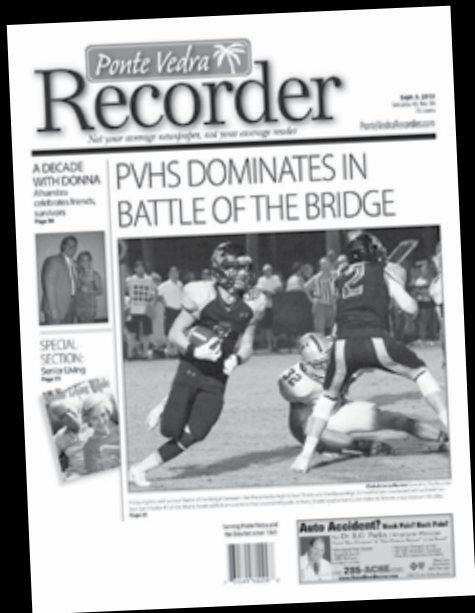
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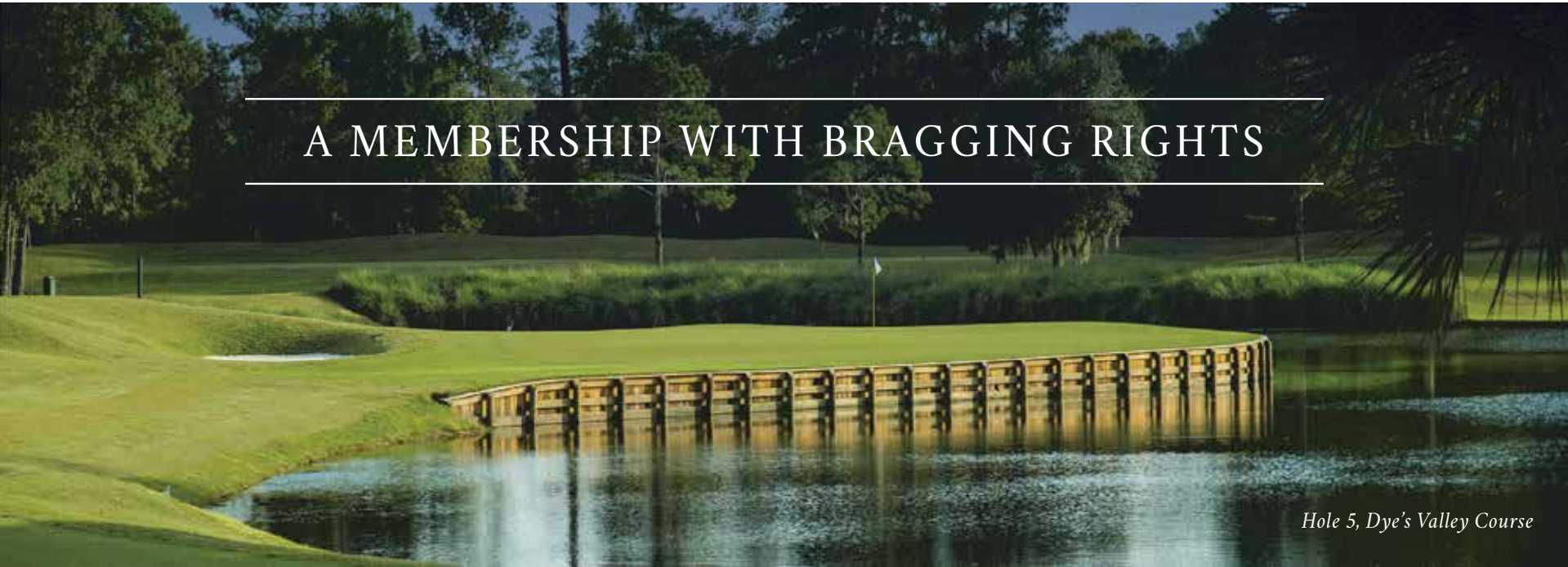
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