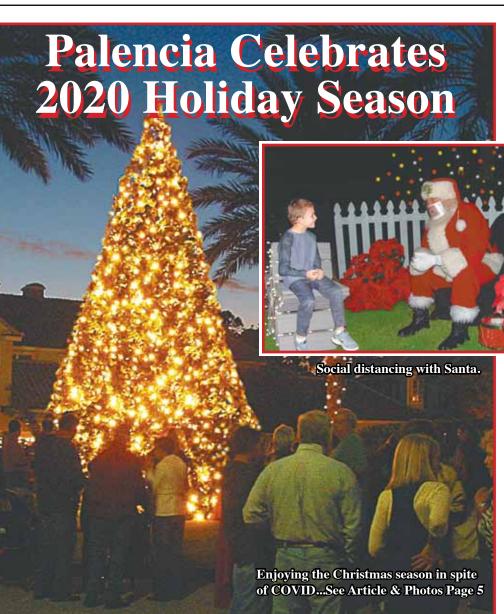
ST. AUGUSTINE

PRESS

JANUARY 2021



A New Year, A New Tennis & Pickleball Social & Another Twist

Help Support The St. Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry



The Palencia Pickleball/Tennis Advisory Community will come together in the New Year to help neighbors who rely on St. Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry. With the holidays winding down, the need for helping those who are struggling in our communities continues.

See Complete Story On Page 4

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The Palencia Press P. O. Box 600022 Jacksonville, FL 32260

Pirate 5K Run Is January 23rd



It's time for the 6th Annual Pirate 5K and Fun Run hosted by the Palencia Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). **See Article Page 8**





Palencia Community Classified Ads

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Articles and information must be received by the 10th of the month in order to appear in the following month's issue. Views and opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not express the viewpoint of the publisher or editorial staff of the *Palencia Press*. All articles are subject to editing. Acknowledgements: This issue was designed using resources from Freepik.com.

New Year's Thoughts

Dear God, My prayer for 2021 is a FAT bank account and a THIN body. Please don't mix it up like you did this year.

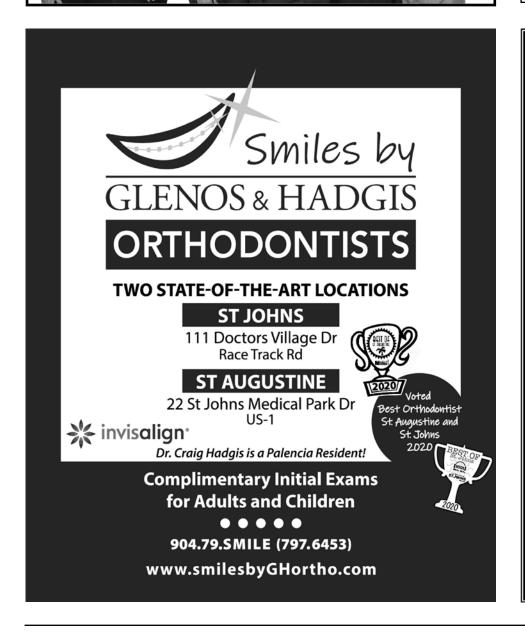
Many things can be preserved in alcohol this New Years Eve. DIGNITY is not one of them.

In 2021, may your neighbors respect you, troubles neglect you, angels protect you, and heaven accept you.

Words Of Wisdom

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

-Isaiah 40:30-31





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Palencia Men's Seniors Tennis Team Having Successful Season



Left to right: Earl Oltz, Pat Patterson, Dave Thompson, Joe Blanton, Phil Furman, Wendell Davis, Hector Hurtado, Andy Hall, Frank Nelson (Captain), Raul Espinosa, and Dennis Villarose. Not pictured: Irving Merlette and Evan Williams.

The Palencia Men's Gold Team of the JAX Seniors Mens (over 55) League are celebrating another outstanding season, winning yet another coveted Championship against the team at Oak Bridge. In the regular season, the Palencia men beat teams from Marsh Creek, Oak Bridge, and Huguenot, only losing one match all season and winning an unprecedented 14 of 18 lines played. The team is made up of men with USTA rankings of 3.0-3.5, and would love to add another team with players with rankings of 3.5-4.0. Contact Frank Nelson (Captain) at 904-567-6717, or email him at FrankNelsonHomeSales@gmail.com for more information on joining the team.



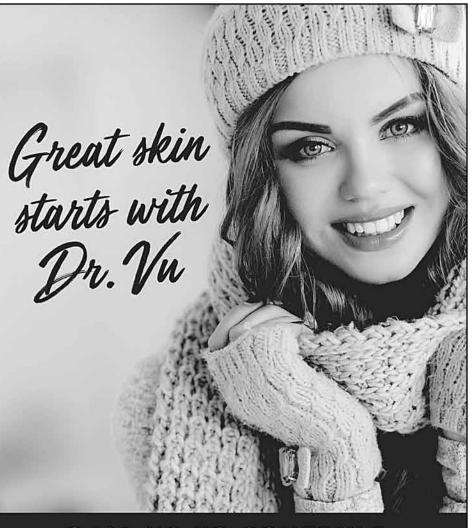
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A New Year, A New Tennis/Pickleball Social...With Another Twist

Help Support The St. Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry

By Kathy Moss, Palencia Pickleball/Tennis Advisory Committee

This will be year Number 4 that the Palencia Pickleball/Tennis Advisory Community along with Tennis Director, Tom Salmon, come together in the New Year to help neighbors who rely on St. Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry. With the holidays winding down the need for helping those who are struggling in our communities continues. Established in 1991, St. Johns Food Pantry offers emergency food assistance, free of charge, to St. Johns County residents who meet qualification guidelines. As we continue to responsi-

bly navigate the challenges of Covid 19, the Pantry is especially grateful for any donations we can provide.

Because of the continued spread of the Coronavirus, and out of respect for social distancing and not gathering in large groups, we will NOT get together this year to play our traditional Tennis/ Pickleball Social.

The Committee, however, WILL still be collecting food and money donations that greatly benefit St. Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry directly.

menical Food Pantry directly.

There will be a large box, labeled for collections, placed in the Tennis Pro Shop and also at the Fitness Center until Friday, January 15, 2021. We ask that ALL players and non-players



please make a donation. The Pantry is grateful for any of our residents who would like to contribute to this muchneeded cause.

Suggested donations include: juice, rice, soup, cereal, pasta, canned vegetables/fruit, canned ham, canned spam, Vienna sausages, etc.

The Pantry can purchase food at a big discount so a \$5.00 donation will buy a lot more food than retail prices.

Also, for those who might travel and collect complimentary shampoos/washes, these items are in need.

Any monetary donations can be left at the Tennis Pro Shop. Contact Tom Salmon at 904-825-4012 or tom.salmon@fsresidential.com.

Nease Cheerleaders Heading To Orlando UCA Competition



The Nease Competitive Cheerleading Team has received a bid to enter the Universal Cheerleaders Association 2021 National High School Cheerleading Championship competition in Orlando. Directed by Coach Alaina Porcellini, the cheerleaders, made up of freshman through seniors at Nease High School, are looking forward to the challenge. The UCA National High School Cheerleading Championship is the most prestigious high school championship in the country, nationally televised on ESPN each year. In 2020, the association had the honor of hosting over 20,000 athletes and 950 teams at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando in celebration of the 40th year of NHSCC.

Palencia Celebrates 2020 Holiday Season



Despite the social distancing required due to COVID 19, Palencia residents came out with holiday spirit in their hearts for the 2020 Palencia Christmas tree lighting. The merriment was as bright as the 30 ft. tree sparkling with hundreds of lights, and the littlest Palencia residents got a chance to talk to Santa and give him their list.

This year Palencia hosted a contactless Santa experience for the kids. Santa was nestled a safe distance away and wore a plastic shield to protect his face. While kids were not able to sit on Santa's knee. they did get to ask the jolly old elf for that perfect gift.





joy of a Palencia Christmas brings us closer to each other. and these youngsters were no exception. The traditional Palencia holiday festivities were a nice, brief distraction from the pandemic.







A huge crowd gathered on Market Street to enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides through Palencia, their favorite food trucks and the holiday joyfulness that comes with the season. Wishing you hope, peace and lots of Christmas cookies.



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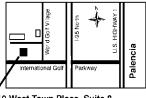


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Coquina Classic Brings Love And Peace To The Golf Course

By Joanne Gage, President Women's Golf Association of Palencia joannegage@rocketmail.com

It was a scene right out of Woodstock as the Palencia WGA ladies and their guests teed up for the 2020 Coquina Classic, our group's annual two-day member guest tournament. After all, it is 2020 and the theme of Peace, Love and Golf just seemed to be perfect for a year that has brought its share of anxiety, loneliness and chaos.



Sandy Frambes (with headband) and her partner, Sherry Jude rocked their inner hippie on Thursday night.



Sherry and Sandy took top prize as Low

It was all fun and frivolity on Thursday night, November 12th as the players and their guests convened for some fun outdoor golf games, including pitching marshmallows and putting blindfolded. We were thrilled to have guests from around the country, including Massa-



Coquina Classic co-chairs Maria Cavanaugh and Sandy Frambes.

chusetts, Colorado, and Texas, to name a few states, as well as guests from many other clubs in North Florida. The rainy weather cleared just in time for our evening event and we were able to enjoy the outdoors, including being entertained with classic 60's and 70's hits by a band.

This social event was a great way for the 48 players to get to know one another and to have some fun before the serious business of competition began. And we saw quite a bit of tie-dyed apparel and lots of peace signs too!

Friday morning offered a very dewy golf course at the start but all of the ladies got down to business, playing a scramble format for the first nine holes and a Pinehurst alternate shot for the second nine. If you don't think that playing alternate shots with one's partner doesn't take some serious strategizing, you have another think coming. I'm not sure how much peace there was on the course, but there was plenty of love and fun to go around. Play was followed by lunch where our theme continued with decorations by Darlene Adams, who even sewed tie dyed napkins for the tables. Now that's a labor of love!

Saturday brought more sunshine and the format for the day was best ball of two players. By Saturday, all playing jitters were gone, relationships had

Continued On Page 7







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Coquina Classic Brings Love And Peace To The Golf Course

Continued From Page 6

formed and everyone just went out and enjoyed the congenial atmosphere. Awards were presented for top gross and net pairs for each of the four flights and then top awards for low net and low gross. Chris McCoy and her guest, Eva Pazan took the prize for Overall Low Net and the Award for Overall Gross went to Sandy Frambes and her guest, Sherry Jude.

And speaking of Sandy Frambes, she cochaired the event along with Maria Cavanaugh. An unbelievable amount planning and execution of

hat is off to these two ladies who started the planning back in June. Their attention to detail was very apparent from the goodie bags, to the printed program and the snazzy golf vests that each player re-

We also need to recognize our great corporate sponsors. Our title sponsor was Bozard Lincoln who was extremely generous with financial support and with personnel being present on both days of the tournament. We truly couldn't have done it without Bozard. Our Gold Sponsor was Golf Carts of St. Augustine, a consistent supporter of our WGA. Also very important to our success were our Hole Sponsors, Crickett Huff, Realtor, Jim White Insurance, Palencia Dental,



of work goes into the Palencia Golf Professional, Matt Carroll, right, congratulates Staci Luttropp after she sunk a putt blindfolded. this event and my (golf) Looking on is her tournament partner, Linda Humpal.

Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine, and Craig Dewhurst, State Farm.

We would be extremely remiss if we didn't acknowledge the support of the Palencia Club staff. It was all hands on deck for the weekend from top management, food and beverage and banquet staff, grounds crew and especially the golf professionals. They worked tirelessly with us to make the event fun and high quality. All of the WGA ladies felt proud of our club and our dedicated staff. We definitely felt the love.

To learn more about the Palencia WGA, visit www.PalenciaClub.com and click on Women's Golf Association email membership.palenciawga@ gmail.com

CDC Report: "COVID-19 Most Commonly Spreads During Close Contact"

People who are physically near (within 6 feet) a person with COVID-19 or have direct contact with that person are at greatest risk of infection. When people with COVID-19 talk, cough, sneeze, sing, or breathe they produce respiratory droplets. These droplets can range in size from larger droplets (some of which are visible) to smaller droplets. Small droplets can also form particles when they dry very quickly in the airstream. Infections occur mainly through exposure to respiratory droplets when a person is in close contact with someone who has COVID-19. Respiratory droplets cause infection when they are inhaled or deposited on mucous A mask protects membranes, such as those that line the inside of the nose and mouth.



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6th Annual Pirate 5K And Fun Run January 23rd

By Tiffany Trivedi, Palencia Resident **Palencia Elementary PTO**

It's time for the 6th Annual Pirate 5K and Fun Run hosted by the Palencia Ele-mentary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). This exciting fundraiser and community event will take place January 23, 2021 at the Palencia Club. It's a festive morning with music and cheering as the racers take their marks, followed by a beautiful run through the tree-canopied Palencia neighborhood. W i t h

many parents, teachers students alike hoping that 2021 will bring more normalcy and community events, the PTO is hoping to have an amazing turn Race out. Chair Heath-Carbone er shared that "we are thrilled that after a year of cancellations. that the Pirate

5K will be going forward. The race will be socially distant with staggered start times and extra precautions taken to ensure runner safety. Additionally, the 5K race is a qualifier for the Gate River Run and each 5K participant gets a pirate race medal for finishing. Prizes are also given for the top three finishers for both females and males for 5K overall and for nine different age categories, as well. The finale of the 1 mile fun run on Promenade Pointe Dr. is a fan favorite for both kids and families. We are excited to start 2021 off on the right foot and hope many in our community will come out and participate in this fantastic race that benefits Palencia Elementary School.

While the PTO hopes that this event will spread cheer and community support, the funds raised are going towards a wonderful cause as well. All proceeds from this event will go toward increased classroom storage systems and outdoor educational spaces. Both of these are much needed with the new challenges



Last year's Pirate 5K brought out Palencia's best, left to right, Todd Rebella, Sophia Rebella, Jeff Laconte and Heather Rebella.



A scene from the last Pirate 5K Run. Each race participant gets a pirate race medal for finishing.

teachers are facing in the classroom. Each teacher has had to reconfigure their classrooms to be in alignment with CDC guidelines as well as many teachers looking for safe locations outside to hold lessons and activities. We hope that this fundraiser will give our teachers the opportunity to do just that.

In terms of safety precautions for race day, the PTO is ensuring community health remains a top priority. In consultation with city officials and the local health department, runners can participate virtually or in-person. The virtual 5K option allows runners to receive their packets in the mail and complete the run at any location of their choice. Runners may switch to the virtual 5K option for any reason, at no extra cost to the participant. Should the traditional 5K be cancelled for any reason, runners may choose to switch to the virtual race option or donate their registration fee, however no refunds will be issued. The race protocols will adhere to local or-

Continued On Page 9

6th Annual Pirate 5K And Fun Run

Continued From Page 8

dinances, including any social distancing guidelines that may be in effect. Regarding the in person race, runners will begin in staggered waves of up to 50 people every 10 minutes.

Runners and walkers alike are encouraged to come out and support our local school. Whether you wish to participate virtually or prefer the camaraderie of running with fellow classmates and neighbors, the PTO appreciates and welcomes the community support. If you would like to learn more about the race, please visit the website at www. thepirate5k.com.



The Pirate 5k and Fun Run brought out many parents, teachers and, of course, students.

First Coast Card Club And Newcomers Club

First Coast Florida Lifestyles Newcomers Recreation Club: Cards And Games Events

Sunday, January 3rd. Dunkin Donuts at the Shoppes at Murabella, St. Augustine. Arrival: 2 p.m. Cards Begin: 2:15 p.m. No Food On Card Playing Tables. Please eat prior or after card play. Masks worn.

Sunday, January 17th. Lunch/ Cards. Lunch at Gator's Dockside Restaurant, St. Augustine. Last business in Dollar General Plaza adjacent Shoppes at Murabella Plaza. Arrival: 1:15 p.m. Cards Begin: Approx. 2:15 p.m. Masks worn.

Sunday, January 31st. Dunkin Donuts at the Shoppes at Murabella, St. Augustine. Arrival: 2 p.m. Cards Begin: 2:15 p.m. Masks worn. No food on card playing tables. Please eat prior or after card play. Masks worn.

Please contact our Club organizers for further information and to RSVP in advance: 904-829-0643. Phone calls welcome. No texts. Our Club is open to both Men/Women. Smoke/Drug free club.

St. Augustine Travel Club

As you already are aware, we have not convened our meetings at the library due to the coronavirus; and having asked the library staff, there is no commitment as to when our Travel Club gatherings will resume. We will issue an email to everyone when we will be able to resume. In the meantime, please keep yourselves safe; and let's all do the best we can under these challenging times. We look forward to seeing you back. Happy New Year 2021 and may it be a much, much healthier and happy one. We are all looking so forward to normalcy. Peter Dytrych, 904 797-3736.

First Coast Florida Lifestyles Newcomers Recreation Club: Activities And Events

Saturday, January 2nd. Outdoors. Muster Historic Event at Fort Mose-Reenactors. Exhibits. 15 Ft. Mose Trail, St. Augustine. Arrival: 10 a.m. Free. Inside Exhibits: \$2. Masks worn.

Saturday, January 9th. Clifford Mansion Home & Citrus Museum. Two tours. Eustis, FL. Arrival: 12:45 p.m. Opens 1 p.m. Free. Masks worn.

Tuesday, January 12th. Outdoors. Guided Bird Watch Walk at Fort Mose. St. Augustine. Arrival: 7:45a.m. Tour: 8a.m.-10a.m. Park will not be open on this day. Free.

Saturday, January 23rd. Indoor/ Outdoor Big Farm plus Walking Tour-18 Stops/Lunch. Newberry, FL-Alachua County. Arrival: 10a.m. Cost: \$5 per car.

Please contact our Club organizers for further information and to RSVP in advance: 904-814-9612. Phone calls welcome. Texts welcome. Open to both Men/Women. Smoke/Drug free club.



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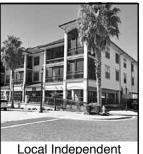
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Ask A Certified Master Gardener

Winter Landscape **Protection**

By Norie Flowers, Palencia Resident norie.flowers@outlook.com

gardening questions on which you

so please email me at norie.flow-

ers@outlook.com and I will answer

you immediately. If you would like

an in-depth article written on a

topic you feel would be of interest

of my advice is based on research

from both the University of Florida

Institute for Food and Agricultural

Winter temperatures in Florida can get low enough to damage tropical, subtropical, and even occasionally temperate plants, especially if they're not acclimated to lower temperatures

Plants become acclimated by gradual decreases in temperature over a period of time. Sudden freezes like the one we recently experience in early December, and after a period of warm weather. often do more damage to plants than a freeze during a period of cold weather. Cold injury to plants in containers is common. Do you have landscape and/or

Acclimatization, protection and proper post-freeze pruning can help your plants survive a freezing spell or harsh winter season.

Freezes are characterized in two ways: either radiational or advective.

Radiational freeze, or frost, occurs on calm, clear nights County Extension Center. when heat radiates

from the surface of plants. These surfaces can become colder than the air above them due to rapid loss of heat or longwave radiation. When the air is moist, a radiant freeze results in deposits of ice or frost. Plant damage from a radiational freeze can be minimized by reducing heat loss from plant and soil surfaces - covering your plants. Radiational freeze is a slower progression than advective freeze.

Advective freeze is defined by and occurs when a cold air mass moves in rapidly causing a sudden drop in temperature, or simply a windy freeze. While windy conditions are normal during advective freezes, it is more difficult to protect plants under this condition as the wind speed brings on immediate cold, dry air that destroys plant tissue. Advective freezes are a major concern for fruit growers in the state and cause more reduction in the fruit supply than any other factor.

The ability of plants to withstand a freeze depends on both temperature fluctuations and day lengths prior to the event. A gradual decrease in temperature helps acclimate most plants to cold. That is why a sudden temperature decrease in late fall or early winter usually results in more damage than the same low temperature in January or February. Leaf and stem tissue will not survive ice formation inside the cells (resulting from a rapid freeze), but many plants can adapt to ice formation between cells. Short durations of warmer temperatures in midwinter can also deacclimate some plants, resulting in early bud break, flowering, and susceptibility to freeze injury.

One type of winter injury is plant desiccation or drying out. would like help? I live in Palencia, This is characterized by marginal or leaf tip burn in mild cases and totally brown leaves in severe cases. Desiccation occurs when dry to all of us, please let me know. All winds and solar radiation result in the loss of more water from the leaves than can be Sciences (IFAS) and the St. Johns absorbed and/or transported by a cold root

system. Root systems in the landscape are seldom frozen in Florida, but the soil in small containers can be frozen easily with several hours of cold temperatures.

Because we are in tropical Florida, we often understandably desire a tropical appearance in our landscapes, but it is important to remember the hardiness zone number 9 we live in, and not purchase plants beyond their northern limit. If you elect to plant more tropical plants, one option would be to plant them along with cold hardy plants in your landscape in the event that we have a prolonged freeze, to ensure that part of your landscape will do fine.

Temperatures can also fluctuate within a landscape due to microclimates created by tree canopy, proximity to structures and other factors. You can identify these microclimates in your landscape for cold-sensitive plants. Poorly drained areas, for example, result in weak, shallow roots that are susceptible to cold injury.

Watering landscape plants before a **Continued On Page 13**





Cleaning Out Your Closet?

Know What To Keep & What To Throw Out

By Maria Alejandra Rivera, Palencia Resident www.yourorganizingstudio.com

You open your closet to find something to wear, and you feel like it is full of clothes that don't fit, or just don't want to wear anymore. The solution is simple: get rid of them. Here are my best

tips and closet cleaning guidelines on what to keep and what to toss:

- 1. Easy steps first. You can donate clothes that don't fit you, although you were hoping to fit into them one day. Replace those items with clothes that make you feel comfortable and confident now.
- 2. Discard anything that's stained, torn, or ripped. Yes, please, that includes your un-matching socks!
- 3. Hand-me-downs that you never loved. Things that we inherit from family members, that you feel obligated to keep.
- 4. Of course, any worn-out sneakers and uncomfortable shoes.
- 5. Have you worn it in the last year? If not, it goes straight to the toss/donate/ sell pile. Be honest with yourself; if you haven't worn it in a year, even with tags on, you never will. Of course, there are exceptions: formal dresses, sentimental pieces like your college jacket, etc.

6. Any uncomfortable underwear that you haven't worn and bras too!

7. Please don't wait for it to come "back in style." We all have clothes from 10 years ago, hoping they'll come back.

Well, I did that, and they are just taking up your closet space.

- 8. Make sure you can style everything that you keep. Just make sure you can pair the item with other things in your closet.
- 9. If you are not sure what to do with some pieces, start your 'don't know pile." Make sure to try all those pieces on again before deciding. Don't be afraid to get rid of stuff that you once loved that

no longer serves you.

10. Don't forget to toss any dry cleaner hangers and plastic bags!

I hope you picked up some useful tips on how to purge your closet and decide to tackle it soon! Organizing a closet is not a small task, but for sure, it's one of the most satisfying clean-up projects you can do today.

Need help? We are here for you! If you have questions, call me at (904)



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Winter Landscape Protection

Continued From Page 12

freeze can help protect them. Wet soil will absorb more heat during the day and radiate it during the night.

Plant coverings function well at protecting plants from frost. They need to extend to the ground to trap radiant heat and can be anchored with rocks, bricks, soil, etc. However, be careful when using plastic as this type of cover actually takes heat away from the plant and reduces ventilation.

Examples of good plant coverings include cloth sheets, quilts, or commercial frost cloths. If you have landscape lighting, putting a light under your cover is a simple method of providing heat to ornamental plants in your landscape.

ings and adjacent plantings can all serve

as windbreaks and are especially helpful during advective freezes.

To sum up, plant water requirements should be checked after a freeze, especially after an advective freeze as their roots may be too cold to function normally. After a freeze, just apply water to allow thawing and rehydration to begin.

Tip of the month: Our turf goes into dormancy during winter months. Starting now, if you have not already done so, adjust your irrigation schedule to activate only once a week at most and less frequently if we have rain. Once full dormancy occurs, when your lawn turns completely brown, irrigate at most only once every two weeks. Some homeowners elect to completely turn off lawn ir-

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Transition

Tips from Laura Baugh Certified PGA Teaching Professional The Palencia Golf Club laura@laurabaughgolf.com.

Hello Fellow Golfers, In our monthly series we have previously discussed:

A pre-shot routine A straight left arm to the top of our swing

Establishing the importance of loading right

Now we start the TRANSITION we have loaded the right side, we make the transition and the move toward impact. This move now allows your core to become involved. We start the forward move "in the pocket" this slightly inside move develops power and accuracy.

We must keep our eye on the golf ball and head level because our club head speed is increasing rapidly. By doing this we will be hitting

You've come a long way, I can be of help on this baby! Lady golfer circa 1920.

the back of the ball - remember in golf if we stay down at impact the golf ball will get in the air but if you try to lift the ball at impact the ball stays low - stay down

ball goes high!

During your golf practice or during your golf on the course when you hit a good shot take that moment and even close your eyes and feel what it felt like for you to hit a solid good shot and use those thoughts as keys to repeating that same beautiful action.

This is a lot to digest but they all work together! Take a couple of these thoughts and it will all fall together like a puzzle!

The Transition - If important move, please contact me at Laura@lau-

rabaughgolf.com and set up a lesson.

Newcomers of North St. Johns January Luncheon at La Cocina Restaurant

By Michele Oliver

Newcomers of North Saint Johns (NNSJ) will hold its next member luncheon on Tuesday, January 19th with doors opening at 11:00 a.m. and held at La Cocina International Restaurant in the Castillo Real Hotel, 530 A1A Beach Boulevard, St. Augustine. The event features a presentation on local volunteer opportunities.

Cost for the luncheon and program is \$30 for members. The meeting be-

gins at 11:30 a.m. with luncheon service beginning at 12 noon. All reservations must be received by January 12th.

Following the luncheon Cheryl Freeman, Director of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of St. Johns County, will be our guest speaker. If you are interested in a registration form for the luncheon, NNSJ membership information or upcoming activities, contact Sue Aird at sjaird@comcast.net.

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The Happy Time

Ox Replaces Year Of The Rat

By Wrigley Steck A Dog About Town In Palencia's Village

That time of the year again. I think everyone is smiling but it's hard to tell with their faces all covered.

They built the tree with the lights, and the candle holder on the grass where we walk.

All the Palencians were eating, drinking and making joyful noises.

The little people rode in the boxes behind the pulling animals. Guess they needed to rest from all the joyfulness.

I smelled a strange difference, this year. It almost seemed like something was a little different than in the past. I think this was a tough year. There weren't many strange faces in the crowd, family faces from afar.

This coming year is the year of the metal Ox.

"That means if you work hard, you will be rewarded!" So says my friend, the Chow Chow.

This year was the Rat, and I think it really was! So, I'll try to be a good Doodle and hopefully, we'll all forget about the Rat!

Make 2021 the best year yet.

Stay healthy and have a woof-fer-full 2021!



"Why did Santa Claus have three gardens?" So he could hoe, hoe, hoe!

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Florida Native Trees

By Heather Fritz, Palencia Resident Monster Tree Service 904-719-8499

Thinking about adding a tree to your landscape? Go native! Florida has several attractive, hardy species of differing sizes. From small trees like redbuds to the majestic live oak, there's a Florida native tree for practically any home landscape.

If you're looking for small trees, consider the redbud. In Central and North Florida, it puts on an amazing show each







spring with a beautiful display of pink flowers. The medium-to-large red maple ushers in spring with red flowers and winged seeds.

As far as large trees go, the bald cypress will do well near water or on drier land throughout the state. The live oak is a majestic native that can also be planted statewide.

Even if a tree is native, make sure you know its soil, light, and other requirements, to ensure its success in your landscape.

When choosing a new tree for your Florida landscape, or deciding whether

to remove a tree, take hurricanes into consideration. One of the best things you can do in your landscape is to plant trees that can withstand hurricane-force winds.

Research conducted by University

of Florida scientists showed that sand live oaks are the most resistant to wind damage. Other good choices include the Southern magnolia, live

oak, crape myrtle, bald cypress, and sabal palm. These trees are less likely to lose limbs or blow over during hurricanes.

Some of the trees with the least wind resistance were sand pine, Chinese elm, water oak, and laurel oak.

Remember that proper planting and care are just as important as tree selection. By making smart choices when you choose and plant new trees, you'll avoid costly damage later.

Source: University of Florida, Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences



Resolve To Enhance Your Relationship In The New Year

By Michael Brown, MSC, LMFT 904-289-2954 www.happycoupleshealthycommunities.com

As a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, I have seen couples grow closer or further apart during COVID-19. The couples that have grown closer have been intentional about enhancing their relationship. Research has shown that if you do not continue to put energy into a relationship, it deteriorates. In truth, you have to put energy into a relationship just to keep it where it is. For it to improve, you have to put even more energy into it. Therefore, I want to suggest that, in this New Year, you resolve to enhance your relationship and be intentional about putting more energy into it.

A good way to enhance your relationship would be to follow Dr. John Gottman's Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work (2009, 2015). These principles are based on Dr. Gottman's over 40 years of research on relationships and multidimensional and extensive observation of over 3000 couples.

The first of John Gottman's Seven Principles is Enhance Your Love Maps. Love Maps are that part of the brain where you store all the relevant information about your partner, i.e. their likes and dislikes, their hopes and dreams, their triumphs and traumas, etc. It is what we usually learn and share when we are dating or courting someone, and what we need to continue to learn and share when we are in a long-term relationship. We can enhance our Love Maps by continuing to ask each other open-ended questions about our likes and dislikes, hopes and dreams, etc.

The second of John Gottman's Seven Principles is Nurture Your Fondness and Admiration. This is the friendship basis of a relationship. According Gottman, "Fondness and admiration are two of the most crucial elements in a rewarding and long-lasting relationship" (Gottman & Silver, 1999, 2015). The Masters of Relationship are truly fond of and admire each other and take time to nurture their fondness and admiration.

The third of John Gottman's Seven Principles Turn Toward Each Other Instead of Away. In a relationship, each partner makes "bids" for attention, affection, humor, or support. We can respond by turning towards those bids or turning away. According to Gottman, "Turning towards is the basis of emotional connection, romance, passion, and a good sex life" (Gottman & Silver, 1999, 2015). By turning towards, we establish what John Gottman calls "the Emotional Bank Account," putting good will in the bank for a rainy day.

The fourth of John Gottman's Seven

The fourth of John Gottman's Seven Principles is Let Your Partner Influence You. Remember, to have influence in a relationship, you must be willing to be influenced and to share power. This is especially important for men. According to John Gottman's research: "When a man is not willing to share power with his partner, there is an 81 percent probability that his marriage will self-destruct" (Gottman & Silver, 1999, 2015).

The fifth of John Gottman's Seven Principles is Solve Your Solvable Problems. All couples have problems. According to Gottman, there are two types of problems: solvable and perpetual problems. As the name suggests, solvable problems can be resolved. However, just because a problem is solvable doesn't mean that it gets resolved. If a couple doesn't possess effective techniques for conquering a solvable problem, it can cause excessive tension. John Gottman offers an approach to conflict resolution based on his research into what goes right when emotionally intelligent couples handle a disagreement. The approach entails the following steps: (1) Soften your start-up, (2) Learn to make and receive repair attempts, (3) Soothe yourself and each other, (4) Compromise, and (5) Process any grievances so that they don't linger.

The sixth of John Gottman's Seven Principles is Overcome Gridlock. The second (and most predominant) type of problems are gridlocked, perpetual problems. These are the problems that you argue about again and again and where you hurt each other and feel like you are getting nowhere. According to Gottman: "The goal in ending gridlock is not to solve the problem, but rather to move from gridlock to dialogue. The gridlock conflict will probably always be a perpetual issue in your marriage, but one day you will be able to talk about it without hurting each other. You will learn to live with the problem" (Gottman & Silver, 1999, 2015). How can you move from gridlock to dialogue? Dr. Gottman suggests four steps: (1) Explore the dream(s) behind the conflict, (2) Soothe yourself and each other, (3) Reach a temporary compromise, and (4)

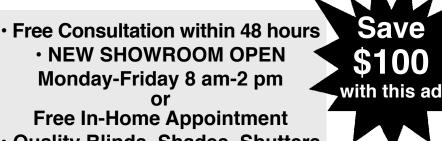
Say "Thank You."

The last of John Gottman's Seven Principles is Create Shared Meaning. We are all philosophers, looking for meaning in life and our relationships. According to Gottman: "Marriage isn't about just raising kids, splitting chores, and making love. It can also have a spiritual dimension that has to do with creating an inner life together—a culture rich with symbols and rituals, and an appreciation for your roles and goals that link you, that lead you to understand what it means

Continued On Page 18



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Feeling Off?

By Jocelyn Babcock PT, DPT First Coast Rehabilitation (904) 829-3411 or (904) 907-1122

Your balance system is much like a choir: a combination of vision, proprioception (your sense of where your limbs are in space) and the vestibular system (information from the inner ear). Information from your eyes, your brain, and your vestibular system integrates to keep you upright. This helps you navigate through your environment, gauging how far you are from objects and preventing you from falling. When one part is out of tune, the others can usually compensate.

Balance can be affected by a decrease in strength, a more sedentary lifestyle, vestibular impairments, vision changes, decreased sensation or proprioception, and dizziness. A physical therapist can assess the cause and develop a plan to get you back to the things you love to do, safely. Having good balance and motor planning is important in keeping independent and healthy longer.

Often as people age, vision can get weaker, mobility can lessen, both effecting balance, putting people at an increased risk for falling. Out of fear of falling, many people stop doing their preferred activities or favorite past-times, like walking on the beach or playing golf.

Another part of balance is how we receive information from sensors in our joints and muscles. This is called proprioception. This information tells us how high we need to lift out feet in order to clear the floor with each step. Proprioception can be hindered by muscles and joint tightness but can be re-trained with stretching and exercise.

A third component of balance comes from the Vestibular system, which is in the inner ear. Vestibular Dysfunction is fairly common and may be the reason for poor balance. Very small crystals in the ear tell your brain which way is up regardless of position. Sometimes these crystals become displaced, provide faulty information, and often results in vertigo. Vestibular Dysfunction may also be caused by decreased input from the nerves of the inner ear. In either case, a faulty vestibular system may distort a sense of uprightness resulting in a higher risk for falls. Simple tests performed by your physician or physical therapist can tell you right away if your vestibular system is working properly. Treatment may consist of specific exercises to retrain the inner ear, balance and proprioception training, and treatments designed to relocate displaced crystrals (otocona).

Falls are the leading cause of injury in people over 65 years old. If loss of balance, fear of falling or dizziness is a concern, a vestibular trained therapist can help decrease the symptoms by assessing the crystals in your inner ear and helping reposition them through specific maneuvers/exercises.

If you are falling, have come close to falling, have a fear of falling or just wondering if you can improve your balance, First Coast Rehab has therapists that can help and providing free balance screenings at 209 Blackford Way on Wednesday, Jan 13, 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Please call for a time slot (904) 907-

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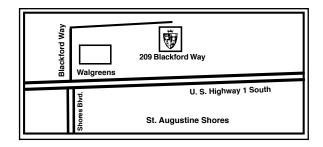


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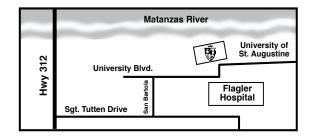
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For a list of services as well as info sessions (online and inhouse) see firstcoastrehab.com



Non-Edible Dangers For Your Pet

By Dr. Jacob Vencil, Veterinarian Palencia Pet Clinic 904-824-1622

Pets, especially dogs, will often eat non-edible items. Some non-edible items in your house or yard that may be dangerous for your pet include:

- Antifreeze
- Cocoa mulch
- Fabric softener sheets
- Insecticides and pesticides (even flea and tick products for dogs can be dangerous, or possibly life-threatening, if used on cats or other animals)
 - Lawn fertilizers and weed killers
 - Liquid potpourriMothballs

 - Paints and solvents
 - Rat and mouse bait
- Various household cleaners (including bleach and toilet bowl cleaners)
 - Swimming pool chemicals
- Salt dough Christmas tree ornaments and play dough

Plants and Flowers

Threats to your pet's health can also come from outside the home. Some plants and flowers can be harmful if your pet eats them. Below is a list of the more common plants and flowers that may be dangerous for your pet:

- Almond, apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach, and plum trees and shrubs
 - Aloe Vera
 - Amaryllis
 - Caster Bean
 - Chrysanthemum • Cyclamen
 - Corn Plant
 - Daphne
 - Daylily and True Lily
 - Dogbane
 - English Ivy

- Foxglove
- Gloriosa Lily
- Golden Pothos
- Hibiscus
- Hyacinth and Tulip (especially the bulbs)
 - Hydrangea
 - Kalanchoe
 - Lily-of-the-Valley
 - Mother-in-Law Tongue
 - Mountain Laurel
- Narcissus, Daffodil, Paperwhite, and Jonquil
 - Oleander
 - Peace Lily
 - Philodendron
 - Poinsettia
 - Rhododendron and Azalea
 - Rosary Pea
 - Sago Palm
 - Schefflera
 - Stinging Nettle
 - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Plant

Yew Bush

The potentially dangerous items listed above can vary in how toxic they are to pets. Some may be only mildly toxic while others may cause severe illness or even death. Also, the degree of toxicity often depends on several factors, such as the type of animal (cat, dog, or other species) that ingested the item; the amount ingested; and, for plants, the part ingested (bulb, leaf, or flower).

Act Quickly

If you think your pet has eaten something potentially dangerous, call your veterinarian or a pet poison control center right away.

Enhance Your Relationship Continued From Page 16

to be part of the family you have become" (Gottman & Silver, 1999, 2015).

Remember that even making just a small and gentle shift in the trajectory of your relationship can have a dramatic, positive effect over time. The catch of course, is that you have to build on the change and keep it going. Improving your relationship is a kind of journey. Like all voyages, it involves suspending disbelief, taking one small step, and then seeing where you are and taking the next step.

Reference: Gottman, J., & Silver, N.

(1999, 2015). The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work. NY, NY: Three Rivers.

Michael Brown is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Certified Gottman Therapist, Couples Workshop Leader, and Clinical Trainer in private practice in Bartram Park. He is currently providing both in-office and secure video appointments. If you would like to learn more about the Seven Principles or are interested in couples or family therapy, contact Michael at 904-289-2954 or visit www.happycoupleshealthycommunities.com.



Mike Weitz

With cooler temperatures many of you may have seen this light come up on your dash board. This is a common issue during this time of year as the cooler temperatures condense the air in your tires

causing a low pressure indicator. If you see this light come on, do not hesitate to come on in to Feldman Auto Repair and have us check your tires. If they are low due to cooler weather we will add air but it is also important to make sure there are no punctures in the tire as well. Safety first!

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2021: Living In A Post-Vaccine World

By Rev. Michael Legaspi, Associate Pastor The Village Church 4229 Pacetti Rd., World Golf Village

It seems that every one of us has a COVID 19 memory from 2020. Most of the people I talk to can name something bad that has happened to them or their families. Now as we enter a long awaited new year of 2021, we all are looking for a good year and even a return to normal. While I am convinced that returning to normal will be next to impossible, I am seeking the good news of a COVID vaccine in hopes of saving lives and offering us a sense of peace in an unstable society. But what will life look like in a post vaccine era?

Moving in to a modern era where a vaccine is available to a pandemic that has affected every level of our society and in the world will be far from nor-

mal. It too will affect our ideologies, economy, our healthcare, our socializing, mental health and our Spiritual lives. What future days look like will be worth projecting. I am not a politician or even a sociologist, but as a pastor, I care for the future of our community, families and children and each of our spiritual well-being.

Here's a preview of post-vaccine life, especially older Americans:

Telemed will become a more familial word

and occasion. More and more this kind of virtual consultation between patients and doctors will be common place. According to the Pew Research Center, only 62% of people over 75 use the internet — and fewer than 28% are comfortable with social media time to learn telemed. Drugstores will do more in-store vaccinations. To avoid the germs in doctors' offices, patients will prefer to go to drugstores for regular vaccinations such as flu shots.

Because of so many COVID-19 deaths in nursing homes, more seniors will leave assisted living facilities and nursing homes to move in with their families, it may be common place for

families to make accommodations for their loved ones to come to their homes. Home delivery of almost everything will become the norm for older Americans and in-person shopping will become much less common.

much less common.

Gatherings will continue to make adjustments. Whenever or wherever large families gather, people exhibiting COVID-like symptoms may not be welcomed under any circumstances. Public restrooms will need to be revamped. For germ avoidance, the need is increasing to get no-touch toilets, urinals, sinks and entrances/exits. Many will consider the public restroom a most compromised place in considering Covid 19.

When it comes to our Spiritual lives

I am on guard. These continuous adjustments and lack of community will have an impact. Many people are struggling with ways to uplift their spirits and yet others are taking the opportunity to find new ways. We are used to a myriad of activities even in our spiritual lives. We have Bible study groups, prayer, accountability, recovery groups and the list goes on and on.

The changes to our socializing must be seen

as opportunities rather than diminishing our Spiritual lives. Worship in your daily routines. Get as much spiritual input as you can especially with online services. Listen to pod casts. Start small by volunteering and reaching out. Call a friend. Gather in online groups. Build your praying with others on the phone. Shine your light on others that they may pass it along to others struggling to find personal peace in the hardships they endure.

"Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." -Romans 8:35-37.





"INTERDENOMINATIONAL"
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Senior Pastor Alan J. Liphart, M. Div. Associate Pastor Michael Legaspi, M.A. Discipleship Pastor Aaron Scott Long

Confession

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West on International Golf Drive to State Road 16 and turn right. Go one mile to church on right.

Happy New Year!

Join us as we...
Learn from our past
Live in the present and
Celebrate the future!



"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" Hebrews 13:8



Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church 5950 State Road 16 St. Augustine, FL 32092 904-824-8688

> Father Guy Noonan Pastor

How much life insurance do I need?

Is the life insurance I have through work enough? I bought life insurance a long time ago, do I need more now? These are common questions people have about life insurance, and the answers are different for everyone. As an individual, you have your own unique needs and dreams for the future, and you have your own unique family situation. State Farm Agent Craig Dewhurst helps a lot of people with these kinds of questions and he's here to offer some good insights into how to determine your unique life insurance needs.

Figuring out how much life insurance you need starts with looking at what and who you want to protect, and that often depends on what life stage you're in.

If you're newly married or a young parent, your income may be what you primarily need to protect. So if something happened to you, you could leave enough behind to help your spouse or family replace the lost income for a certain amount of time.

If your family is growing and you've purchased or upgraded your home, you may need to add additional coverage for some of your bigger assets. You might also be thinking about protecting your children's future education needs.

If you're going through a divorce, there are several factors to consider, especially if you have children.

If you're nearing retirement, you may start thinking about what your spouse would need to live comfortably if they live longer than you.

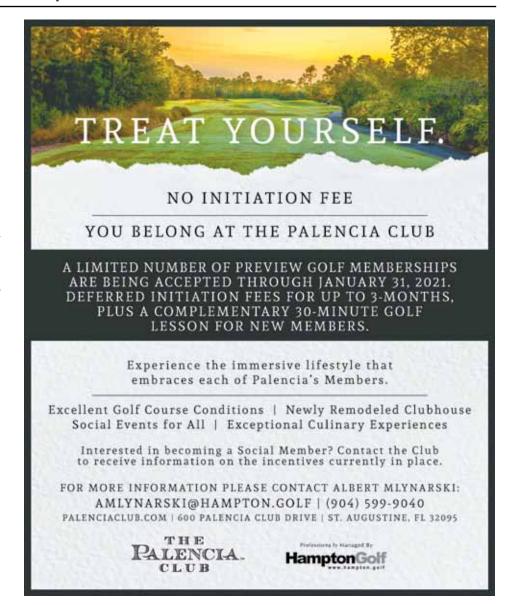
Craig helps customers look at all of these factors and more, such as their income, family size, home's value, their debt, and their business if they own one. If they have children, he can help customers consider everything from basic costs like food and clothes, to future costs like a college education. "It comes down to how much your family might need, and for how long, to continue to live comfortably, if you were no longer there to help support them financially."

Many people who have life insurance through work assume that will be plenty for their family to live on. But as Craig puts it, "Many people don't do a needs analysis with their work coverage. They see the number and feel secure with it, but they've never sat down and looked at the numbers to see if they're even in the ballpark. For some people, it is enough, but for many people I've talked to, they find they need more."

So what if you've done an analysis of your needs, only to find out the premium isn't something you're able to afford right now? Craig describes it as a balance, and an ever-evolving conversation. "When we calculate proper coverage, we balance their budget with their needs. Budget is very important, so we start with helping customers find a solution that makes the most sense for them based on what they feel they can afford, while still feeling secure in their protection. We look at term versus whole life, things like that."

"Then, as their income and liability grow over time, they have more to protect but also more ability to afford more coverage. My team and I follow up with these customers on a regular basis so we can help them stay updated."

For help figuring out your own life insurance needs and to talk through your options, talk to your Palencia neighbor and local State Farm Agent Craig Dewhurst today at 904-940-9740.





Help protect your family's future.

Craig Dewhurst, 20 Year Agent & Palencia Resident

315 W. Town Place, Suite 4, St Augustine

www.CraigDewhurst.com

2 904-940-9740

☑ Craig@CraigDewhurst.com

Life won't always go as planned. That's why there's life insurance. It can help you protect your family's future no matter what happens. Call me today.

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