



The Hybrid Sportsman 38 can run on electricity (lower left photo) at low speeds or diesel engines (lower right) at faster speeds.



INNOVATION

21st Century Makeover

Huckins Yacht, a third-generation family-owned custom yacht manufacturer in Jacksonville, has begun building a hybrid prototype. The Hybrid Sportsman 38 couples the design of the company's 1936 Sportsman with the option of operating with diesel or electric motors.

"With the Hybrid Sportsman 38, you can run on electricity at slow speed, or you can go fast on diesel engines," says owner **Cindy Purcell**, whose grandfather started the business.

The boat will travel at 7 knots for two hours on battery power, and at 40 knots on diesel power. The electric motors



Cindy Purcell

are fueled by 18 lithium iron phosphate batteries rather than ion batteries. The iron phosphate batteries, says Sara Gielow, marketing and brokerage specialist at Huckins, do not catch fire — "a very important point."

The stanchion and cleat design for the boat are from the original 1936 Sportsman, and the large windows are a Huckins yacht trademark, but Purcell says the design has been modernized with the latest electronic equipment and a full galley.

Purcell expects the yacht will sell for about \$1.3 million.

BANKING

► **Community First** has renewed its lease with the **University of North Florida**. The credit union has also partnered with the school's consumer behavior class to help design the campus-based credit union branch and to create a marketing campaign to attract student customers.

REAL ESTATE

► Jacksonville City Council voted 18-1 to allow the 133-unit **Park Place apartment complex** in the San Marco neighborhood to proceed. Since the project was announced in fall 2019, some residents have opposed the planned number of units and height, which exceeds the 35-foot maximum set by a zoning overlay. ► An affiliate of Georgia-based ShareMD has purchased the 22-story **One Call building** in downtown Jacksonville for \$67 million. The former Prudential Building was constructed in 1955. ► The city of Jacksonville is offering GNP Development \$3 million in incentives to redevelop the site of the **former Jewish community center** in the Springfield neighborhood near downtown. The proposed \$14.8 million development includes 78 residential units and 8,000 square feet of commercial or office space.

ENERGY

► Standard & Poor's Global Ratings downgraded **Jacksonville Electric Authority's water and sewer bonds** from AAA to AA+ in February, citing "uncertainty surrounding transparency and independence of both senior management and the board of directors." The rating on JEA's \$224 million in subordinate revenue bonds fell from AA+ to AA. ► Gov. Ron DeSantis has awarded **Green Cove Springs** \$250,000 through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund.