

# Ponte Vedra Recorder



August 16, 2018  
Volume 47, No. 84  
75 cents

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PonteVedraRecorder.com



Participants of the Greatest Exchange, a local cultural exchange program for college-age women from Kazakhstan, gather with nonprofit founder Kelly Ray (back row, third from right) Friday, Aug. 10 at an event held at Waypoint Church in Nocatee to celebrate the end of their experience on the First Coast. **Read page 11 for more.**

Photo by Samantha Logue

First Coast Register  
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Love Your Smile

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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. Email submissions to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published in the paper, on our website or on our social media platforms.

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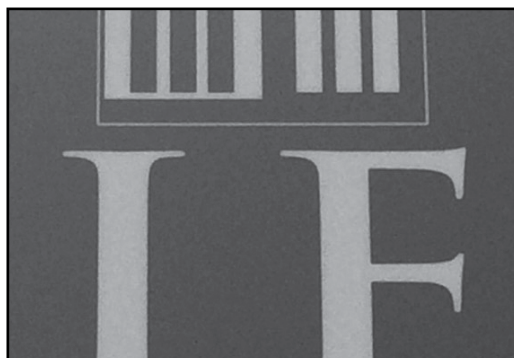


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Also, check out the **Ponte Vedra Recorder** channel on YouTube.

### WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to [jonb@opcfla.com](mailto: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.

Eleven readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Two Dudes Seafood Restaurant PV sign. The winner of the random drawing was **Mary-Ellin Doolittle**. Congratulations, Mary-Ellin — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



### ADOPT A PET

#### CAT(S) OF THE WEEK

Several stray kittens are now at the St. Johns County Pet Center looking for new homes. As they are strays, some traits are unknown at this time. Come visit them today!



#### DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Articus, and I am a 2-year-old dog who was brought to the pet center as a stray. There may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #43496



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**.

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

M	A	D	A	M	A	P	R	B	A	S	T
O	C	U	L	I	E	T	A	C	O	N	T
L	A	M	E	D	R	A	M	R	O	T	O
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T	I	E	R	E	E	D					
F	A	B	R	A	G	E	D	I	C	T	U
I	D	E	S	C	U	B	E	T	H	E	T
N	O	S	E	T	R	I	L	L	A	L	I
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W	A	Y	S	I	D	E	M	O	N	I	T
O	C	E	A	N	A	D	O	G	R	A	T
E	R	A	T	O	S	I	N	L	E	X	I
S	E	R	E	E	G	O	E	D	I	C	T

5	7	2	8	6	9	4	3	1
8	9	6	4	1	3	5	2	7
4	1	3	7	2	5	9	8	6
7	3	1	2	4	6	8	5	9
2	6	5	3	9	8	7	1	4
9	4	8	5	7	1	2	6	3
6	5	9	1	8	7	3	4	2
1	8	4	9	3	2	6	7	5
3	2	7	6	5	4	1	9	8

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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Oceanfront turnkey property features a 2 bedroom/2 bath Condo, along with an adjacent 1 bedroom/1 bath 820 sqft loft. The Loft is unit #208 and it is the perfect space for guests, home office, or to utilize as a rental property. Units must be sold together, and both come fully furnished. **2 bedrooms, 2 baths \$1,450,000**



**Stunning Riverfront Estate**

Jacksonville/ Riverfront  
You will instantly feel as though you have been swept away to a chateau in Normandy, France. Exquisitely designed with extensive custom finishes, this 10,204 square foot tudor-style home is truly a masterpiece in design and built for entertaining. Designed with the materials and attention to detail expected with this architecture. **5 bedroom, 6 full baths, 5 half bath \$7,800,000**



**Sophisticated European Inspired Marsh Landing**

This home offers a light filled open plan for gracious and expansive entertaining. The centerpiece of this unique home is a lush garden courtyard providing a private sanctuary including pond, fountains, and fireplace. This custom home is the perfect setting for everything from casual dinners to large celebrations or simply unwinding with a book at the end of the day. **4 bedroom and 4.5 bathroom \$925,000**



**Extraordinary Views**

Epping Forrest/ Riverfront  
The only home that sits atop the bluff next to the exquisite DuPont Mansion, this home shares the same breathtaking views of the formal gardens, the marina, & the St. Johns river. Wonderful & livable floorplan takes advantage of the home's premier location. **4 bedrooms & 4.5 bathrooms \$1,395,000**



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**Why I Serve**

The Ponte Vedra Recorder is excited to bring you Why I Serve, a video series featuring Wounded Warrior Project that highlights local veterans and active service members, revealing why they decided to serve and what the experience provided them.

Watch the series on the Ponte Vedra Recorder website at [www.pontevedrarecorder.com](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com).

Future sponsorship opportunities are available for Why I Serve, as well as for similar video series; interested parties should contact [Ben@OPCFLA.com](mailto:Ben@OPCFLA.com) for more information.

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[LindaOstoski@WatsonRealtyCorp.com](mailto:LindaOstoski@WatsonRealtyCorp.com)



**QUAIL RIDGE FARMS**  
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**Barbara Maple | 904.571.1764**  
[BarbaraMaple@WatsonRealtyCorp.com](mailto:BarbaraMaple@WatsonRealtyCorp.com)



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Join us Monday, August 20, at 6:00pm at our Ponte Vedra Office!  
615 Highway A1A | 904.285.6300



# SJC engineer tells MSD residents drainage issues on Ponte Vedra Boulevard will be addressed

By Jon Blauvelt

A St. Johns County engineer told attendees of the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District (MSD) meeting on Monday that efforts are being taken to address drainage issues on Ponte Vedra Boulevard.

Jay Brawley said at the Aug. 13 meeting at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library the county is focusing on the intersection at San Diego Road, which he said floods fastest and most frequently. After conducting a topographic survey and inspecting the pipes, the county has concluded there are blockages in the pipes, some of which are old and starting to deteriorate. The county, Brawley said, also found that a few of the drains on Ponte Vedra Boulevard had been covered with vegetation, dirt and rocks.

Jones Edmunds, a consultant working with the county, has determined that if the current system were to perform in peak condition, the road could start to flood after a 2-3-inch rainfall. A standard 25-year storm, Brawley said, is about 7 inches of rain.

One option, Brawley said, is to dig up the existing pipe and replace it. That, however, would require removal of most of the vegetation on San Diego. Brawley said another option is to “see if something can be moved out into the road of San Diego and go down the road with a new pipe and not have to disturb as much out there.”

The St. Johns County engineer noted the consultant estimate is approximately \$70,000 for Jones Edmunds to complete designs, bid documents, cost estimates, permitting and more. The team first needs to identify the exact locations of utilities in the area before any work can be done. After about 60 days, Brawley expects to have a cost estimate for both options.

It will take another 60 days, Brawley said, for the team to complete the design. Then, the county will either pick someone on staff to build the new system or bid it out. Brawley noted that the project also needs to be funded.

## Other MSD news

In other MSD news, MSD Board Treasurer John Wegl reported that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will not be decreasing the speed limit on A1A



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

**St. Johns County engineer Jay Brawley discusses the county's plan for addressing drainage issues on Ponte Vedra Boulevard at the MSD meeting Aug. 13 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.**

between Mickler Road and the GTM Reserve after Wegl suggested such a change. Wegl said the decision was based on “their rules and guidelines.”

In addition, Wegl proposed decreasing the MSD's millage rate to .365. The Board voted in July to maintain the rate at .375, but Wegl was in favor of decreasing it. On Monday night, Wegl noted the millage rate was .275 when he first came on the board 10 years ago. Due to the financial crisis and a sudden lack of reserves, the MSD Board, he said, raised it from .275 to .375, where it has remained for several years. Wegl, who is not running for

reelection, said the board now has an opportunity to move the rate back to where it previously stood.

Trustee Greg Wong, who also is not running for reelection, said he is in favor of low taxes but believes the millage rate should stay at .375 so the district has ample reserves for any hurricanes or other necessary projects. After Chairman Gary Jurenovich suggested a rate in between .375 and .365, Trustees Kitty Switkes, Brad Wester and John Cellucci ultimately agreed with Wong to keep the rate at .375. As a result, Wegl's motion to decrease the rate died.

## MSD election

When the primary election takes place Tuesday, Aug. 28, residents in the MSD will have to vote between two candidates for Seat 1: current Board Chairman Gary Jurenovich or Gordon Blalock, who previously served eight years as an MSD trustee.

At Monday's meeting, Jurenovich discussed his top priorities if he were to be reelected. First, he said he wants to incorporate more community involvement into developing a long-term vision for the district. In addition, Jurenovich said he'd work to replace the bridge at Miranda Road, and also work with the county on implementing consistent and attractive fencing or a wall at the entrance of the MSD on Solana Road. Blalock was not in attendance of the meeting to present his plans or priorities.

According to the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections website, Mack McCuller is unopposed for Seat 3, which is currently held by Wegl. Alva A. Hollon Jr. is unopposed for Seat 5, which is currently held by Trustee Murle Harrison, who also is not running for reelection. Seat 7, which is currently held by Wong, has no candidates listed as running.

Vicky Oakes, the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections, said a special election will be held for Seat 7, hopefully in conjunction with the general election. Oakes said the governor's appointments office has been notified and is working on it. There will be a special qualifying period set, but Oakes doesn't yet know when it will be.

*For more information on the Seat 1 race, flip to the Recorder's election guide starting on page 14.*

## Local resident celebrates 105th birthday

Minna Barnes, a local resident and long-time member of THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, turned 105 years old on Thursday, Aug. 1.

Friends celebrated her life, taking pictures and video to commemorate the occasion. Barnes, an avid bird watcher, has been a regular member of the Senior Center since 2007.

“Minna truly has one of the most beautiful souls of any person I've ever encountered,” friend Richard Sirosis said. “I feel sorry for any person who hasn't had the opportunity to meet her.”



Photos courtesy of Amy Leach

**ABOVE: Minna Barnes, a long-time member of THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, turned 105 Aug. 1.**

**LEFT: The senior center celebrated Barnes' birthday with a cake.**

## Local student earns top ACT score

Chandler Garcia, the son of Regis and Gerri Garcia and a senior at Ponte Vedra High School, recently earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36.

According to ACT, the test is a curriculum-based achievement exam that measures what students have learned in school. It consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science, each scored on a scale of 1 through 36. A student's composite score is the average of the four test scores. The score for the ACT's optional writing test is reported separately and is not included within the ACT composite score.

“Your achievement on the ACT is significant and rare,” ACT Chief Executive Officer Marten Roorda said in a letter to the student. “While test scores are just one of multiple criteria that most colleges consider when making admission decisions, your exceptional ACT composite score should prove helpful as you pursue your education and career goals.”

According to ACT, on average only one-tenth of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earn a top score. In the U.S. high school graduating class of 2017, only 2,760 out of more than 2 million graduates who took the ACT earned a composite score of 36. ACT scores are accepted by all major four-year colleges and universities across the United States.

# Levrini campaigns in Ponte Vedra Beach, emphasizes background in educational psychology

By **Samantha Logue**

St. Johns County residents gathered Monday, Aug. 6 to meet Dr. Abigail Levrini and learn more about what she hopes to accomplish if elected the District 4 St. Johns County School Board member.

Outlining her platform at the event, which was held at Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery in Ponte Vedra Beach, Levrini highlighted her experience as a licensed psychologist who specializes in the field of educational psychology.

“There are many small and inexpensive changes that we could implement today to improve the educational experience for students in St. Johns County,” Levrini contended. “My expertise in cognitive science and psychology can elevate our school board to a new level necessary in our rapidly changing community.”

Levrini, the owner of Psych Ed Connections in Nocatee, questioned the school district’s current approach to education, holding that too much emphasis is being placed on standardized testing.

“Why do we continue to place our kids in gifted programs based on IQ alone?” she asked. “Why do our schools continue to pound facts and figures? ... In terms of education, we will see big differences in gains by shifting towards individuals

and away from averages. Around the country, digital technology and psychology are working together to do just this, and in St. Johns County, frankly, our students are being left behind.”

Levrini further contended that district leadership has become complacent in St. Johns County’s status as the top-ranked school district in the state, and that not enough is being done to improve upon the status quo.

“The board as a whole — not our current representative, but the board as a whole — have been the board for a quite a while,” she said. “I think they’ve become quite complacent, and I think we need to shake things up a bit and come in with some new ideas and new opinions.”

Others at the event expressed frustration with current leadership as well. John Lazzarra, for example, voiced concern over what he perceived to be a lack of diversity of opinion among the current board members.

“A healthy and effective board has to be diverse,” Lazzarra asserted. “If you’ve got five people with exactly the same opinion on the board, you don’t really need a board.”

Other areas Levrini said she hoped to improve upon included school safety and the overcrowding in schools throughout the county.



Photos by Samantha Logue

**Dr. Abigail Levrini outlines her qualifications for the position of District 4 St. Johns County School Board member at a meet-and-greet held Aug. 6 in Ponte Vedra Beach.**

The primary election will be held Tuesday, Aug. 28, during which voters will have the choice to vote for Levrini, Denver Cook or current District 4 School Board Member Kelly Barrera. Unless one of the candidates receives a majority of the vote in the primary to win the seat, the top two candidates will then face off again in the general election on Nov. 6.

Expressing the desire to win the election sooner rather than later, Lauren Kersting, the events coordinator for Levrini’s campaign, stressed the importance of getting out the vote for the primary.

“If you’ve already decided you’re behind Abby ... we need your vote for the primary,” Kersting said. “You can early vote, vote by mail, show up on Aug. 28, but you can’t wait until November, because we want to go ahead and take this home.”



**Lauren Kersting, events coordinator for the Levrini campaign, gathers with Keith Kessler at the campaign event.**

## Ponte Vedra Beach native awarded Ursula Wiegand Scholarship

Jonathan Moses, of Ponte Vedra Beach, was recently selected as a winner of The Ursula Wiegand Scholarship, sponsored by WIKA Instrument Corporation.

The son of Richard Moses, Jonathan Moses is a student at the University of South Florida, where he is majoring in marketing. In his spare time, he enjoys playing tennis and basketball, as well participating in clubs like the Recycling Club and Beta Club.

The Ursula Wiegand Scholarship Fund was established to recognize the sons and daughters of WIKA employees who have outstanding academic records and who are active in volunteer school and community activities. The winners are chosen competitively based on academic records and personal achievements. All phases of the scholarship competition are independently managed by Scholarship Managers, a division of Career Opportunities Through Education, Inc.



**Jonathan Moses**

## SJCSD sees increase in student count

The St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) reported this week that the student count on day two of school, Aug. 13, was 38,995, an increase of 1,656 students or 4.43 percent over last year’s second day number of 37,339.

The high school student count was 12,102 with 2,616 students at Bartram Trail High School; 2,255 at Creekside High School; 1,252 at Pedro Menendez High School; 2,521 at Allen D. Nease High School; 1,767 at Ponte Vedra High School and 1,691 at St. Augustine High School. There were also 275 students in attendance at St. Johns Technical High School.

Middle school attendance totaled 7,468, with student headcounts ranging from 690 at Sebastian Middle School to 1,431 at Pacetti Bay Middle School. The other second-day figures were Alice B. Landrum Middle School with 1,214; Fruit Cove Middle School with 1,234; R. J. Murray Middle School with 887 and Switzerland Point Middle School with 1,302.

The district’s K-8 schools totaled 7,282. Liberty

Pines Academy had a second-day headcount of 1,514; Patriot Oaks Academy with 1,370 and Valley Ridge Academy with 1,343. Two new K-8 schools also opened: Freedom Crossing Academy (FCA) had 949 students and Palm Valley Academy (PVA) had 1,188. Mill Creek Elementary transitioned to Mill Creek Academy (MCA) over the summer and had a headcount of 918. FCA, PVA and MCA all opened this school year as K-6 schools with plans to add seventh and eighth grades in subsequent years.

The elementary school population totaled 11,449. This count, according to the district, only includes approximately 50 percent of all kindergarten students since schools stagger the kindergarten start date over a four-day period. Another 419 students are enrolled at the district’s alternative, charter and Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) schools.

First Coast Technical College has 362 students enrolled in its adult education programs at the St. Augustine, Palatka, Barge Port and North campuses. This number does not include those students enrolled in night programs.

*Kelly Altosino-Sastre is the president and CEO of KAS Consulting Services, LLC and the charter president of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra.*

## Kelly Altosino-Sastre

### Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I was born in Oak Park, Illinois and moved to Coral Gables, Florida in December when I was in eighth grade. I clearly remember the day we moved. There was an incredible snowstorm while the moving truck was being loaded and it was a very cold day. Moving to a new state was an adjustment for me as a teenager, but the warm weather in South Florida helped a lot. I got married right after high school and had three children in less than four years while attending college, working, coaching youth sports and volunteering in many nonprofit organizations and while volunteering at my children's schools. I have an undergraduate degree in elementary education with endorsements in early childhood education and child development, and I have a master's degree in administration. I am also certified in board governance.

### What's the story of KAS Consulting Services, LLC?

I have spent my entire life in the nonprofit sector in one way or another. I served in leadership positions in public and private nonprofits that were charitable, civic, trade, educational, faith-based organizations and governmental at the local, state and national level. I like to say I have served on both sides of the nonprofit board of directors table as both a volunteer and executive paid staff of nonprofits. It was while I was serving as the president of the Miami Chapter of The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) that I decided to leave the CEO position I had at a nonprofit to start my own business consulting with nonprofits. With more than 35 years of experience, I had pretty much seen it all in nonprofit organizations. I knew that I could share my expertise to strengthen other nonprofits. To me, nonprofits are critical to any community and to our society.

### You are the charter president of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra. What's it like to start a club from the beginning?

First and foremost, it is tremendous honor to be asked to be the charter president of a Rotary Club. We were chartered in April. It has been rewarding to help build the leadership of the club, mostly made up of people new to Rotary and together develop a strategic plan that is our road map to a vibrant and successful club. I served as president of a large club in South Florida in 2003-04, but this has been a very different experience because it is a small club and because out of our 25 members, only five were former Rotarians. Additionally, as a nonprofit consultant, helping nonprofits flourish from an idea on paper to reality is what I do, so starting the new club was just another day at the office, but with an organization I am most passionate about.

### What makes the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra different?

Every Rotary club has its own unique personality, and I think we are still finding our personality. The members are mostly young professionals with young children and to make Rotary work for them, we have to look beyond what a traditional Rotary club looks like. We are taking Rotary International's call to "Reinvent our Wheel" (in reference to RI's wheel logo) to a whole new level. Every day we find something new to incorporate in the culture of our club to be more inclusive and relevant for our members and to attracting new members to our club and to Rotary.

### What are your goals for the club?

We have many, but the short-term goals are to continue to strengthen the infrastructure of our club so we can focus on our strategic plan. That plan is for community and global service and helping each other's businesses thrive while growing our club to 50 members by June 30. We also plan to sponsor two more Rotary clubs in the next five years in Nocatee. *For more information on the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra, visit [www.pontevedrarotary.org](http://www.pontevedrarotary.org).*



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

### What do you enjoy most about living and working in Ponte Vedra?

My husband Aristides and I have lived Coastal Oaks in Nocatee for five years and every time I drive through the gate I am in awe of its beauty and the beauty of Nocatee and all of Ponte Vedra. I learn something new about Ponte Vedra every day and have met incredible people. This is a very welcoming place to live.

### What do you like to do in your free time?

If I am not doing something with Rotary or on the soccer field watching one of my grandchildren playing, I like to try new restaurants. At home, I like to spend time in my scrapbook room.

*Edited by Jon Blauvelt*

*To watch a video portion of the interview, visit [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com) and click One of Us.*

**OBITUARIES**

**Ronald Della Porta**

Ronald C. Della Porta died on Aug. 1, 2018, in Ponte Vedra Beach. He was born in Queens, New York. He relocated to Jacksonville, Florida in 1968 to continue his insurance career, founding the Della Porta Group, Inc. He served six years in the Air Force. Ron served on numerous civic boards and was a founding member of the Boys and Girls Club of Jacksonville Beach. He was a lifelong Rotarian and a Paul Harris Fellow.

Ron is survived by his wife, Nina Della Porta, of 61 years; daughter Veronica Della Porta; and granddaughters Alessandra and Adriana Della Porta.

In keeping with Ron's wishes, a private Mass will be celebrated. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Please visit the online tribute at [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre  
3600 Third Street South (904)249-1100

**Richard Adams**

Richard A. Adams, 62, of Neptune Beach, died Aug. 1, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**William Alger**

William James Alger, 76, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Aug. 6, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Hunter Braley**

Hunter Philip Braley, 18, died July 21,

2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com).

**Frank Ferrante**

Frank Andrew Ferrante, 17, died Aug. 2, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com).

**Jane Gibson**

Jane M. Gibson, 89, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died July 26, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Christel Henningsen**

Christel Henningsen, 90, of Jacksonville Beach, died Aug. 2, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

OBITUARIES continues on Page 12

**Should You Be Talking To a Different Kind of Financial Advisor?**  
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**Dr. Camarda's Weekly Wealth Nugget**

**THE TRADE WAR AND YOUR INVESTMENTS - 5 KEY FACTORS**

With the prospect of World War Trade becoming a reality, many investors fear that big losses may be in the cards going forward. Here's what Camarda thinks:

1. The trade war's already begun, with the US blasting away at the rest of the world.
2. Non-US investments and big US stocks that export goods are already getting hit.
3. The US position has some merit, as we have been on the bad end of many unfair practices for some time.
4. US tactics are quite inflammatory, and while there is a fair risk of them backfiring, in the end we believe they will work in leveling the playing field. This will boost not only US prosperity but wealth around the world.
5. While there are clear risks to both US and off-shore investments of nearly every stripe, the economic interests of nearly all players put good odds on a peaceful and fairly quick resolution.

Conclusion? The bumpy ride for investments has already begun, and we hope it doesn't get worse before it gets better. But in the end, we believe that those who stick to their investment plans and guns will be well rewarded. This is not a time to jump ship or change tactics chasing greener pastures.

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**About Dr. Camarda & Camarda Wealth**

Chairman Jeff Camarda has been repeatedly named by Barron's\* as "one of the best financial advisors in America," one of WORTH Magazines\*\* "Top 250 advisors" in the US, and one of Forbes\* "Best in State Wealth Advisors" for Florida. His advice has been featured in the Wall Street Journal for years, and he's been quoted as a financial expert in the national press for decades. Barron's\* has called advisors like Jeff "the best people in the business" and "truly great financial advisors" and says that they are "accepted in the industry" as the "top 1%" who set "the highest standards of their profession." Forbes says it "scours... financial services industry" and has "uncovered great advisors" like Camarda "that are leading the way" and apply "best practices" to deliver a "high-quality experience for clients." Camarda's completed the CFP®, ChFC®, CLU®, CFS® and BCM™ designations\*\*, and currently holds the CFA® investments expert and EA tax expert designations, as well as graduate degrees in financial planning, including a PhD in Financial and Retirement Planning. Dr. Camarda has written hundreds of articles and dozens of financial reports, whitepapers, and guides, and founded Wealth Education Radio. He is also an award-winning academic researcher into advisor competence and ethics. Camarda Wealth is A+ rated by the Better Business Bureau and has offices in Ponte Vedra Beach and Fleming Island.

\*\*Trademark license fees for CFP, ChFC, CLU, CFS and BCM have not or will no longer be paid and Jeff Camarda no longer currently uses these trademarks; the above mention is notice of past accomplishment only.

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Thursday, Aug. 16	Friday, Aug. 17	Saturday, Aug. 18	Sunday, Aug. 19
<p><b>Art for Tots: We Are All Aflutter</b> This Art for Tots class for children 24 to 36 months, scheduled for Aug. 16 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., will explore the creatures living in the gardens and discuss how these creatures move, what they eat and why the garden is their home. In the studio, children will make their own works of art inspired by these creatures. Art for Tots is funded by the Chartrand Family Foundation. Class sizes are limited, email education@cummuseum.org or call (904) 355-0630 for more information. This event will take place at the Cummer Museum, located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Grief Support Group</b> A Grief Support Group will meet on the third Thursday of each month at the St. Paul's Catholic Church in Room 102 of the Family Life Center, located at 578 1st Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach. The group is for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will take place Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665.</p> <p><b>Dinner and a Movie</b> Join moviegoers Aug. 16 at 4 p.m. for a "Dinner and a Movie" event at the River House, located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine. Admission costs \$14 for River House members and \$20 for non-members. In addition to dinner, guests will receive a soft drink and popcorn. Beer and wine will be available at an additional cost. Call (904) 209-3655 to reserve a seat.</p> <p><b>First Coast Card Club meeting</b> The First Coast Card Club will host a meeting at the Anastasia Island Library, located at 124 Sea Grove Main St., Aug. 16 at noon. Guests are welcome. Attendees are encouraged to bring snacks to share.</p>	<p><b>Music in the Courtyard</b> Music in the Courtyard will take place weekly through Aug. 31 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Visitors can enjoy local music with a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and a bite to eat under palm trees rustling in the ocean breezes. This event will take place at 200 1st St. in Neptune Beach.</p> <p><b>Between Truth and Illusion exhibition</b> The general public is invited to an exhibition, entitled Between Truth and Illusion, in the Scene Room at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra, located at 50 Executive Way. The exhibit is presented by the Society of Mixed Media Arts (SoMMA). An opening reception and awards presentation will be held Aug. 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. Awards will be presented at 6:45 p.m. and music will be provided by Bill Snow. This exhibition will run through Sept. 22.</p> <p><b>VIP gallery art stroll and tasting tour</b> Enjoy St. Augustine's art and history with a licensed, professional tour guide on this intimate VIP walking tour through the ancient streets of St. Augustine's historic district Aug. 17 at 4:30 p.m.. During this 2.5-hour experience, participants will learn how St. Augustine's art, architecture and culture are juxtaposed to create one of the most unique cities in America today. The tour departs from Tour St. Augustine, where guests will enjoy complimentary refreshments at check-in. Tickets cost \$25 per person. Reservations are required; visit www.tourstaug.com for more information.</p> <p><b>Abstract Painting w/ Anna Miller</b> This class will take place Aug. 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Through the understanding of principles of design, color theory, composition and expression, students will start a process of a discovery of abstract, non-representational art while exploring different techniques and methods using oil and acrylic paints. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way.</p>	<p><b>St. Augustine Amphitheatre Farmers Market</b> The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Farmers Market will take place every Saturday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The market features more than 100 tents with local produce, flowers, baked goods, handmade arts and crafts and more. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Farmers Market is located at 1340 A1A S. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Competitive Cornhole</b> Help raise funds for Special Olympics Florida Aug. 18 at noon at the Competitive Cornhole event at the Jacksonville Landing. A donation of \$75 per team includes two t-shirts, two drink tickets, two raffle tickets and more. Special Olympics Florida, Duval County provides year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for people with intellectual differences. Contact (904) 307-4221 or email jessicaray@solf.org for more information.</p> <p><b>Art Adventures: Clay Hand-Building</b> Join the Cummer Museum on the third Saturday of each month for studio classes. This class, scheduled for Aug. 18 at 10:30 a.m., is for ages 6 through 12 and will explore works of sculpture in the Museum's permanent collection before returning to the studio to experiment with various clay tools and hand-building techniques. For more information, email education@cummuseum.org or call (904) 355-0630. The Cummer Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>First Coast Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida</b> Join the First Coast Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida for a Historic Scout Camp Museum tour Aug. 18 at 10:30 a.m. RSVP to the club to reserve a spot. Meet friends in the community with the First Coast Newcomers Club. Contact the club at (904) 829-0643 to ask how to join and for verification of all events.</p>	<p><b>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service</b> 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><b>'Urban Spaces, Open Skies' exhibition</b> The newest exhibition at the Cummer Museum of Art &amp; Gardens, entitled "Urban Spaces, Open Skies: 20th-Century American Landscape," will be on display through Feb. 3, 2019. Drawn from the Cummer Museum's extensive collection of works on paper, this presentation will feature more than 30 prints celebrating modern cities and the timeless charms of the country. Visitors can admire how artists have captured the changing landscape of cities like Chicago and New York. For more information, contact Amber Sesnick at (904) 899-6034 or asesnick@cummuseum.org.</p> <p><b>Backpack Blessing</b> Join St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church for Backpack Blessing, an annual teacher commissioning, Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. The church will celebrate teachers and bless backpacks to celebrate the beginning of another school year. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville. Call (904) 249-4091 Ext. 103 for more information.</p> <p><b>Cooking class at Rype &amp; Readi Golf Bistro</b> Join a professional chef for this cooking class at Rype &amp; Readi Golf Bistro Aug. 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. Visit www.rypeandreadi.com/golfbistro to purchase tickets. Rype &amp; Readi Golf Bistro is located at 4900 Cypress Links Drive in Elkton.</p> <p><b>Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp vs. Birmingham Barons</b> The Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp will take on the Birmingham Barons at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville Aug. 19 at 6:05 p.m. Visit www.seatsforeveryone.com/cities/249/jacksonville-tickets to purchase tickets. The Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville is located at 301 A. Philip Randolph Blvd.</p>

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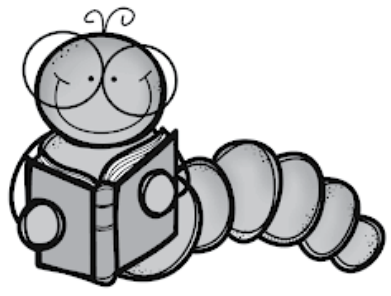
Monday, Aug. 20	Tuesday, Aug. 21	Wednesday, Aug. 22	Thursday, Aug. 23
<p><b>Senior Pilates</b> Enjoy this Senior Pilates class Mondays from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon at River House, located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine. Admission costs \$4 for members or \$5 for non-members. Students will need to bring a yoga mat and straps. Call (904) 209-3655 to register. Pilates is a form of exercise that results in an improved core of stability, flexibility, strength and energy.</p> <p><b>Volunteers needed at St. Johns County Council on Aging</b> A volunteer manicurist is needed for the Coastal Community Senior Center, for administrative duties at Council on Aging Transportation from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Monday to Friday, to deliver Meals on Wheels, for the Integrative Memory Enhancement Program and for upcoming events in Hastings. For more information, call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p><b>Free business continuity workshops</b> The St. Johns Chamber of Commerce will host two free business continuity workshops Aug. 20 at the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m. The EOC is located at 100 EOC Drive near the outlet shopping centers in St. Augustine. RSVP for the workshops by emailing bethany.taylor@sjcchamber.com or call (904) 829-5681. For more information on preparing a business plan for continuity, visit <a href="http://www.floridadisaster.biz">www.floridadisaster.biz</a>.</p> <p><b>UF/IFAS Nassau Extension Plant Clinic</b> Rebecca Jordi, Extension Director/Horticulture Agent will conduct a plant clinic Aug. 20 at 10 a.m. at the UF/IFAS Nassau Extension Office, located at 86026 Pages Dairy Road in Yulee. All county residents are invited to bring plant samples showing landscape problems. The problems will be identified and solutions will be offered for correction. For more information, call (904) 560-6353.</p>	<p><b>Tapas Tuesday</b> The Cummer Museum of Art &amp; 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 <a href="http://www.cummermuseum.org">www.cummermuseum.org</a>. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p><b>Life Enrichment Day retreat program</b> This program, which is offered Monday through Friday at Arbor Terrace, is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. For more information, call (904) 417-7354 or email <a href="mailto:life_enrichment-group@yahoo.com">life_enrichment-group@yahoo.com</a>. Arbor Terrace is located at 5125 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p><b>Crochet group</b> Adults and teens (14+) are invited to attend this crochet group Aug. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Bartram Trail Branch Library. The group crochets or knits blankets for cancer patients at area hospitals. All skill levels are welcome. The Bartram Trail Library is located at 60 Davis Pond Blvd. in Fruit Cove.</p> <p><b>Apple device training</b> Dig deeper into the operations of Apple devices Aug. 21 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the UNF Adam W. Herbert University Center. This class will help beginners and long-time veterans. Topics will include Apple's current events, iTunes, App Store, iPhone and iPad basics, Macintosh basics, Apple TV and wireless networking lowedge and virus inspection and maintenance. Time has been allocated for questions and answers. Visit <a href="http://www.campusce.net">www.campusce.net</a> to register. This event will take place at 12000 Alumni Drive in Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>Toastmasters Club</b> 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 <a href="mailto:lucyreep@gmail.com">lucyreep@gmail.com</a> for additional information.</p> <p><b>Yoga at the church</b> Grab a mat and enjoy a weekly yoga session at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. All ages and skill levels are welcome. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville. Call (904) 249-4091 Ext. 103 for more information.</p> <p><b>Music by the Sea concert</b> This free weekly concert series at the St. Johns County Pier features a wide variety of musical genres. On Aug. 22, Bluez Dudes will perform from 7 to 9 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to bring a beach chair or blanket along with a favorite beverage. This event will take place at 350 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach.</p> <p><b>On the Fence: Mural Celebration</b> Join the Cummer Museum Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. for an evening to celebrate the completion of a new mural by local artists Mark Ferreira of Centism Design, Dustin Harewood and Shaun Thurston on the Cummer Museum campus. Manny's Cuban Food Truck and GuanaBana Ice Pops and more will be selling food and refreshing treats. Local musicians will keep up the party mood with live music. For more information, call (904) 899-6023. The Cummer Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Alzheimer's support group</b> An Alzheimer's support group will meet on the third Wednesday of each month at Cypress Village at 3 p.m. Call (904) 807-6222 to RSVP. Cypress Village is located at 4600 Middleton Park Circle E. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>Savvy Job Hunters Ministry</b> The Savvy Job Hunters Ministry is kicking off the Fall season with two presentations Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon (sign-in begins at 8:45 a.m.) The first, entitled The Future of Work: The Gig Economy, will be presented by Candace Moody, Vice President of Communications for CareerSource Northeast Florida. Moody will talk about preparing for a new career. The second presentation, entitled Resume Writing the Right Way, will feature Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Keiser University Cari Andreani.</p> <p><b>Adult coloring club</b> Join the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Aug. 23 at 1 p.m. for this adult coloring club designed to reduce stress and help members of the community meet new people. Participants will create new art in a relaxing and fun atmosphere. Supplies will be provided. The Ponte Vedra Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p><b>Farm Swap &amp; Music Jam</b> Enjoy music from musicians while shopping for produce at the Florida Agricultural Museum Aug. 23 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will feature musicians and vendors offering fruits, veggies, honeys, jellies, nuts, arts and more. The Farm Swap &amp; Music Jam will take place at 7900 Old Kings Road N. in Palm Coast. Visit <a href="http://www.floridaagmuseum.org">www.floridaagmuseum.org</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>Yoga for Survivors</b> The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a Yoga for Survivors class Aug. 23 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 <a href="http://www.baptistjax.com/ymca">www.baptistjax.com/ymca</a> to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p><b>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 <a href="mailto:ben@opcfcla.com">ben@opcfcla.com</a> or call (904) 686-3939.</b></p>

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Photo courtesy of Palm Valley Academy PTO

**Palm Valley Academy students and teachers attend the school's Back-to-School Bash on Aug. 8, which included student-led tours, t-shirt tie-dye crafts and games.**

# Palm Valley Academy kicks off first day of school

Doors opened to nearly 1,200 students at Palm Valley Academy in Nocatee last Friday, Aug. 10.

Located on 13 acres of land adjacent to the Twenty Mile neighborhood, the new K-8 school is comprised of students from all Nocatee neighborhoods on the Town Center side of the master planned community, as well as all of Twenty Mile and Kelly Pointe.

Before the first day of school, the new K-8 school also held a Back-to-School Bash on Wednesday, Aug. 8.

For more information about Palm Valley Academy, check out the article about the new school in the August/September edition of the First Coast Register, which is inserted within this week's Recorder and also found online at [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com).

# Local community group supports back-to-school drive benefiting INK!

In support of the David Weekley Homes CARE program's "Show that you CARE" back-to-school supply drive benefiting Investing in Kids (INK!), the Girls Group of Twenty Mile in Nocatee came together

July 29 to organize collections.

INK! provides innovative programs and classroom resources to support academic success for all St. Johns County public school students. The Girls Group of Twenty Mile was organized three years ago by property owner Madelen Salter to encourage and develop the values of caring, giving, understanding, integrity and creativity for girls ages 7 to 13 in the Twenty Mile Village community of Nocatee.

St. Johns County School Board District 4 Representative Kelly Barrera was on hand to address the group.

"I am so proud of each of you for thinking about other students who do not have the same everyday life that you do," she said. "They will be so happy to have new pencils, crayons and notebooks to start their school year. I love the fact that you are helping others in your community. I'm so excited for the new school year and I want to encourage you all to give a smile to a student who looks like they



Photo provided by Kelley Bost

**The Girls Group of Twenty Mile in Nocatee organizes collections July 29 for the David Weekley Homes CARE program's "Show that you CARE" back-to-school supply drive benefiting Investing in Kids (INK!) with School Board District 4 member Kelly Barrera.**

need a friend. And when you see me in your school, come tell me hi and tell me how your day has been, because that gives me great joy."

*This article was submitted by Kelly Barrera's re-election campaign.*

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<p><b>JOANNE SHAW TAYLOR</b> w/ JD SIMO SEPTEMBER 11</p> <p><b>LEE ANN WOMACK</b> SEPTEMBER 21</p> <p><b>HERE COME THE MUMMIES</b> w/ HONEY HOUNDS SEPTEMBER 22</p> <p>COMEDIAN <b>LOUIE ANDERSON</b> SEPTEMBER 27</p> <p><b>RICKIE LEE JONES</b> w/ ANDERS OSBORNE SEPTEMBER 29</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER PRESENTS <b>TURINA &amp; BRAHMS</b> "TRAGEDY OF PASSION" SEPTEMBER 30</p> <p><b>DELBERT McCLINTON</b> OCTOBER 5</p> <p>COMEDIAN <b>GARY GULMAN</b> OCTOBER 7</p> <p><b>TODD SNIDER</b> OCTOBER 10</p> <p><b>GENE WATSON</b> OCTOBER 13</p> <p><b>THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS</b> FEAT. KIM WILSON OCTOBER 18</p>	<p>99.9 GATOR COUNTRY PRESENTS <b>COLT FORD</b> OCTOBER 19</p> <p><b>THE BREEDERS</b> OCTOBER 20</p> <p><b>MAX WEINBERG'S JUKEBOX</b> OCTOBER 26</p> <p><b>DWEEZIL ZAPPA</b> OCTOBER 27</p> <p><b>AMY RAY &amp; HER BAND</b> w/ DANIELLE HOWLE BAND NOVEMBER 8</p> <p><b>SISTER HAZEL</b> NOVEMBER 9</p> <p><b>SHEMEKIA COPELAND</b> NOVEMBER 10</p> <p><b>OTTMAR LIEBERT &amp; LUNA NEGRA</b> NOVEMBER 11</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER PRESENTS <b>O'CONNOR &amp; DVORAK</b> "AMERICA" NOVEMBER 18</p> <p><b>ATMOSPHERE</b> w/ DEM ATLAS, THE LIONESSE &amp; DJ KEEZY NOVEMBER 25</p> <p><b>MARC BROUSSARD &amp; HIS BAND</b> w/ KRISTOPHER JAMES NOVEMBER 29</p> <p>AN EVENING WITH <b>MOE.</b> DECEMBER 2</p>	<p><b>IRIS DEMENT</b> w/ PIETA BROWN DECEMBER 8</p> <p><b>A PETER WHITE CHRISTMAS</b> w/ RICK BRAUN &amp; EUGE GROOVE DECEMBER 11</p> <p><b>STEVEN WILSON</b> DECEMBER 16</p> <p><b>DONNA THE BUFFALO</b> DECEMBER 29</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2019</b></p> <p><b>JAN 12</b> <b>MARCIA BALL &amp; HER BAND</b> FLORIDA CHAMBER PRESENTS</p> <p><b>JAN 13</b> <b>HAYDN, HIGDON, &amp; MOZART</b> "EXALTATION LARKS"</p> <p><b>JAN 20</b> AN EVENING WITH COMEDIAN <b>ROBERT KLEIN</b></p> <p><b>FEB 2</b> <b>UNDER THE STREETLAMP</b> "ROCKIN' AROUND THE CLOCK"</p> <p><b>FEB 9</b> <b>INDIGO GIRLS</b></p> <p><b>MAR 10</b> FLORIDA CHAMBER PRESENTS <b>SCHUMANN</b></p> <p><b>MAR 16</b> <b>ROGER MCGUINN</b></p> <p><b>MAR 21</b> <b>JOAN OSBORNE</b> SINGS THE SONGS OF BOB DYLAN</p> <p><b>MAY 5</b> FLORIDA CHAMBER PRESENTS <b>BEETHOVEN</b> "INTROSPECTION"</p>
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# The Greatest Exchange hosts a Night of Celebration and gratitude

By Samantha Logue

The Greatest Exchange, a cultural exchange program for college-age women from Kazakhstan, hosted a Night of Celebration last Friday, Aug. 10 at Waypoint Church in Nocatee to celebrate the end of another summer and thank all those who continue to make the program possible.

“This is so much more than an exchange program,” The Greatest Exchange Founder Kelly Ray said. “This is really a family that we’ve all been a part of. And I’m so blessed, because Greatest Exchange was just something that God grew organically and beautifully, and it cannot be done without all of the people in this room.”

A nonprofit founded in 2014, The Greatest Exchange immerses young Kazakh women in American culture for 10 weeks each summer, during which they live with host families and work as camp counselors for local organizations such as Crosswater Community Church, Julington Creek Plantation, Serenata Beach Club and Bartram Academy. At last Friday’s event, this year’s participants had the opportunity to express their gratitude to their



Photo by Samantha Logue

The 2018 participants of The Greatest Exchange program gather on stage to share their summer experiences at the nonprofit’s Night of Celebration on Aug. 10 at Waypoint Church in Nocatee.

sponsors, hosts and employers and share with them the lessons they had learned from their experience.

One of the more powerful testimonies of the night came from Marija, a young woman who confessed that, although she had never been a religious person in the past, she had since come to know God through the love and kindness she received over the summer.

“Seeing how open you were, how much you trusted in all of us in opening your houses and your hearts for us, and how much love you had for all of us, it changed my mind,” she said. “Now I want to be the one who shares love. Now I want to be the one who gives love to people. Now I want to be the one who talks about Jesus and tells about him to other people. That is my purpose; that is my goal when I go back to Kazakhstan. I want to share about this great summer with all of my friends, my family and

with strangers, because I will open my heart to them as you did for me.”

The building of such loving, trusting relationships, Ray added, is what makes The Greatest Exchange such a life-changing program.

“To those of you that financially sponsored girls to come here, or those of you that opened up your hearts and your homes, you have made an eternal difference,” she said. “We’re so grateful for the opportunity to serve, and this is so much more than what you’re seeing here, because so many lives are going to be transformed forever.”



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Recently I noticed a wedding party at a resort near the beach all giddy and excited about the big day. The bride chose the man to marry, whom she believed would be the best man to provide for her future, provide a nice house, financial security, protection and a home their family could be raised in. She knows that a house is the structure that protects them from the elements, but a home is the environment, the values and the intangibles that are important for raising a healthy and a happy family. They seemed to make a nice couple, however, I couldn't help but notice how she kept smiling at the best man. I wondered to myself: Well, if that guy is considered the best man, why didn't she pick him instead?

We don't have that dilemma when we go to the polls on Aug. 28 to elect a new governor. One of the candidates is clearly the "Best Man." He is our very own Jacksonville native and our current District 6 Congressman, Ron DeSantis, who has shown us that he is committed to doing what is right and protecting us from what is wrong. Isn't that just what we want a governor to do? Strong leadership is what we see as he does work on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Judiciary Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee and a bevy of subcommittees. DeSantis has shown he has our best interest at heart unlike his opponent who is beholden to some special interest who provided large donations to his campaign.

It's obvious to me, and clearly obvious to many prospective Florida voters, since he holds a commanding lead in the polls, that Ron DeSantis is clearly the "Best Man."

**Danny Griffin**, Ponte Vedra

I have been your St. Johns County commissioner from District 4 for the past eight years, so I believe I know as well as anyone what the job entails and what background is needed to accomplish it effectively.

Since I believe in term limits, I'm not running for a third term. However, I want to give you my input on the background and qualities needed to represent us effectively over the next four years.

First, you have to elect a leader who will represent your interest on a full-time basis. I would never have run for commissioner having a full-time job (obligation) somewhere else. When there's a conflict, which job do you think would take precedence?

Second, having a strong business and financial background and having actually run an operation in order to oversee a county with a \$700 million budget should be a major consideration in casting your vote. Dick Williams is the only candidate in this race who can bring to the commission three decades of top business and financial leadership and a full-time commitment to the job. During my career as a corporate executive, I would never have hired anyone to oversee a business with a \$700 million budget and 1,200 employees who did not have the background and was only committed to a part-time involvement. Yet, those are your other choices for St. Johns County commissioner, District 4 in this Republican primary.

Dick Williams is a long-time St. Johns

County resident and homeowner whom I've known for over a decade. Dick is committed to serving us full-time. Our county is facing some very difficult, financial challenges. We can't afford to elect someone to the commission who may be qualified as a lawyer, but does not have the business/financial background, experience or time to run an enterprise the size and scope of our county government. The stakes for all of us are much too high!

I've been honored to serve as your elected commissioner for the past eight years. Today, I am proud to join Sheriff David Shoar with my support and endorsement of Dick Williams to succeed me as your St. Johns County Commissioner, District 4. The choice is clear: The right kind of experience matters!

**Jay Morris**

St. Johns County Commissioner, District 4

**MYTH:** Vote by mail ballots post-marked by election day will be counted.

**FACT:** In order for a vote by mail ballot to be counted, it MUST be at the Elections Office by 7 p.m. on election day. If it is late, it will not count.

Some of you may remember the Aug. 30, 2016 Primary Election in which a county commission race was very close — decided by seven votes.

What you may not know — vote by mail voters please pay close attention — the day following the election, 74 vote by mail ballots came in the mail and could not be counted because they were late. These late ballots were mailed on Monday or Tuesday. The law is very specific; in order to be counted, a vote by mail ballot MUST be in the Elections Office by 7 p.m. on election day. Ballots received after

7 p.m. are late and will not be counted.

First class mail takes three to five business days. Do not mail your ballots past Thursday before an election; they will not reach us in time to be counted. There are red vote by mail drop boxes in all public libraries, tax offices in Ponte Vedra and Julington Creek and St. Augustine Beach City Hall. Look for the red box inside each of these locations. Voted ballots can also be dropped off at early voting locations, and there is a 24-hour drop box in front of the Elections Office for your convenience.

Remember you can always vote in person during early voting or go to the polls on election day to cast your vote in person.

Would these vote by mail ballots have made a difference in this race? We will never know. What we can learn from this is as we now look ahead, if you vote by mail, please, return your ballot in time to be counted. The deadline for the Primary Election is Aug. 28 at 7 p.m.

Early voting will be conducted for eight days: Aug. 18-25 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily at six locations throughout the county. This includes Sunday, Aug. 19. There will be ample time for all voters to cast a ballot in the upcoming election.

If you have questions or need assistance, please visit [votesjc.com](http://votesjc.com). My staff and I stand ready to assist you.

**Vicky Oakes**

St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections

## REMINDER

Letters to the Editor do not represent the opinion of the Ponte Vedra Recorder; they represent the opinions of those who sent them in.

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## Obituaries

Continued from 7

**Michael Kennedy**

Michael T. Kennedy, 58, of Saint Johns, died July 29, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Maria Leite**

Maria D. Leite, 90, died Aug. 2, 2018.

Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com).

**Trevor Matthew**

Trevor Neal Matthew, 32, died July 30, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com).

**Marie Maurer**

Marie Angela Maurer, 84, died July 25, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com).

**John McCarthy**

John Albert McCarthy, 93, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died July 29, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Edward McClellan**

Edward McClellan, 75, of Jacksonville, died Aug. 5, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Julian Sauer**

Julian Kurt Sauer, 65, of Fernandina Beach, died Aug. 6, 2018. Arrangements

by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Rose Signorile**

Rose Eleanor Signorile, 100, died July 25, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com).

**Steven Stumpff**

Steven Gerard Stumpff, 57, died Aug. 3, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com).

**Katharine Styer**

Katharine R. Styer, 96, of Atlantic Beach, died July 31, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Mark Sutton**

Mark Alan Sutton, 58, of Jacksonville, died Aug. 3, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Timothy Taylor**

Timothy R. Taylor, 55, of Jacksonville Beach, died Aug. 1, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.



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PV2-LV45729

# 2018 Primary Election Guide



See inside for  
Candidate Profiles

AUGUST 16, 2018 · SPECIAL SECTION

*Ponte Vedra*   
**Recorder**  
*Not your average newspaper, not your average reader*

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide was produced by the staff at the Ponte Vedra Recorder to prepare area voters for the primary election on Tuesday, Aug. 28.

A significant portion of the information in the guide was submitted by the candidates. For candidates in some of the congressional and statewide races, background information was obtained by the Recorder via campaign websites. Information pertaining to the election was also provided by the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections.

Also in this guide, readers will see stories by the Recorder and contributor, as well as photos taken by staff at recent political events.

### NOTE ABOUT THE ELECTION

Florida is a closed primary state. Democrats will receive a Democratic ballot, and Republicans will receive a Republican ballot. Voters registered with no party affiliation or a minor party will receive a Nonpartisan ballot.

## AREA PRECINCT LOCATIONS

■ **401:** Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

*This is also an early voting site that transitions into a precinct come election day.*

■ **402:** Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, 545 A1A, North Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

■ **403:** Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, 4510 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

■ **404:** Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

■ **\*405:** Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

*Residents north of the Nocatee Parkway and in Sawmill previously voted at Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church.*

■ **406:** St. Francis in the Field, 895 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

■ **407:** Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

■ **408:** The Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32095

**Note:** Precincts denoted with an \* indicate a change in the polling location.

On election day, voters are required to vote at their assigned polling place based on their address. To find your polling place, visit the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections website at [www.votesjc.com](http://www.votesjc.com) and click "My Voter Status" in the "Quick Links" section of the homepage.

## EARLY VOTING

Early voting for the Aug. 28 primary election begins Saturday, Aug. 18.

Early voting dates are August 18-25 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily at all locations. This election is open to all registered voters in St. Johns County.

There are six early voting locations throughout St. Johns County. Voters may cast their ballot at any of the locations, regardless of where they reside.

■ Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach

■ Supervisor of Elections Office, 4455 Ave. A, Suite 101, St. Augustine

■ Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine

■ St. Augustine Beach City Hall, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine

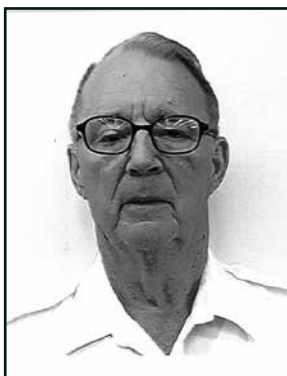
■ Julington Creek Annex, 725 Flora Branch Blvd., St. Johns

■ W.E. Harris Community Center, 400 E. Harris Street., Hastings

Remember to take your current and valid photo and signature ID with you when you vote. If you do not have proper ID, you must vote a provisional ballot.

For more elections information, visit [www.votesjc.com](http://www.votesjc.com) or call (904) 823-2238.

## MSD: SEAT 1



### GORDON BLALOCK

Gordon Blalock was born in Florida and raised in Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra. His family has resided in Ponte Vedra since 1969. He is a veteran with over 30 years of service in the U.S. Navy. He has an additional 15 years of constitutional experience — seven years as arraigning magistrate in the 19th Judicial District of Virginia (Fairfax & Mount Vernon) and eight years as a Ponte Vedra MSD trustee.

He has a Bachelor of Arts in political science, government and public administration from The American University in Washington, D.C. He served as the legislative assistant to the Honorable Charles E. Bennett from the 3rd District of Florida (Duval County). After spending six years as a certified flight instructor and commuter airline pilot, he transitioned into the jet sales community as a jet aircraft broker.

Today, Blalock is still active as vice president of sales for Omni International Jet Trading. He is also a serving member of the Ponte Vedra Community Association Board. Currently, Blalock and his wife, Pamela, reside in the family home at 187 San Juan Drive. His mailing address is P.O. Box 977, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32004. He can be reached at any time on his mobile phone at (703) 801-9730.

*Submitted by the candidate*



### GARY JURENOVICH

Gary Jurenovich is a 34-year resident of the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District (MSD). He is running for reelection to serve a second term as a trustee on the MSD Board. Jurenovich, his wife Ann and son Eric enjoy the beautiful community that they live in.

Jurenovich is a business owner in St. Johns County where he owns and operates a home healthcare agency. He is currently the chairman of the MSD Board of Trustees and has served as a trustee previously from 2004 to 2012. He was elected to his current term in 2014. Jurenovich has served the MSD community for 12 years as a trustee, six years as chairman, two years as vice chairman and four years as treasurer.

Just a few of the many projects Jurenovich started and completed while serving as an MSD trustee include new bridges at Lake Road, Rutile Drive and Pablo Road

and helping residents to improve the recent bridge crossing on Corona Road over the lagoon. His efforts have also included the placing of utilities underground and the removal of overhead telephone poles on Solana Road, San Juan Drive, Corona Road and Ponte Vedra Boulevard. He has also worked with a group of residents to construct a sidewalk on Ponte Vedra Boulevard from Corona Road to Mickler's.

Jurenovich has been the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office MSD liaison for eight years and is a 2017 graduate of the SJCSO Civilian Law Enforcement Academy. He has been responsible for all street signs and poles for the past 14 years and recently completed a three-year project to install all new street signs and poles within the MSD. Jurenovich has been past committee chair for JEA, Beaches Energy and Road and Bridge.

Jurenovich believes that community service is a small price to pay for the privilege of living in such a nice place.

*Submitted by the candidate*

## SCHOOL BOARD: DISTRICT 4

**Note:** This nonpartisan race appears on all primary ballots in District 4



### KELLY BARRERA

Kelly Barrera brings more than 25 years of leadership experience in education and business management to the St. Johns County School Board.

As the board's vice chair, she plays a strategic role in guiding the top-rated school district in Florida, overseeing nearly 40,000 students and a \$315 million budget. During her tenure, Barrera has addressed concerns about school overcrowding, overseeing the opening of four new K-8 schools and one new elementary school, along with the expansion of Crookshank, Mill Creek and Nease. If re-elected, she has pledged to lead the fight for a new high school to further ease overcrowding.

Barrera also advocated for a testing task force to reduce testing, increased Exceptional Student Education and guidance programs, expanded student social and emotional learning and support and played a leading role in plans to strengthen school security. She has increased opportunities for parental and community involvement

including: Superintendent Selection committee, Citizen's Sales Tax Advisory committee, Strategic Plan committee, Testing Task Force and dozens of town hall/community meetings held across the district.

Barrera is committed to providing all students with the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to enter higher education or directly move into the workforce.

As a lifelong learner, she is pursuing her master's degree in education, has earned the Florida School Board Association's Certified Board Member designation and Master Board Certification and serves on the Schultz Center for Teaching and Learning, along with years of experience serving in advisory boards for area schools and in post-secondary education.

A Ponte Vedra Beach resident, Barrera is a graduate of Jacksonville University, where she was the first female graduate of the aviation program. She and her husband, Gil Barrera, are the parents of two children and two Rotary Youth Exchange students. For more information on Barrera, visit [www.kellybarrera.com](http://www.kellybarrera.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*

## SCHOOL BOARD: DISTRICT 4 CONT.



### DENVER COOK

As a parent of two daughters in middle school, Denver Cook personally understands the challenges facing St. Johns County Schools. He believes parents are the single most important partner for success in education and that unilateral decision-making by the current board often ignores desired parental outcomes and insufficiently prepares students for life.

Cook believes his years of service in military intelligence, large-scale commercial and government construction, law enforcement and as a leader supporting many St. Johns County youth initiatives have uniquely prepared him to successfully address current and future challenges. With solutions to address these challenges, as a board member, he believes he will set policy prioritizing initiatives that help students reach their full potential.

For students to succeed, Cook says the district must challenge the most talented students with a more rigorous curriculum, provide supportive environments for special needs children and develop better vocational programs for those not on a college track so they can find real-world success.

Cook says many people don't know that local school boards have the state constitutional responsibility for and authority over all curriculum. He believes the community needs board members who will provide a curriculum that teaches past the FSA minimum, administrators who truly support teachers and teachers empowered to inspire children.

According to Cook, overcrowding and school safety are real issues for the community, but he says these can be addressed through fiscally responsible budget policy. He says he is a leader who understands how to evaluate complex programs, identify challenges, develop effective strategies and target resources for systemic improvement.

For more information about Cook, visit [www.denvercook.com](http://www.denvercook.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*



### ABIGAIL LEVRINI

Dr. Abigail Levrini is a licensed psychologist, Ponte Vedra business owner, bestselling author and mom to two St. Johns County public school students. She earned her doctorate in counseling and school psychology from the Florida State University College of Education in 2008.

In 2010, she authored her first book with the American Psychological Association, a bestselling self-help book for adults with ADHD. Two years later she produced a second book, which helps other professionals around the world to conduct behavioral interventions for clients with Attention Deficit. She has published

numerous scientific articles in the field of school psychology and presents on school interventions in professional settings throughout the country. She can be found throughout the media on WebMD, The Washington Post, NAMI, APA, Psych Central and many other popular means of press.

In 2014, she opened a Florida branch of her educational and psychological practice, Psych Ed Connections. Through Psych Ed, Levrini and her staff help families to improve academic and work functioning, relationships and life skills. She specializes in helping students to develop executive function skills such as organization, time management decision-making, positive self-talk and social skills. She is also an avid runner and philanthropist, and for this reason Levrini started the Psych Ed Connections 5K/10K Turkey Trot, Fun Run & Golf Cart Parade each Thanksgiving since 2016 in the Nocatee community, from which proceeds are distributed to local charities.

Levrini hopes to bring her vast experience in the field of educational psychology to the St. Johns County School Board, emphasizing the importance of children's social and emotional health in addition to their academic prowess. She plans to take St. Johns from a top tier Florida county to a top performing county within the United States, improve state safety rankings and advocate for the families of St. Johns County.

For more information on Levrini, visit [www.votelevrini2018.com](http://www.votelevrini2018.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*

**Note:** Unless one of the candidates receives a majority of the vote in the primary to win the seat, the top two candidates will then face off again in the general election on Nov. 6.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: DISTRICT 4



### ERIKA ALBA (Republican)

Erika Alba has been a Republican since she first voted in 1984. A resident of Palm Valley for over 13 years, she and her husband have two children: a daughter (PVHS 2011 graduate) and a son who's a fifth grader at Ocean Palms Elementary School.

Alba's 25-year legal career began as a deputy district attorney where she prosecuted child sexual abuses cases. Since leaving the DA's office, she has worked in the private sector: first as a senior vice president and assistant general counsel for Fidelity National Financial, and now as an attorney with a business law firm advising corporate and nonprofit clients on regulatory and compliance matters.

Alba is running for commissioner because she believes the status quo is not working. She says St. Johns is rapidly growing and infrastructure is lagging behind. According to Alba, the county cannot jeopardize its wonderful quality of life with mismanaged traffic, overcrowded schools and eroded beaches. When elected, Alba will call for a "top-down" forensic audit to ensure that hard-earned tax dollars are spent wisely. She believes the county must create more high-wage jobs through strategic economic development and prioritize infrastructure with particular attention to roads and maintenance-starved parks/recreational facilities.

As commissioner, Alba says she will always put citizens first. She believes she has the experience to serve on the commission because she understands how government works, both the good and the bad. Throughout her legal career, she has seen the negative impact government can have on ordinary folks when it is not working for the people.

Alba says her family loves this county and cares deeply about the community. She believes in public service and has served on the boards of the Boys & Girls Club, Florida, Florida TaxWatch and the PVAA. Alba believes the county can fix its problems if "service" is put back in public service.

For more information on Alba, visit [erikaalba.com](http://erikaalba.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*



### JEREMIAH BLOCKER (Republican)

Jeremiah Blocker was born and raised in Ocala, Florida. He comes from a family of public servants, as all four of his brothers are combat veterans in the U.S. military.

He is a graduate of the University of Florida, where he obtained a degree in history and commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Army ROTC program.

In the military, Blocker served as an Army officer for over 13 years, both on active duty and in the reserves. A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Blocker commanded a military police company in combat operations. Blocker continues his military service in the Air Force Reserves as a judge advocate general officer with the rank of major.

Awards Blocker has received include the Bronze Star Medal and Combat Action Badge.

Blocker graduated from Florida Coastal School of Law. He has also earned graduate degrees in land use and business entrepreneurship.

Before transitioning into private practice, Blocker served as a state prosecutor in both Jacksonville and Palatka, Florida, trying over 30 cases in front of juries ranging from DUIs to violent felony cases. As a prosecutor, he served as the Drug Court liaison for the state of Florida, managing all Drug Court diversion cases.

Currently, Blocker is a partner in a small firm where he concentrates his practice in the areas of small business law, title insurance and veteran benefits. His firm has offices in St. Augustine. As a small business owner and a conservative Republican, he believes that fiscally conservative principles are the best way to serve. According to Blocker, this includes limiting the size and scope of government, reducing taxes, creating a business-friendly environment to retain and attract new businesses and promote job growth and providing the best public safety to protect citizens. Blocker is also a former board member of the Florida Bar Committee on Military Law and is certified in Veterans Benefits Appeals.

Blocker and his wife Lauren have lived in St. Johns County for seven years. They have two young children and worship at St. John Paul II Catholic Church in Nocatee. They volunteer their time with local organizations such as K9s for Warriors.

For more information on Blocker, visit [jeremiahblocker.com](http://jeremiahblocker.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*

# COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: DISTRICT 4 CONT.



## NICHOLAS 'MIKE' DUDYNSKAY (Republican)

A first-time political candidate, Nicholas "Mike" Dudynskay is an engineer, entrepreneur, marketer and consultant. His vision is to make St. Johns County the best place to live and work in America.

As commissioner, Dudynskay would work to attract clean, high-technology firms to diversify the economic base and grow tax revenue. He would also plan to eliminate wasteful spending.

According to Dudynskay, more tax revenue would then result in more county services.

Dudynskay believes unbalanced (irresponsible) growth is leading the county toward fiscal insolvency. He says the tax base is over-represented by residential property taxes and residents typically consume more public services than tax dollars paid. He believes larger businesses are grossly under-represented.

Dudynskay believes the functional St. Johns County tax base should be roughly 65 percent residential and 35 percent business. In addition, he says each new home that is constructed increases the financial risk if not counter-balanced by economic growth.

Dudynskay is married to Christine, who holds degrees in criminal justice and psychology, and is a "Daughter of the American Revolution." Their son, Max, attends Palmer Catholic Academy and is a baseball fanatic. Dudynskay believes in faith, not fate.

For more information on Dudynskay, visit [www.ElectMikeSJCC.com](http://www.ElectMikeSJCC.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*



## DICK WILLIAMS (Republican)

Dick Williams is honored to have the support and endorsement of St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar. Williams looks forward to working with Shoar and his law enforcement professionals to continue to protect St Johns County schools and keep the community's neighborhoods safe.

Like most families with school age children, Williams and his wife, Linda, chose to live in St Johns County 17 years ago for its A-rated public schools, low crime rate and the special quality of life. Now, Williams is looking forward to the opportunity to give back.

As a conservative, Williams is committed to bringing his decades of private sector business experience to the job as St Johns County commissioner. His full-time focus will be protecting tax dollars, maintaining the quality of life that the community enjoys and ensuring that the Board of County Commissioners manages future growth in the county.

Williams acknowledges that St. Johns County is a special place with amazing natural resources. As St Johns County commissioner, he will work to create permanent solutions to restore area beaches, protect the environment and manage residential growth in a way that benefits all who live in the community.

As an experienced business leader, Williams will recommend that the county government implement zero-based budgeting to ensure that it is spending tax dollars wisely and effectively. He is prepared to dedicate his full-time attention to serving as District 4's Commission representative. Williams pledges that the voter will be his top priority and not special interests.

For more information on Williams, visit [www.williams4commission.com](http://www.williams4commission.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*

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The husband of St. Johns County School Board District 4 candidate Dr. Abigail Levrini (left), current District 4 Rep. Kelly Barrera (center) and candidate Denver Cook (right) participate in a candidate forum, which was hosted by the Ponte Vedra Republican Club Aug. 10 at the Coastal Oaks Clubhouse in Nocatee.



Photos by Benjamin Naim

Circuit Judge candidates Sebrina Slack (left) and Ryan Will (right) deliver their opening remarks at the candidate forum.

# Ponte Vedra Republican Club hosts candidate forum ahead of primary

By Benjamin Naim

The Ponte Vedra Republican Club hosted a candidate forum featuring Circuit Judge (7th Judicial Circuit, Group 15), County Commission District 4 and St. Johns County School Board District

4 candidates on Friday, Aug. 10 at the Coastal Oaks Clubhouse in Nocatee.

Circuit Judge candidates Sebrina Slack and Ryan Will, County Commission candidates Jeremiah Blocker and Nicholas “Mike” Dudynskay and School Board candidates Denver Cook, the husband

of Dr. Abigail Levrini and Kelly Barrera participated.


The forum began with the Circuit Judge candidates, who fielded questions from the audience on the role of the court, their experience in the field of law and more. One resident asked if either candidate has

ever had a complaint filed against them.

“I have actually never had complaints filed against me,” Slack said. “There’s a variety of places you can get a complaint as an attorney ... I’ve never had one.”

FORUM continues on Page 22

**Vote for**  
**Gordon Blalock**  
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**PV MSD**  
**Election**  
**August 28**




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  - District of Virginia
  - 8 years Ponte Vedra MSD trustee
- BA Political Science, Government, & Public Administration from The American University, Washington, DC
- Legislative Assistant to the Honorable Charles E. Bennett from the 3rd District of Florida (Duval County)
- 6 years as a certified flight instructor & commuter airline pilot
- Currently, VP of Sales for Omni International Jet Trading

Gordon welcomes your questions and concerns  
**703.801.9730 • gordon\_blalock@yahoo.com**

He would appreciate your vote but respectfully requests no monetary contributions.  
 Paid for and approved by Gordon Blalock for Seat 1 PV MSD.


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# CIRCUIT JUDGE: 7TH CIRCUIT GROUP 15

**Note:** This race appears on all primary ballots



## LINDA L. GAUSTAD

Linda L. Gaustad believes residents deserve a judge with integrity, experience, knowledge and common sense to make potential life altering decisions. Dedication, hard work, time management, patience, commitment and efficiency are abilities she says she has perfected operating a law practice and practicing law.

Gaustad has worked one-on-one with clients over the years providing individual personalized representation. An advantage of operating a law practice, she said, has been representing individuals and businesses in the community in a wide range of practice areas. For the last 18 years, Gaustad has represented thousands of residents in the community.

Her courtroom experience includes the District Court of Appeals (criminal, civil and family); Circuit Court (criminal felony, juvenile, dependency, civil, probate and family); County Court (criminal misdemeanor, civil and small claim); Administrative Court (civil and traffic); and Federal Court (bankruptcy, Social Security appeals and immigration).

Gaustad is passionate about the law. She promises to have your full attention, and to be fair and impartial and apply the law to the individual facts of each case.

For more information on Gaustad, visit [www.lindaforjudge.org](http://www.lindaforjudge.org).

*Submitted by the candidate*



## RYAN WILL

For more than a decade, Ryan Will has served the people of this community and worked to improve residents' quality of life. As a senior member of the State Attorney's Office, Will has successfully prosecuted the most dangerous criminals in society. A lawyer since 2005, Will is responsible for the prosecution of murder cases in the 7th Circuit. He has traveled the community handling hundreds of high profile cases and representing thousands of innocent victims.

According to Will, a depth of legal experience and commitment to the community distinguish him in this race. These qualities, he said, have earned him support from other attorneys, law enforcement and members the community.

Natives of Volusia County, Will and his wife, Bryn, are invested in the community and committed to its future. Bryn is a kindergarten teacher in the public school system; Will frequently lectures at the police academy, local universities and high schools. He serves on the boards of numerous charities and nonprofit organizations, including Stewart Marchman Act Foundation, Teen Court and Rotary. Will and his wife are raising three young children and are active in youth athletics.

Will takes pride in his community and fights to keep neighborhoods safe. In 2013, he established Florida's first Playground to Prevent Neighborhood Sex Predators and used available laws to stop sexual predators from establishing residence. Since then, Will has consulted with citizens and developers to create nearly a dozen other neighborhoods that ensure the protection of our children. Soon, according to Will, the entire area west of I-95 in Daytona Beach will be closed to the relocation efforts of these dangerous criminals.

In addition to his work at the State Attorney's Office, Will has experience in civil, family, probate and juvenile affairs. For more information, visit [www.electryanwill.com](http://www.electryanwill.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*



## SEBRINA L. SLACK

Sebrina L. Slack is the managing attorney with the law firm of Landis Graham French, PA, where she handles civil litigation, condominium association matters, probate litigation, contract drafting and family law.

Slack was born in Daytona Beach and grew up in Holly Hill. She attended and graduated from Mainland High School, and then attended the University of Miami, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in English and history and a minor in politics. In 2000, she earned her Juris Doctor degree from George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, Virginia.

Also in 2000, Slack was admitted to the practice of law by the Florida Bar. She began her legal career as a prosecutor in the Office of the State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit under then State Attorney John Tanner. In her first assignment, Slack handled juvenile prosecutions in Volusia County. After less than a year, Slack was transferred to the misdemeanor division in New Smyrna Beach, where she was the sole prosecutor for misdemeanors in Southeast Volusia. Again after less than a year, Slack was promoted to the Felony Sex Crimes Division in the Daytona Beach office, where she prosecuted numerous criminals charged with sexual offenses.

In 2003, Slack took a job with the Florida Department of Revenue in the Sales Tax Division in Tallahassee. During her two years there, Slack prepared letters of advice, handled taxpayer appeals of sales tax audits and participated on rules revision committees. In late 2004, Slack began work as an associate attorney at the law firm of Smith, Hood, Perkins, Loucks, Stout, Bigman, Lane and Brock, PA. There, Slack practiced civil litigation under the direction of partner, C. David Hood, Jr. Esquire, and family law under the direction of partner, Horace Smith, Jr., Esquire. In 2008, Slack joined Landis Graham French, PA to practice in its DeLand office.

As an attorney in private practice, Slack believes it is important to contribute to her community by performing volunteer or pro bono work. She also is deeply immersed within the legal community, having served in various capacities with organizations such as the Florida Bar Grievance Committee for Volusia County, the Volusia County Bar Association, the Volusia Flagler Association for Women Lawyers, the Putnam County Bar Association, the St. Johns County Bar Association and the Flagler County Bar Associations.

Slack balances the demands of her legal career by placing a premium on the time she spends with her husband, Don Slack, and their two dogs, Cheyenne and Shenanigans.

For more information on Slack, visit [www.sebrinaslackforjudge.com](http://www.sebrinaslackforjudge.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*

**Note:** Unless one of the candidates receives a majority of the vote in the primary to win the seat, the top two candidates will then face off again in the general election on Nov. 6.

# COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE



## MATT CALDWELL (Republican)

Matt Caldwell is a seventh-generation Florida native whose family has a long history of being farmers, small business owners, ministers and doctors.

He was born in Gainesville but grew up in Lee County where he eventually met his wife, Yvonne. They live in North Fort Myers, where Yvonne serves as a teacher and they raise their daughter, Ava.

After attending local schools in Lee County, Caldwell received his associate degree from Edison College and his Bachelor of Arts in history from Florida Gulf Coast University. He then began his career as a real estate appraiser with Maxwell, Hendry & Simmons in Fort Myers. He has attained the highest state certification in his field and is qualified as an expert witness in multiple states and federal court.

Caldwell's desire to serve his community took him to Tallahassee when he was first elected to the Florida House in 2010. He has served on several committees during his tenure, including transportation, tax policy, redistricting, insurance, banking and local government and federal government affairs. He has chaired subcommittees and committees related to agriculture and natural resources. He currently chairs the Government Accountability Committee, which oversees subcommittees regarding natural resources and public lands, transportation and infrastructure, local, federal and military issues, and oversight of government operations, such as pensions & elections.

For more information on Caldwell, visit [votecaldwell.org](http://votecaldwell.org).

*From [votecaldwell.org](http://votecaldwell.org)*



## NICOLE 'NIKKI' FRIED (Democrat)

Nicole "Nikki" Fried was born and raised in South Florida and graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree, master's degree and a law degree. At UF, she served as student body president, the first woman to hold the position in nearly two decades prior.

Fried worked for the Alachua County Public Defender's office after law school, where she was the head of the Felony Division. In private practice, Fried defended homeowners against foreclosure during the 2007-2008 housing crisis, fighting big banks to keep families from evictions.

As an advocate, Fried has fought for access to medical marijuana, Broward County Public Schools and funding for foster children with special needs.

Fried lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

For more information on Fried, visit [nikkifried.com](http://nikkifried.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*

# COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE CONT.



## DENISE GRIMSLEY (Republican)

Growing up in Wauchula, Florida, Denise Grimsley's family has deep roots going back generations in Florida agriculture as cattle ranchers and citrus growers. Grimsley is a member of the Peace River Valley and Highlands County Citrus Grower's Associations, the Florida Cattlemen's Association and the Florida Farm Bureau.

She received her degrees from Polk Community College and Warner Southern College, and earned an MBA from the University of Miami.

Grimsley has spent most of her career serving those in need as a registered nurse. But when her father became ill, she left nursing to run her family's small business and experienced the frustrations of government red

tape and bureaucracy firsthand. Those frustrations and her commitment to serving others is what led her to run for office in the Florida House and Senate.

In the Legislature, Grimsley has been an advocate for Florida agriculture. She currently serves as the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and is the recipient of the 2017 Florida Farm Bureau Legislator of the Year award.

Today, Grimsley serves as a hospital administrator, focusing on patient care, customer satisfaction and fiscal responsibility. And she still works her family's citrus and cattle operations.

Family and faith are central to Grimsley's life. She is proud and grateful for her parents, who have been married more than 60 years, her daughter Nicole, and her grandchildren Tyson and Jillian.

As Commissioner of Agriculture, Grimsley said she will bring her conservative Heartland values and commitment to serving others to Tallahassee to fight for farmers, protect consumers and seniors and defend Second Amendment rights.

For more information on Grimsley, visit [denisegrimsley.com](http://denisegrimsley.com).

*From denisegrimsley.com*



## MIKE MCCALISTER (Republican)

Col. Mike McCalister served honorably in the Army Reserves, Army National Guard and on active duty for a total of 33 years. He retired in 2005. He is a licensed and degreed agriculture professional and owner-operator of a small tree farm.

McCalister was a university instructor in accredited MBA and DBA programs, teaching working professionals about today's global economy in areas of operations management, strategy & policy, entrepreneurship and strategic thinking.

He was the custodial parent of a son from the age of 4 through college; both McCalister and his son are Eagle Scouts and earned the God & Country Award. Additionally, McCalister is a recipient of the Valley Forge Cross for Heroism.

McCalister's education includes a Bachelor of Science in science with a major in agriculture and a minor in earth science from Southeast Missouri State University and a Ph.D. in management from The Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is a graduate of The Command and General Staff College, and completed both the U.S. Army War College Defense Strategy and the The Air War College Curriculums. Additionally, he has completed the Harvard University Program on Senior Executive Leadership.

For more information on McCalister, visit [mikemccalister.com](http://mikemccalister.com).

*From mikemccalister.com*



## JEFF PORTER (Democrat)

Jeff Porter was born in the City of Homestead, Florida, and moved to Mississippi after the death of his father. He returned to Homestead, where he attended Miami Dade College. He and his wife Cindy have been married for over 21 years. Twelve years ago, Porter founded World Wide Supply Solutions, which is a small business located in Homestead. The native Floridian is 58 years old.

Porter was elected in 2017 to his third term as Homestead's mayor. He had previously been elected vice-mayor and served on the City Council for 10 years in Miami-Dade County's fifth largest city.

As the mayor of Homestead, Porter represents one of the leading agricultural cities in Miami-Dade County, which is second only to Palm

Beach County in agricultural products sold in Florida.

Porter has worked with both farm laborers and growers during many tough times including floods, hurricanes, frost warnings and fruit fly infestation. Porter currently serves on many boards including Florida's Municipal Electric Association, The Beacon Council, Miami-Dade County League of Cities and the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization.

Throughout Porter's reelection campaign, he ran on a "promises made - promises kept" platform. As mayor, he has never raised taxes, yet oversaw a revitalization of his city that many have praised for being one of the most "family friendly" cities to live in Florida. Property values have gone up and the crime rate has gone down under the leadership of Porter.

For more information on Porter, visit [porter4florida.com](http://porter4florida.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*



## BAXTER TROUTMAN (Republican)

Baxter Troutman is a family farmer and rancher with a lifetime of experience working in citrus and cattle. For two decades, Troutman has been the CEO of Labor Solutions, a personnel services company with five locations in Central Florida. Since opening their doors in 1997, Labor Solutions has helped place over 52,000 Floridians in jobs throughout the Sunshine State.

Dark Hammock Legacy Ranch is his beef cattle operation, which is located in Highlands County. He served as the first president of the Florida AgriTourism Association Board of Directors and was a former board member of Farm Credit of Florida, Alico and Polk County Farm Bureau. Troutman is also a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association.

In addition to his success in agriculture and as a job creator, Troutman has been a community leader and citizen servant. From 2002 to 2010 he was a member of the Florida House of Representatives, serving House District 66 with a record as a common-sense conservative. While a state representative, Troutman was vice chair of the Committee on Environmental Protection, Environment & Natural Resources Council and chaired the General Government Council. Troutman also helped form the Florida Legislature's Sportsmen Caucus, a group of representatives and senators dedicated to maintaining and promoting second amendment rights.

Troutman is married to Becky Troutman, a former teacher with a graduate degree in school psychology. She works in her community to make local education better, especially for children from low-income areas. They are proud parents raising their daughter Holly-Kate, who has just started the third grade.

For more information on Troutman, visit [baxtertroutman.com](http://baxtertroutman.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*



## ROY DAVID WALKER (Democrat)

Roy David Walker is a fifth-generation Floridian. He was born in Plant City, Florida to two public servants: His father was a firefighter and his mother was a schoolteacher.

Walker's interests led him to obtain a bachelor's degree in environmental science and a master's degree in environmental policy and management from American Public University, graduating with honors. He had done research with United States Geological Survey, National

Park Service and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission, among others. Walker researched and explored the impact of climate change and invasive species in the Everglades, and has advocated for air, land and water conversation.

Walker is president of the South Florida Audubon Society, sits on the Everglades Regional Conservation Committee and is vice president of the Broward Chapter of the Democratic Environmental Caucus. He is also involved with a wide range of professional associations.

Walker believes in protecting the state's natural resources and growing Florida. He said he is driven to run for Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services due to what he described as "disturbing policies" that are detrimental to the environment, pollute water, discourage renewable energy and accelerate climate change to benefit big businesses and the fossil fuel industry.

Walker said he knows that Florida's economy depends on the strength of the environment, and as Commissioner of Agriculture, he said he will ensure that the state bolsters its commitment to conserve natural resources, public land, clean water, high food and nutrient standards, and grow agriculture and aquaculture industries. He said he will work to encourage clean, renewable energy sources, protect consumers and grow local businesses and the economy.

For more information on Walker, visit [walkerforflorida.com](http://walkerforflorida.com).

*From walkerforflorida.com and www.facebook.com/WalkerForFlorida*

# Candidates connect with community at private gathering in Sawgrass Country Club

On Aug. 3, a special political gathering took place at the home of the Westling family in Sawgrass Country Club.

The dinner reception for over 60 guests was a departure from the typical summer political rally and barbecue. Instead, guests enjoyed an Italian dinner from a local favorite, Poppy's Italiano. Sawgrass Events Catering contributed charcuterie and cheese. After dinner, guests gathered in the great room to hear from/about candidates for Congress, the Florida House and St. Johns County School Board.

Congressman John Rutherford, who is running for re-election in Florida's 4th Congressional District, was the first to speak and provided an update on many of the issues facing the community and country. He specifically talked about the importance of protecting the southern border in California, Arizona and Texas.

"Securing our southern border," said Rutherford, "is a complex, but achievable, challenge."

Former Green Beret and Lt. Col. Michael Waltz, a candidate for Florida's 6th Congressional District, addressed many issues including the veterans who return from combat.

According to Bob Zoeller, a former marine and Sawgrass neighbor who attended the talk, Waltz always impresses.



**LEFT: Janet Westling (second from right) and her husband, Dale, hosted Congressman John Rutherford, State Rep. Cindy Stevenson, Michael Waltz, a candidate for Florida's 6th Congressional District, and 60 guests for a private gathering at their home in Sawgrass Country Club on Aug. 3.**

Photo by Susan Griffin

**BELOW: Allison Ferebee, Mariana McGarry and Francesca Rutherford**

Photo courtesy of Janet Westling

"His grasp of local everyday issues and his understanding of national and global affairs will make a great addition in Congress," Zoeller said.

State Rep. Cindy Stevenson, who is running for re-election in Florida's District 17, followed with an overview of the issues affecting the state and local community. The next speaker was Pam Mullarkey Robbins, a former St. Johns County School board member and the founder of Project SOS. She filled in for current St. Johns County School Board District 4 Representative Kelly Barrera and spoke of the healthy state of the schools. She also spoke highly of Barrera.

*Submitted by Janet Westling*



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- Over 100 cases taken to trial
- Former felony sex crimes prosecutor
- Managing partner Landis Graham French PA
- Graduate George Mason University - School of Law and University of Miami
- Vice Chair of Florida Bar Grievance Committee (Volusia County)

- Past President of Volusia County Bar Association
- Community involvement- DeLand Chamber of Commerce, Tiger Bay Club of Volusia County and DeLand Rotary Club
- 5th Generation Floridian who grew up in Holly Hill and graduated from Mainland High
- Married 9 years to husband, Don Slack, who is retired law enforcement



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# PRIMARY ELECTION ★ August 28, 2018

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## FLORIDA IS A CLOSED PRIMARY STATE

- Democrats receive a Democratic ballot
- Republicans receive a Republican ballot
- Voters registered with no party affiliation or a minor party receive a nonpartisan ballot
- School Board Dist 4 (Precincts 401-409) is nonpartisan and appears on all primary ballots in District 4

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Has your signature changed? If your signature on your voter record and signature on the vote by mail ballot certificate envelope do not match, your vote by mail ballot may not count. Update your signature using a Florida voter registration application.

Your voted mail ballot is due in the Elections Office no later than 7 PM on election day. If it is late, it will not count. The local delivery of mail takes an average of 3-5 days or drop your mail ballot in the red box at your local public library or Tax Collectors Office. Drop boxes will be available beginning August 1st.

## ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID WHEN VOTING IN PERSON

Voter information cards are not a valid form of identification when voting. Be sure to bring a current and valid photo ID when voting in person. If the photo ID does not contain your signature, an additional ID that includes your signature shall be required. Example: Photo on Student ID and signature on a library card are acceptable. If you do not bring any ID, you will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot.

- Florida Driver License
- Florida ID Card issued by DMV
- United States Passport
- Debit or Credit Card
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Public Assistance ID
- Veteran Health ID
- Concealed Weapon ID
- Firearm License ID
- Government Employee ID

## EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

★ DATES & TIMES~August 18th – 25th (including Sunday)  
 Hours: 9 AM – 6 PM Daily At All Locations

<b>Supervisor of Elections Office</b> 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101 St. Augustine, FL 32095	<b>St. Augustine Beach City Hall</b> 2200 A1A South St. Augustine, FL 32080	<b>Southeast Branch Library</b> 6670 US 1 South St. Augustine, FL 32086
<b>Ponte Vedra Branch Library</b> 101 Library Blvd. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082	<b>Julington Creek Annex</b> St. Johns Co. Service Ctr. 725 Flora Branch Blvd. St. Johns, FL 32259	<b>W.E. Harris Community Center</b> 400 E. Harris St. Hastings, FL 32145

## ELECTION DAY

- ★ Tuesday, August 28, 2018
- ★ Polls are open 7 AM – 7 PM
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# ATTORNEY GENERAL



## ASHLEY MOODY (Republican)

Ashley Moody is a fifth-generation Floridian and was born and raised in Plant City, Florida. She attended the University of Florida, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting, and Juris Doctor. She later attended Stetson University College of Law, earning a Master of Laws in international law.

She began her legal career with Holland & Knight, where she practiced commercial litigation. While at Holland & Knight, she was named one of Tampa Bay's "40 under 40" distinguished lawyers for her professional and civic contributions. Moody subsequently joined the United States Attorney's Office prosecuting drug, firearm and fraud offenses. While a federal prosecutor, Moody was commended by the DEA for prosecutorial excellence and outstanding initiative in drug law enforcement.

In 2006, at the age of 31, Moody became the youngest judge in Florida when she was elected circuit court judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in Hillsborough County. Moody served as a circuit court judge for over a decade and, during that time, founded the Attorney Ad Litem program, recruiting volunteer attorneys to stand in the place of parents who did not appear in court with their children, and developed a mentoring program for at-risk children within the juvenile delinquency system.

Moody also served as an adjunct professor at Stetson University College of Law during her time on the bench. In 2015, Moody was awarded the Florida Supreme Court's Distinguished Judicial Service Award for her significant contributions to pro bono legal service.

Moody lives with her husband, Justin, a federal law enforcement agent, in Tampa with their two sons, Brandon and Connor. For more information, visit [www.electashleymoody.com](http://www.electashleymoody.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*



## SEAN SHAW (Democrat)

Raised in North Florida, Rep. Sean Shaw was taught the importance of public service from a young age by his father, Leander Shaw, the first African-American chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. During law school at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, Shaw clerked for a United States District Court judge focusing on constitutional law and the protection of civil rights.

After law school, Shaw worked in private practice representing workers, families and small businesses during some of their most trying times. As Florida's Insurance Consumer Advocate, Shaw was an insurance industry watchdog protecting consumers against abuses from insurers. He led the process of negotiating lower rates for homeowners, pushed for faster response times from insurers after emergencies and ensured rates were fair and justified.

He currently represents State House District 61 in Tampa, where he has fought for more funding for public education, for criminal justice reforms and for common sense gun safety legislation to make communities safer.

For more information, visit [seanshaw.com](http://seanshaw.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*



## RYAN TORRENS (Democrat)

Ryan Torrens is a fifth-generation Tampa native who owns his own law practice, through which he defends clients against mortgage foreclosure actions and debt collection violations.

Prior to starting his practice in 2012, Torrens worked as an independent consultant reviewing toxic mortgage loans for the federal government-mandated Independent Foreclosure Review Project, to which he attributes his interest in consumer protection law.

Torrens earned a bachelor's degree in government and world affairs from the University of Tampa, where he graduated magna cum laude. He earned his Juris Doctor from the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., where he served as an intern for a federal bankruptcy judge and for several members of the U.S. Congress.

In his spare time, Torrens enjoys running, fishing, reading and enjoying time with his family, including his wife, Francesca, and their dog Ziggy.

For more information, visit [www.ryanforattorneygeneral.com](http://www.ryanforattorneygeneral.com).

*From www.ryanforattorneygeneral.com*



## FRANK WHITE (Republican)

Frank White and his wife, Stephanie, are raising their three boys with conservative values in the Florida Panhandle. White serves as a deacon in the First Baptist Church and teaches Sunday School with his wife. He is also a board member for Baptist Hospital and Pensacola M.E.S.S. Hall Children's Science Museum. Recognized for his business and community leadership, Gov. Rick Scott appointed White to the Florida Development Finance Corporation Board of Directors, where he serves as chair.

White is the chief financial officer and general counsel for the Sansing Dealer Group, an organization with over 650 employees and stores throughout Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. He graduated from the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law and was the president of the Federalist Society chapter. White has practiced law in Texas and Florida for over 15 years. Prior to entering public service, he practiced law as an attorney at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld.

As a Florida legislator, White fought to ban "Sanctuary" cities for illegal immigrants; strengthened Florida's Stand Your Ground laws and gun owner rights; achieved the highest "A+" rating from the NRA; was backed by Florida Sheriffs and Law Enforcement; refused using taxpayer dollars in his political campaigns and sponsored legislation to end taxpayer subsidies of political campaigns in Florida; passed a law that gives individuals injured by an act of terrorism the right to recover damages; and was the co-founder of the Northwest Florida chapter of the Federalist Society.

For more information on White, visit [www.frankwhite.com](http://www.frankwhite.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*

**JEREMIAH BLOCKER**  
FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMMISSION

- ★ Military Veteran
- ★ Family Man
- ★ Trusted Businessman



JEREMIAH IS DEDICATED TO:

- ★ Championing Economic Growth
- ★ Keeping Taxes Low
- ★ Protecting Our Citizens



THE CONSERVATIVE LEADER  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY NEEDS!

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY: AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>

www.JeremiahBlocker.com

Paid by Jeremiah Blocker, Republican, for St. Johns County Commission District 4.  
Jeremiah Blocker is a member of the US Air Force Reserves. Use of military rank, job titles, and photographs in uniform does not imply endorsement by the Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force, or the Department of Defense.

## Forum

Continued from 17

Conversely, Will revealed he once had a complaint sustained against him for calling someone a "crackhead."

"It was a trial 10 years ago and I called a crackhead a crackhead," he revealed. "A 56-year-old man lived in an apartment on U.S. 1 in Daytona Beach and wanted to purchase cocaine and he had been buying cocaine from teenage drug dealers for 10 years."

The man used his position of authority with the teens to arrange a deal that led to four people getting shot, Will explained, and one 19-year-old getting killed.

"I called it like I saw it," he concluded.

Later, School Board candidates discussed measures being taken by the

district to keep students safe, such as single entry points, video surveillance and other initiatives.

Cook said he wants youth resource officers to be made available for students in every school in the county. Barrera, who is running for re-election, touted the district's safety efforts and said it is working with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and a company called U.S. Security.

Finally, Blocker and Dudynskay discussed fiscal policy, the Republican party, transportation, how to handle the growth of St. Johns County and more.

Dudynskay and Blocker reached a point of disagreement on sales tax, with Dudynskay stating he wouldn't mind raising the tax "by a penny" if it would pay the bills. Meanwhile, Blocker argued that responsible spending would help the county manage expenditures without the need for a tax increase.

# KELLY BARRERA

## for School Board



Hello Friends and Neighbors,

As your school board representative, I truly enjoy the opportunity to serve our students, teachers, staff, parents and community. My goal for the next four years is simple, to build on the success that makes our school district great.

Doing so isn't simple; It will require a leader that knows how to get those great results and has the passion, energy and values to accomplish what we need to do to continue our success!

I have brought my broad based background, experience, pursuit of knowledge in graduate educational courses and strong civic conscience to the St. Johns County School Board. With the challenges of managing growth, continuing academic excellence, limited funding and meeting the safety, security, social and emotional needs of our students, it is imperative to have an experienced leader who is well-rounded, an independent thinker, a creative problem solver and understands what needs to be done to move forward. I am that leader!

We have achieved great success over the last four years, in spite of explosive growth, increased rigor and accountability, legislative changes, and limited funding. Our school district has successfully transitioned to a new superintendent and senior leadership, continued academic excellence, expanded our workforce and career opportunities, increased our graduation rate and increased a variety of programs, partnerships and support services for students.

Although we have met and overcome many challenges, we are far from finished.

Providing safe, supportive and secure schools is my top priority.

We must move forward with plans meeting the growth needs of our community, ensure we have increased school capacity, strong leadership and the best teachers. I will continue to advocate for a new high school as our next school to be built.

My personal commitment to our children is to help all students find success. We continue to provide opportunities to allow them to explore their strengths and interests while also learning to manage their challenges. Differentiated instruction and providing individual learning pathways is paramount to our students' academic growth.

I am the right person at the right time, running for the right reasons- our children! I ask that you consider me your candidate of choice and would appreciate your vote.

Sincerely, *Kelly*

### The Right Experience

Kelly is the ONLY candidate with School Board and governmental leadership experience. As vice chair of the St. Johns County School Board, Kelly has overseen the opening of five new schools. She has expanded school choice and workforce education offerings across the county and has guided the district in overseeing 39 schools, nearly 40,000 students and an operating budget of more than \$315 million. Kelly earned her Certified Board Member certification, Master Board certification, and has completed graduate course work in educational leadership and technology.

### Vision for the Future

Kelly will continue to build on the academic excellence of our school district, working to make it the best in the country, not just Florida. She would like to increase the partnerships and programs at each school to provide our students, teachers and staff with safe, supportive, and secure schools. She will help meet our communities growing needs through increased capacity including a new \$70 million dollar high school, strong leadership, and providing and supporting the very best teachers.

### The Best Getting Better

All of our schools in district 4 received an "A" rating from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE). This year, Ponte Vedra High School and Allen D. Nease saw improved performance as evidenced by increasing total number of points earned on Florida State Standards assessment, the number of Advanced Placement tests given and passage rate. Our Graduation rates, College Readiness, SAT and ACT Test Scores are all above state and national averages. Our high school students also have the opportunity to earn college credit through a variety of dual enrollment courses. Beginning in 2018-19 school year we have added Collegiate High School through a partnership with St. Johns River State College, at all of our high schools. This is a structured program that will offer our students the ability to earn their AA degree while in high school.

## RESPECTED & ACCOMPLISHED EDUCATORS ENDORSING KELLY

"Our endorsement is based on our belief that Kelly Barrera is best positioned to support teachers and lead the charge in new ideas for our growing, changing district. We have watched her in action as she has served on the board for the last 4 years. She has showcased her abilities to listen, question and act. We look forward to working with her in the future."

~St. Johns Education Association, the local teachers union

"There is no question in my mind that the re-election of Kelly Barrera is essential to the continued success of the St. Johns County School District," Joyner said in his endorsement. "I have worked with many board members in my 40 years in public education and Kelly Barrera is one of the finest."

~Dr. Joyner- Flagler College President and past Superintendent St. Johns County School District

"I enthusiastically support Kelly Barrera for St. Johns County School Board, District 4. She is a strong advocate for our teachers and students!"

~Kathleen Furness - Past Principal PVPV/Rawlings (17 years)

"Kelly is forward thinking as our school district strives for continuous improvement and as we build on our academic and extra-curricular activities."

~Bill Fehling - Past St. Johns County School Board Member, District 4

- Dr. Frances B. Kinne Past President and Chancellor Emerita Jacksonville University
- Dr. Anne Marie Kent- Willette- Director, Center for Teaching and Learning, Jacksonville University
- Julie Clairmont- Retired SJC Teacher

- Dr. Christine C. Arab- Chair of the Schultz Board and former St. Johns County educator
- Dr. Pam Mullarkey Robbins- Founder Project SOS, a program of The Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida and Past St Johns County School Board Member, District 4
- Karen Forfar - Retired SJC Teacher

## JOIN US IN VOTING TO RE-ELECT KELLY BARRERA FOR DISTRICT 4 SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

★ EARLY VOTING STARTS AUGUST 18TH. ELECTION DAY AUGUST 28TH. ★

[www.kellybarrera.com](http://www.kellybarrera.com)

Paid for by Kelly Barrera for School Board

# Chamber's Politics in St. Johns candidate forums collect more than 550 votes in straw polls

More than 550 votes were cast in straw polls administered by the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections office during the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Politics in St. Johns series of events held in Ponte Vedra on July 16 and in St. Augustine Aug. 1.

"It's certainly not a model to predict results," said Bob Porter, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's director of public policy. "However, the numbers of people at these events is large and, for the first time this year, we have held the poll in Ponte Vedra as well, so it could be a useful tool for candidates to gauge the public's sentiment with only weeks to go before the Primaries."

View the combined straw poll results, which were provided by the Chamber.



Photos by Susan Griffin  
County Commission District 4 candidate Dick Williams and his wife, Linda, at the Politics in St. Johns event in St. Augustine



Circuit Judge candidate Sebrina L. Slack at the event in St. Augustine



County Commission District 4 candidate Erika Alba at the Politics in St. Johns event in St. Augustine



Circuit Judge candidate Ryan Will with his wife, Bryn, at the event in Ponte Vedra



ABOVE: County Commission District 4 candidate Jeremiah Blocker (center) gathers with supporters at the event in St. Augustine.

LEFT: Circuit Judge candidate Linda L. Gaustad at the event in Ponte Vedra Beach

PONTE VEDRA AUTO SHOW

**SEPTEMBER 9**

**SUNDAY**

9 AM - 3 PM

NO CATEE EVENTS FIELD

**FREE**

ADMISSION

OVER 30

COMPETITION

CATEGORIES

REGISTER YOUR

AUTOMOBILE NOW

PROUD SPONSOR

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SPIN SOUND PRODUCTIONS

penite VEDRA GOLF CARTS

Wellness Center

Edward James

O'Reilly

WARRIOTT ALLOY LANGRISH

Allstate

## STRAW POLL RESULTS

<b>United States Senator</b>			<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>		
263	Rick Scott	R	227	Jimmy Patronis	R
282	Bill Nelson	D	245	Jeremy Ring	D
<b>United States Representative District 4</b>			<b>Commissioner of Agriculture</b>		
283	John H. Rutherford	R	114	Matt Caldwell	R
243	George "Ges" Selmont	D	62	Denise Grimsley	R
<b>United States Representative District 6</b>			35	Mike McCalister	R
42	Fred Costello	R	40	Baxter Troutman	R
47	Michael Waltz	R	161	Nicole "Nikki" Fried	D
23	John Ward	R	20	Jeffery Duane Porter	D
46	Stephen Sevigny	D	48	Roy David Walker	D
96	Nancy Soderberg	D	<b>State Representative District 17</b>		
32	John Upchurch	D	288	Cyndi Stevenson	R
<b>Governor</b>			235	Jaime D. Perkins	NPA
142	Ron DeSantis	R	<b>State Representative District 24</b>		
19	Bruce Nathan	R	143	Paul Renner	R
109	Adam H. Putnam	R	153	Adam Morley	D
105	Andrew Gillum	D	<b>Circuit Judge – 7th Circuit – Group 15</b>		
70	Gwen Graham	D	137	Linda L. Gaustad	
47	Jeff Greene	D	170	Sebrina L. Slack	
7	Chris King	D	139	Ryan Will	
33	Philip Levine	D	<b>County Commissioner District 4</b>		
5	Alex "Lundy" Lundmark	D	93	Erika Alba	R
<b>Attorney General</b>			128	Jeremiah Blocker	R
199	Ashley Moody	R	21	Nicholas "Mike" Dudynskay	R
70	Frank White	R	115	Dick Williams	R
162	Sean Shaw	D	139	John C. "Jack" Gorman	NPA
65	Ryan Torrens	D			



## STRAW POLL RESULTS CONT.

### School Board Member District 4

276 Kelly Barrera  
52 Denver Cook  
146 Abigail Levrini

### Anastasia Mosquito Control District Seat 2

132 Karen Cornwell  
214 Jeanne Moeller  
60 Merrill Paul Roland

### Anastasia Mosquito Control District Seat 4

175 Trish Becker  
84 Catherine Brandhorst  
146 Peter Miele

### St. Johns County Airport Authority Group 2

189 Justin Mirgeaux  
221 Victor Raymos

### St. Johns County Airport Authority Group 3

220 Bruce Maguire  
185 Carl Youman

### City of St. Augustine Seat 3/Mayor

109 Bill McClure  
34 Jackie Rock  
126 Nancy Shaver

### City of St. Augustine Seat 4

98 Jill Pacetti  
30 Wade Ross  
126 John Valdes

### City of St. Augustine Seat 5

87 Chris Ellis  
158 Nancy Sikes-Kline

## U.S. SENATOR



### ROQUE "ROCKY" DE LA FUENTE (Republican)

Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente is running for Senate in five states, including Florida, California, Minnesota, Washington and Wisconsin. He unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination for President in 2016 but did secure the Reform Party nomination.

De La Fuente was born in San Diego, California in 1954. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics from Instituto Patria and graduated Magna Cum Laude. He

then studied business administration and accounting at Anahuac University and the University of San Diego.

As a young adult, De La Fuente entered the automotive business in 1974. His first jobs in the industry were selling cars for Mazda and Toyota dealerships in El Cajon, California. A few years later, he founded American Automotive Management & Services, Inc. and acquired his first new car franchise. He added 27 more over the next 16 years. At the age of 28, De La Fuente was recognized by his peers and elected chairman of the National Dealer Council for the third largest automotive company in the world at the time. He ultimately sold 27 of his automotive franchises. In addition to his automotive success, De La Fuente has experience in currency exchange, banking, real estate and more.

De La Fuente believes in the regulation of indirect campaign contributions from corporations and unions, finding alternatives to jail and prison for nonviolent criminals, reasonable gun control legislation, comprehensive immigration reform that recognizes undocumented workers as assets rather than liabilities and more.

For more information, visit [vote.rocky101.com/en\\_us](http://vote.rocky101.com/en_us).

*From [vote.rocky101.com/en\\_us](http://vote.rocky101.com/en_us)*



### RICK SCOTT (Republican)

A Bloomington, Illinois native, Rick Scott is a Republican currently serving as the 45th governor of the state of Florida. Scott grew up in public housing as his adoptive father, a World War II veteran and truck driver, and his mother, a store clerk, struggled to financially support their family. After marrying his high school sweetheart, Ann, Scott joined the Navy and used the G.I. Bill to go to college and eventually open his first business — a donut shop. He ultimately ran the world's largest healthcare company with hundreds of thousands of employees from across the world. Scott is a graduate of the University of Missouri, Kansas City, later receiving his law degree from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law.

Since being elected governor, Scott has championed more than \$10 billion in tax cuts and reduced more than 5,200 regulations. Since 2011, he has helped navigate the state of Florida through several natural disasters including Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew and Irma.

Scott believes in term limits for all members of Congress, a requirement for Congress to pass an annual budget and meet appropriations bill deadlines, a requirement for Congress to put in full-time work for a full-time salary and more. His plan, entitled "Make Washington Work," is aimed at reforming Washington to make it work for families across the nation.

For more information on Scott, visit [www.rickscottforflorida.com](http://www.rickscottforflorida.com).

*From [rickscottforflorida.com](http://rickscottforflorida.com)*

# Elect RYAN WILL for Circuit Judge

- Attorney since 2005
- Graduate of the University of Florida & Cumberland School of Law
- 10 years as a homicide prosecutor in Volusia, Flagler, Putnam & St Johns
- Civil, family, juvenile, and probate experience
- Teaches at the Detectives Academy, local Universities and High Schools
- Involved in the Community and Committed to our Future: serves on the Board of local charities and service organizations
- Established Florida's network of playgrounds to prevent neighborhood sex predators
- Married to a teacher
- [www.electryanwill.com](http://www.electryanwill.com) / FB Elect Ryan Will

*Political advertisement approved by Ryan Will and paid for by the Committee of Responsible Persons to Elect Ryan Will for Circuit Judge, Non-partisan, Circuit 7, Group 15*

# GOVERNOR

Photo  
not  
Available

## DON BALDAUF (Republican)

Don Baldauf is determined to get “our republic back to the original founding principles and restore tranquility to our nation.” Baldauf believes government has grown beyond its useful size and scope, and he has promised that his first act as governor will be to fully uphold his oath of office and strictly conform to the Constitution of the United States.

Baldauf would like to eliminate all direct Federal Income tax for all Floridians in both personal and business categories. He strongly opposes sanctuary cities and believes it is in the governor’s power to prosecute willful violators of immigration law.

Baldauf also believes that healthcare and health insurance coverage are different issues that need to be addressed separately. Regarding healthcare, Baldauf believes government has the responsibility to remove roadblocks and obstacles to achieve the standard of services people can afford or wish to purchase by opening the market to promote competition.

When it comes to the Second Amendment, Baldauf believes every person has a natural born right to protect and defend themselves against all threats. He does not believe the government has the right to limit the Second Amendment or enforce regulations that would limit anyone’s ability to protect themselves with a firearm.

For more information, visit [www.itsarepublic.com](http://www.itsarepublic.com).

*From www.itsarepublic.com*



## RON DESANTIS (Republican)

Currently the U.S. Representative for Florida’s Sixth District, Ron DeSantis has been endorsed by President Donald Trump, Fox News’ Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham and radio host Mark Levin for his gubernatorial bid.

While in Congress, DeSantis has led efforts to impose term limits cut taxes, repeal ObamaCare, relocate America’s embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, assist veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress, prevent American tax dollars from being sent to Iran, combat radical Islamic terrorism, stop illegal immigration and defund sanctuary cities.

A native Floridian with blue-collar roots, DeSantis worked his way through Yale University, where he graduated with honors and was the captain of the varsity baseball team. He also graduated with honors from Harvard Law School. While at Harvard, DeSantis earned a commission in the U.S. Navy as a JAG officer. During his active-duty service, he supported operations at the terrorist detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and deployed to Iraq as an adviser to a U.S. Navy SEAL commander in support of the SEAL mission in Fallujah, Ramadi, and the rest of Al Anbar province. His military decorations include the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service and the Iraq Campaign Medal. He has also served as a federal and military prosecutor.

DeSantis is married to his wife, Casey, an Emmy Award-winning television host. They have a daughter, Madison, and son, Mason.

For more information, visit [rondesantis.com](http://rondesantis.com).

*From rondesantis.com*



## ANDREW GILLUM (Democrat)

Andrew Gillum was born in Miami where his mother drove a school bus and his father was a construction worker. After being the first in his family to graduate from college, the Miami native went on to become the youngest person in history to be elected to the Tallahassee City Commission. He later became mayor and contributed 15 years in public service.

As mayor, Gillum developed the local economy, fought the gun lobby in court to promote reform and defended the rights of immigrants.

He is running for governor to rebuild the state’s economy, revitalize public education, protect and expand healthcare access and address the climate change crisis with a clean energy economy. He also wants to strengthen public schools and end the culture of high-stakes testing.

Gillum has promised to fight against special interests that are standing in the way of acting against climate change and ensuring Florida is a welcome and safe place for everyone.

Gillum believes in criminal justice reform; gun regulations such as a ban on assault weapons, bump stocks and large capacity magazines; LGBT equality; women’s rights, the abolishment of ICE in its current form and more.

Furthermore, Gillum is a strong supporter of Puerto Rico, and he plans to use his platform as governor to advocate for new federal legislation and assistance.

For more information, visit [www.andrewgillum.com](http://www.andrewgillum.com).

*From www.andrewgillum.com*



## GWEN GRAHAM (Democrat)

In 2014, Gwen Graham challenged a Tea Party congressman in Florida’s 2nd Congressional District. She ran on a promise to fight for the middle class and campaigned in every corner of the district. Graham won her race and become one of just two Democrats in the nation to defeat an incumbent Republican.

On the campaign and throughout her time in Congress, Graham has followed in the footsteps of her father — Gov. Bob Graham — by participating in “Graham Workdays,” where she spends an entire shift working alongside fellow Floridians. Her jobs have included work on farms, teaching in public schools and training with the United States Air Force in a T-38 jet.

Graham grew up enjoying Florida’s natural treasures. As a result, she is committed to protecting Florida’s air and waters. Graham also believes in criminal justice reform, healthcare as a human right, making Florida a solar state, LGBT equality, women’s rights, gun safety, comprehensive immigration reform and a pathway to citizenship, ethics and government transparency, women’s rights and more.

For more information, visit [www.gwengraham.com](http://www.gwengraham.com).

*From www.gwengraham.com*



## JEFF GREENE (Democrat)

Jeff Greene is committed to fighting for Florida’s families and putting everyday Floridians first. Greene doesn’t want families to work three jobs to put food on the table. His goal is to facilitate a school system that guarantees students an education preparing them for high-paying jobs, that also ensures their teachers fair compensation.

Greene believes in a woman’s right to choose, helping citizens gain access to high-quality, low-cost healthcare, protecting communities from gun violence through common sense gun reforms, standing up to President Donald Trump on immigration, LGBT equality, protecting the environment, providing affordable housing, criminal justice reform, prioritizing public education and raising Florida’s minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

As a teenager, Greene’s family lost everything, and he saw his parents go from owning a small business to working blue-collar jobs to get by. Following the death of his father at age 51, he found nothing but stacks of bills on his desk. A strong public-school education, government-subsidized student loans and work-study programs helped him rebuild. Greene eventually graduated from college, received his MBA and achieved what he calls “the American Dream.”

For more information, visit [www.jeffgreeneforflorida.com](http://www.jeffgreeneforflorida.com).

*From www.jeffgreeneforflorida.com*



## CHRIS KING (Democrat)

Born in Orlando, Chris King is a third-generation Central Floridian. He graduated from Harvard University and earned his law degree from the University of Florida. Over a dozen years ago, with the idea that businesses had a responsibility to “do well and do good,” King and his brother started Elevation, a company that provides seniors across the state and Southeast affordable housing options.

With his family, King started several charitable efforts to serve their community, including the Elevation Scholars program, which provides college scholarship opportunities to low-income students in Orange County. The Elevation Global Initiative funds family farming and environmental efforts in Haiti, entrepreneurship training in East Africa and prisoner rehabilitation in U.S. prisons. He also helped launch the Elevation Academy, a school in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo that serves 700 low-income students.

King met his wife Kristen when he was 15 years old. They are raising their three children in Orlando.

*From www.chriskingforflorida.com*

**Note:** Timothy M. Devine and Bob Langford will both be listed as candidates in Florida’s gubernatorial race. The Recorder, however, was unable to get in contact with either candidate or find information about them online.

# GOVERNOR CONT.



## PHILIP LEVINE (Democrat)

Philip Levine is the former two-term mayor of Miami Beach, entrepreneur and philanthropist. A native of South Florida since the age of 10, Levine has spent most of his career in the private sector as an entrepreneur, building successful businesses in his community.

As mayor, Levine spearheaded an ambitious series of solutions to combat sea level rise — installing pumps and raising roads — which are now a model for cities around the world. He helped reform a broken police department, developed new public transportation options, helped to pass the first living minimum wage in the state of Florida in Miami Beach and oversaw a city that was one of only a handful in the country to win consecutive perfect scores for LGBTQ+ inclusiveness during his tenure.

Levine is now running for governor this year, hoping to bring a progressive vision and the same get-it-done attitude to Tallahassee.

For more information, visit [philiplevine2018.com](http://philiplevine2018.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*



## ALEX 'LUNDY' LUNDMARK (Democrat)

Lundy Lundmark is a Rotarian, Eagle Scout, realtor, pilot and first-generation immigrant. He is running because he envisions a different future for Florida.

Lundmark was born in Russia, adopted by a loving family at age 10. He grew up in Vero Beach and studied at Indian River State College and the University of Central Florida. He earned a degree in business financing, with an emphasis in real estate. He retired at the age of 31. Before committing to the gubernatorial race, he spent as much time as possible flying to accumulate hours and skills to work for a commercial airline.

Lundmark decided to run because he saw the first three debates and was not satisfied with the vision of Florida's future from the other candidates. He ran to give Floridians a different and better option.

Lundmark envisions a future where students are challenged, inspired and enriched on a daily basis; all Floridians look up to law enforcement, at all ages; Florida's compassion shines as bright as the sun; the state never pursues the death penalty, with the victim's family even having the ability to reduce or even eliminate the perpetrator's prison sentence, saving significant taxpayer's dollars; and court orders are required to pull over vehicles to keep residents safe and protected.

For more information, visit [www.GovLundy.com](http://www.GovLundy.com).

*Submitted by the candidate*



## JOHN JOSEPH MERCADANTE (Republican)

Born and raised in a suburb of Boston, John Joseph Mercadante is an active member of the Republican Party of Miami-Dade County, District 40, as well as a lead in the Grass Root's movement team. Mercadante has received the Order of Merit for volunteering in a congressional election for the former mayor of Cutler Bay. Additionally, Mercadante is a member of the Republican National Committee's Presidential Advisory Board, a member of Judicial Watch and a charter member of the Republican National Committee. He is a frequent guest of the Miami Young Republicans and has been involved in Project Majority Red, led by the Republican Party of Florida.

Mercadante believes in enhancing the state's transportation by pushing for light rail vehicles, an improved bus system and more. The candidate would like to protect blue-collar workers from workers compensation abuse, resolve nursing home abuse and improve the economy by treating the state of Florida like a business. Furthermore, Mercadante is determined to fight corruption and represent Florida while upholding his Republican oath.

For more information on Mercadante visit [www.patriotforthestate.com](http://www.patriotforthestate.com).

*From www.patriotforthestate.com*



## BRUCE NATHAN (Republican)

Bruce Nathan has been a physical therapist for over 20 years. He moved to Florida in 2000 to work for the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services.

Nathan joined the United States Army Reserves directly after the 9/11 attacks. At the time, Nathan was a member of the Democratic Party. However, he eventually switched to the Republican Party.

Nathan believes that elected officials should not live in an ivory tower. As governor, he plans to open satellite offices to increase his ability to meet with all who want to share their thoughts and ideas on the issues facing Florida, and the U.S. as a whole.

If elected, the candidate also wants to fight human trafficking, the opioid epidemic and government corruption; assist and support veterans; secure Florida's Medicaid system from potential hacks; support hemp farming; and work directly with Florida residents to tackle state issues.

For more information on Nathan, visit [www.bruceNathan2018.com](http://www.bruceNathan2018.com).

*From bruceNathan2018.com*



## ADAM PUTNAM (Republican)

As a fifth-generation Floridian from Bartow, Putnam spent his life raising cattle and growing citrus. Putnam, along with wife Melissa, have built a family in Florida and taught their kids the values of hard work, self-reliance and perseverance.

Putnam has pledged to protect religious freedom and work with faith-based communities to address societal challenges. He has promised to help home-school families navigate Florida's education system, protect gun rights and support veterans. He believes in defending constitutional freedoms, removing judicial activism from court benches, various faith-based and community-based initiatives and more. Putnam is pro-life and boasts a 100 percent National Right to Life lifetime rating.

Putnam, a recipient of the Defender of Faith and Freedom award from the Florida Faith and Freedom Coalition, plans on combating the opioid crisis; standing by those suffering from addiction and substance abuse disorders while providing support and treatment for those seeking sobriety; caring for the 41,000 children in Florida's child welfare system; sharing a message of redemption for inmates through prison ministries; feeding the hungry and more.

For more information, visit [adamputnam.com](http://adamputnam.com).

*From adamputnam.com*



## JOHN WETHERBEE (Democrat)

John Wetherbee has lived in Florida for 17 years, with time spent in Miami, Gainesville and now the Treasure Coast. By living in various regions of the state, Wetherbee has been able to connect with a wide number of residents and learn more about their issues with the quality of water in their area.

After graduating from the University of Florida, Wetherbee went to work as a mechanical engineer for Dupont and then Westinghouse, both contracted by the Department of Energy. He now owns and manages a small business in the Treasure Coast area, employing local workers as they provide for their families. Throughout his career, Wetherbee has learned the fundamentals of how large and small businesses function, even in the government sector. He has seen the impact of government decisions first-hand as they came down from Washington and is now seeking to apply his knowledge and experience toward restoring Florida's water systems and saving its wildlife.

For more information, visit [www.johnwetherbee.com](http://www.johnwetherbee.com).

*From www.johnwetherbee.com*



## BOB WHITE (Republican)

Bob White is a Polk County native running a campaign based on changing the environment, ending government corruption and promoting conservative values. The chairman of the Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida and Central East Florida and the founder and former chairman of the Liberty Catalyst Fund, White is a fourth-generation Floridian.

White has made a commitment to defending the integrity of Florida's elections and promoting meaningful campaign finance reform. He is passionate about curbing the growing influence of special interest money in the political and legislative process, along with reducing regulations and creating jobs.

Regarding education, White believes in eliminating Common Core and reducing the burdens associated with excessive standardized testing. White is a supporter of the Second Amendment. He has promised to work with the Florida legislature for the revocation of government-mandated "Gun Free Zones" and support open carry by concealed carry weapons licensees.

The candidate does not support sanctuary cities. When it comes to abortion, White believes that life begins at conception and he has vowed to reduce the number of abortions performed in Florida.

For more information, visit [www.bobforflorida.com](http://www.bobforflorida.com).

*From www.bobforflorida.com*



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Senator Travis Hutson, FL Senate, District 7.



# Love Your Smile: Who's Who in Dentistry

## Palencia Dental launches new, advanced dental approach to treating TMD, TMJ and sleep disorders with BEMER

Stephanie Kinsey, DDS, owner and founder of Palencia Dental in St. Augustine, has launched a new, advanced approach for treating temporomandibular disorder (TMD), temporomandibular joint (TMJ) syndrome and sleep disorders, among others.

With the BEMER, Kinsey and her staff can further provide patients with the best possible benefits for the disorders, which can develop slowly over time due to postural issues and misaligned teeth and jaws along with jaw injuries and damage. The disorders can lead to sleep issues, pain, teeth grinding, stress, and arthritis, to name a few.

According to Kinsey, the FDA-approved technology is currently used by elite athletes and in thousands of hospitals and clinics in tandem with other traditional medical services, and also in veterinary care. NASA has signed a joint collaboration agreement with BEMER to pursue applications in space. The breakthrough technology can now be utilized by dental patients in the doctor's office and at home or business. The system can improve symptoms in approximately 16 minutes with targeted applications that boost the blood flow, benefit the body's cardiac system with regenerative abilities, and improved mental acuity and well-being.

Kinsey manages a variety of signaling devices and applicators using a patented electronic signal to improve blood flow in the smallest vessels of the body. This delivers benefits to patients, including significant improvements in TMD and TMJ, and sleep management.

"We are very excited to utilize the technology in our practice with additional modalities to improve overall, whole body nutrition and oxygen supply to cells, cardiac function, elimination of toxins and increase physical fitness and endurance," said Kinsey.



Photo courtesy of Palencia Dental

**Palencia Dental has launched a new approach for treating temporomandibular disorder (TMD), temporomandibular joint (TMJ) syndrome and sleep disorders, among others.**

Kinsey also said the technology can help to improve and increase concentration, add to muscle stimulation and promote stress reduction and relaxation.

Specifically, BEMER is an acronym for Bio-Electro-Magnetic-Energy-Regulation Mat and uses PEMF (pulsed electromagnetic field) as a vehicle to deliver a specific pulsed therapy that increases circulation in the small blood vessels, which make up about 75 percent of the circulatory system. According to BEMER, an increase in circulation to the cells while using the device helps to better carry nutrients, red and white blood cells and oxygen which is fundamental to health. Also, waste from normal cellular function and chemical exposure is more efficiently removed. The body can function more optimally, build stronger tissue and more effectively heal itself.

"The technology has been used for more than 15 years in more than 4,000 hospitals and clinics in Europe," said Dr. Kinsey.

"There are many PEMF medical devices, but BEMER has been shown to be one of

the most effective delivery systems on the market, based on our research and patient recovery."

Kinsey has been practicing dentistry for more than 20 years. Her St. Augustine

dentistry practice is dedicated to restoring and enhancing the natural beauty of one's smile combining conservative and state-of-the-art procedures along with advanced dental medicine. She is a Fellow with The International Association of Physiologic Aesthetics (IAPA) and serves as a member and Fellow with IAPA's founding organization, the Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies (LVI). Kinsey graduated with honors in 1994 from the University of Colorado Health Science Center in Denver, Colorado. She was accepted into a General Practice Residency in Chicago, Illinois at the Illinois Masonic Medical Center where she was invited to stay a second year and serve as chief resident.

Palencia Dental is located at 159 Palencia Village Drive Suites 107-109 in St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 474-5444. Visit the website at [www.palenciadental.com](http://www.palenciadental.com).

*This article was submitted by Bonnie Hayflick, a public relations representative for Palencia Dental.*

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**Who's Who in Dentistry:**

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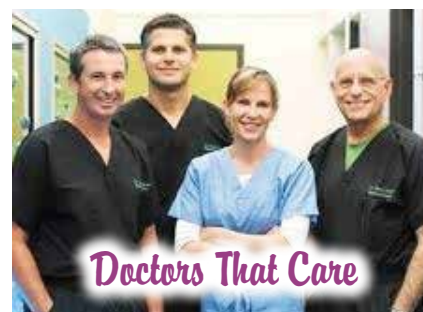
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# Bob Dylan to return to St. Augustine Amphitheatre Oct. 19

Bob Dylan and His Band will return to the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Friday, Oct. 19.

Tickets went on sale to the general public Friday, Aug. 10. Dylan previously performed to a sold-out crowd at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre in April 2015.

Dylan has been an influential singer-songwriter and popular culture figure for over 50 years. He has released over 40 albums, which have sold over 110 million records worldwide. As a songwriter and musician, Dylan has received numerous awards including multiple GRAMMY Awards (most notably Album of the Year in 1998), a Golden Globe and an Academy Award.

Dylan has also been inducted into many prestigious societies, including the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and Songwriters Hall of Fame. Dylan was awarded the Kennedy Center Honor by President Clinton in 1997, and in 1998, the Pulitzer Prize jury awarded him a spe-



Photo courtesy of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre

**Bob Dylan and His Band will perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Friday, Oct. 19.**

cial citation for "his profound impact on popular music and American culture, marked by lyrical compositions of extraordinary poetic power." Dylan has also received the

Commandeur de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, which is the highest cultural award bestowed by the French government. In May 2012, Dylan received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama.

The next two years brought acclaimed entries in the ongoing "Bootleg Series." In 2013, Dylan released "Another Self Portrait (1969-1971)," and 2014 saw the long-awaited appearance of "The Basement Tapes Complete." Released on Feb. 3, 2015, "Shadows in the Night" found the singer/songwriter devoting himself to selections from the Great American Songbook in the pre-rock and roll era. Every one of the ten songs had previously been recorded by Frank Sinatra, and Dylan's album was his version of Sinatra's saloon songs, arranged by his own touring band.

Tickets for the show will be available at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Box Offices.

Tickets will also be available via ticketmaster.com or by phone at (800) 745-3000.

## Award-winning journalist to reveal secrets behind becoming a successful freelancer

Award-winning journalist and media consultant Brad Kuhn will present, "So You Want to Be A Freelancer," at the FWA Ponte Vedra Writers meeting on Saturday, Aug. 25 at 10:30 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

Kuhn said he will teach writers "how to fish where the fish are biting." Among the things attendees will learn are:

- The power of goals
- Who's hiring
- What to charge

Kuhn was a staff writer for the Wall Street Journal, Orlando Sentinel and Orlando Business Journal, and wrote "I Hate My Banker." He won the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize and co-authored the poetry collection "Three Houses." A founding director of Shady Lane Press



**Brad Kuhn**

The Ponte Vedra Writers group is part of the Florida Writers Association, a statewide, non-profit organization with nearly 1,500 members dedicated to the support of both aspiring and published writers in any genre. The Aug. 25 meeting is open to members and non-members alike. For information on FWA, visit [www.floridawriters.net](http://www.floridawriters.net).

and The Jack Kerouac House Writers in Residence Project of Orlando, he is a frequent contributor to Orlando Magazine, and has led writing workshops throughout Florida.

## Young Ponte Vedra Beach author receives national recognition

Grayson Rigby, a 12-year-old author of Ponte Vedra Beach, recently was named a gold medal winner at the 2018 Florida Authors and Publishers Association President's Book Awards for his book, "Expedition to the Galápagos Islands."

This national award is open to books published between 2017 and 2018. The judges for the competition are librarians, educators and publishing professionals. Medals were awarded at the Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace in Lake Buena Vista.

"The FAPA President's Book Award exists to promote excellence in the publishing industry by recognizing talented contemporary authors who put both heart and soul into their work," said Jane R. Wood, past president of FAPA. "FAPA is proud to be a champion of authors and publishers going the extra mile to produce books of excellence in every aspect."



Photo courtesy of Monique Rigby

**Ponte Vedra resident and author Grayson Rigby, 12, displays the gold medal he received at the 2018 Florida Authors and Publishers Association President's Book Awards for his book, "Expedition to the Galápagos Islands."**

"Expedition to the Galápagos Islands" is a non-fiction children's book, published by Salty Paws Publishing, in which a young adventurer travels aboard the National Geographic Endeavour and shares his experiences as well as science facts and information about each bird, crustacean, fish, marine mammal and reptile encountered on the journey. This children's picture book and travel journal features full color photographs and illustrations.

"We are proud to announce this year's winners who truly embody the excellence this award was created to celebrate," said FAPA President Angelina Assanti. "Their works are representative of the creative storytelling, bold concepts and innovative ideas which makes the President's Book Awards so well respected by librarians and those in the publishing industry. This year was no exception as we had a record number of nominations! We salute all of our winners for their fine work."

The Florida Authors & Publishers Association is an organization for authors, publishers, illustrators, editors, printers and other professionals involved in the publishing industry.

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# Business Weekly

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018

DAU Family Eye Care  
offers another option  
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## Forbes lists Ponte Vedra Beach advisor among America's Top Next Generation Wealth Advisors

Nick Hulling, an associate vice president and financial advisor at Morgan Stanley's Ponte Vedra Beach Wealth Management office, was recently named to Forbes Magazine's list of America's Top Next Generation Wealth Advisors.

The Forbes listing is a select group of individuals who were born in 1980 or later,

have a minimum of four years of industry experience and lead, or are viewed as potential leaders of their teams. The ranking, developed by Forbes' partner SHOOK Research, is based on an algorithm of qualitative and quantitative data, weighing factors such as revenue trends, AUM, compliance records, industry experience and best

practices learned through telephone and in-person interviews.

"I am pleased that Nick is representing Morgan Stanley," said Alby Toto, branch manager of Morgan Stanley's Ponte Vedra Beach office. "To be named to this list recognizes Nick's professionalism and dedication to the needs of his valued clients."

Morgan Stanley Wealth Management provides investment banking, securities, wealth management and investment management services. With offices in more than 42 countries, the firm's employees serve clients worldwide, including corporations, governments, institutions and individuals.

## Underwood Jewelers presents Angelwood with \$5,000 donation

Angelwood, a local nonprofit that serves children, adults and families living with disabilities in Northeast Florida, recently received a check for more than \$5,000 from Underwood Jewelers in Ponte Vedra Beach. The donation represented the proceeds from the trunk show featuring IPPOLITA jewelry that the store hosted this past spring.

"The partnership with Underwood's has been an amazing blessing to the people Angelwood serves," Angelwood Executive Director Diane Tuttle said. "Over the years, they have helped us purchase a vehicle and secure needed supplies. ... These things can really make a difference."

In presenting the gift, Underwood's General Manager John Rutkowski remarked



Photo courtesy of Underwood Jewelers

**Underwood Jewelers in Ponte Vedra Beach presents Angelwood staff with a \$5,000 donation. From left: Angelwood Development Director Sara Rieger, Underwood Jewelers Ponte Vedra Beach General Manager John Rutkowski, Irene Hicken, Richard Regnier, Angelwood Executive Director Diane Tuttle and Ryan Flamm.**

that he loves helping Angelwood and especially visiting with representatives from the organization.

Underwood's also intends to support Angelwood further by raffling off a donated IPPOLITA pendant necklace at

the nonprofit's Color Our World Gala, which will be held at 6 p.m. on Aug. 18 at the Sawgrass Marriott. Raffle tickets can either be purchased at the gala or in-store at Underwood's. The winner will be drawn at the event.

## Free business continuity workshops set for Aug. 20

Two free business continuity workshops are scheduled for Monday, Aug. 20 at the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m. The EOC is located at 100 EOC Drive near the outlet shopping centers.

The workshops — which will present information for businesses to prepare for sustainability before, during and after an emergency — have stemmed from collaboration between the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, St. Johns County Government, Northeast Florida Regional Council and the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

"While we hope that our community will be spared the impact of a major hurricane in 2018, we know that businesses that have a viable plan are more sustainable after an emergency," explained Isabelle Renault, president and CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. "We appreciate that this valuable training is being provided to our county. It is timely due to the historic timing of hurricanes in September, but we

## Beaches practice named Jaguars' official plastic surgeon

Based in Jacksonville Beach, the practice of Patrick L. Basile, M.D. Plastic Surgery & Wellness was recently revealed as the official plastic surgeon of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

"I am beyond excited to work with the Jags," Dr. Patrick Basile said. "This is a great opportunity for us to work together to serve the community and honor our veterans."

The Jacksonville Jaguars and Basile Plastic Surgery & Wellness announced their

partnership together with an unveiling at TIAA Bank Field. After work, the practice's staff made their way from the Jacksonville Beach office to the stadium downtown for the surprise.

Basile is enthusiastic about his partnership with the Jaguars due to the team's emphasis on giving back to the community, something Basile is also passionate about. As part of his relationship with the team, Basile will present the Veteran of the Game each home

game and the Movie Night for Veterans during the Jaguars' annual Salute to Service week.

Basile opened Patrick L. Basile, M.D. Plastic Surgery & Wellness in 2016, two years after relocating to the area after his active duty time as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy. He currently lives in Ponte Vedra Beach with his wife and six children. For more information, visit [www.patrick-basilemd.com](http://www.patrick-basilemd.com).

# Florida Eye Specialists to become region's largest glaucoma practice with opening of new St. Augustine branch

Florida Eye Specialists, a leading multi-specialty eye care group in North Florida, will become the largest glaucoma practice in the region with the opening of its eighth location and addition of a third fellowship-trained glaucoma specialist.

The new branch opens on Sept. 4 and is located at 3780 US Highway 1 South, in St. Augustine. Dr. Rajesh Shetty, CEO of Florida Eye Specialists, said his team



Dr. Kenzo J. Koike

is excited to bring the latest in glaucoma treatment to the St. Augustine community through the capable hands of the practice's newest ophthalmologist, Dr. Kenzo J. Koike.

"At Florida Eye Specialists, we are committed to ensuring all our patients

receive the highest standard of care in our field," Dr. Shetty said. "We are thrilled to have Dr. Koike aboard as we expand our reach and continue providing cutting-edge eye care in North Florida."

Koike is a fellowship-trained ophthalmologist who specializes in complex cataract and glaucoma treatment, including minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS).

Koike earned his medical degree at the University of South Florida and completed his ophthalmology residency at the Storm Eye Institute at the Medical University of South Carolina, where he served as chief resident. He went on to complete a glaucoma fellowship at the Cullen Eye Institute at Baylor College of Medicine.

For more information, visit [FloridaEyeSpecialists.com](http://FloridaEyeSpecialists.com).

## Workshops

Continued from 33

have been reminded this year that emergencies can run the gamut from cyberattacks to weather-related emergencies."

All businesses can RSVP for the workshops by emailing [bethany.taylor@sjchamber.com](mailto:bethany.taylor@sjchamber.com) or calling (904) 829-5681.

For more information on preparing a business plan for continuity, visit [www.FloridaDisaster.biz](http://www.FloridaDisaster.biz).

## SaiRA to host St. Augustine Restaurant Week Oct. 15-21

St. Augustine Independent Restaurant Association (SAiRA) once again invites residents and visitors to tour the local cuisine scene during St. Augustine Restaurant Week from Oct. 15-21



Photo courtesy of SAiRA

Over a dozen independently-owned restaurants throughout St. Augustine will present special lunch and dinner menu experiences for Restaurant Week. This year marks the third year of this weeklong dining event when diners can try a variety of cuisines and flavors prepared by local chefs.

"Restaurant Week is a culinary celebration of St. Augustine's best independently-owned restaurants," said Jeremy Ticehurst, President of SAiRA. "Every restaurant is excited to showcase their most creative, delicious and flavorful dishes to Restaurant Week participants."

Lunch menu experiences are \$20 per person and dinner menu experiences are \$35 per person. Participants can pick

up a Restaurant Week Passport at any SAiRA member establishment listed at [StAugustineRestaurants.com/RestaurantWeek](http://StAugustineRestaurants.com/RestaurantWeek). Diners who order from a SAiRA member Restaurant Week menu will

receive a Passport sticker. Passports with five stickers can then be redeemed at the sixth SAiRA member restaurant visit for \$25 off through Nov. 16.

SAiRA membership is made up of independently-owned restaurants located in St. Augustine, from Vilano Beach to downtown and throughout St. Augustine Beach. The association's mission includes building relationships through the sharing of information and supporting local independent restaurants.

For more information about St. Augustine's 2018 Restaurant Week, visit [StAugustineRestaurants.com/RestaurantWeek](http://StAugustineRestaurants.com/RestaurantWeek), send an email to [info@StAugustineRestaurants.com](mailto:info@StAugustineRestaurants.com) or call (904) 540-3129.

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# Dau Family Eye Care offers area residents new eye care option

Opening in October 2017, Dau Family Eye Care is a new, local optometric private practice that doesn't just help patients find their glasses prescription, it takes pride in showing how proper care for the eyes can improve many parts of life.

Owned and operated by the husband and wife team of Dr. Jordan Dau and Dr. Madeline Dau, the practice in St. Johns offers a new eye care option for Ponte Vedra, along with the rest of South Jacksonville, Nocatee and St. Augustine areas.

The team at Dau Family Eye Care believes eye care should start at an early age to rule out problems affecting visual development and learning in school. They

provide comprehensive eye exams for all ages (including free exams for children under the age of 1), along with fun and durable frames in case young ones need glasses. They also have specialty contact lenses to slow changes in some children's prescriptions.

In today's world where everyone is reliant on electronic devices, Dau Family Eye Care also promotes technology that reduces the amount of harmful blue light exposure. This eases eyestrain, which can improve work performance, eye comfort at the end of the day and even help patients sleep at night. This technology is complimented with the frames they have

available, with a variety of styles and colors, some lightweight and flexible enough they can actually be tied in a knot.

According to Dr. Jordan Dau, the most important part of every eye exam is the health evaluation of the eye. In addition to eye conditions such as cataracts and glaucoma, some early signs of systemic diseases such as diabetes, high blood pres-

sure, or even cancer, can be discovered in the eye before anywhere else.

Dau Family Eye Care is located at 132 Everest Lane, Suite 5 in St. Johns. For more information, call (904) 713-2020 or visit [www.daufamilyeyecare.com](http://www.daufamilyeyecare.com).

*This article was submitted by the staff at Dau Family Eye Care.*

**The Dau Family Eye Care team consists of optician Janet Thibodaux (from left), optometrist Dr. Jordan Dau and optometrist Dr. Madeline Dau. Opening in October 2017, Dau Family Eye Care is located at 132 Everest Lane, Suite 5 in St. Johns.**



Photo courtesy of Dau Family Eye Care



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# Sports

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018 · PAGE 36

Send us your sports news to  
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## Ponte Vedra High School names Eric Frank new athletic director

By Benjamin Naim

Ponte Vedra High School (PVHS) has a new athletic director, and his name is Eric Frank.

Paul Abbatinuzzi, the senior director for school services for the St. Johns County School District, said Frank was recently chosen for the job because he brings a wealth of experience in running an athletic program as a team. This is Frank's 15th year in the county. Prior to getting the job as athletic director, he was a coach and teacher for 14 years and an employee with the St. Johns County School District. His most recent assignment was coaching cross country at Creekside High School.

"He brings to the table quite a bit with regard to the focus on building relationships," Abbatinuzzi said. "With regard to coaches and parents and student athletes and that concept, he stresses the importance of pursuing victory with honor and

blending that into the athletic program."

The athletic director will facilitate the sports programs at PVHS and collaborate with coaches to ensure they are following policy. For Frank, the job offers him a chance to teach student athletes how to develop leadership skills and teamwork.

"It's about creating a team of coaches who are on the same page with me on the importance of high school athletics and the full development of a student athlete," Frank said. "I really view high school athletics as a co-curricular. It's an extension of the classroom where I think coaches have a unique opportunity to continue the learning process for high schools."

The new athletic director asserted that high school sports shouldn't just be about wins and losses but about helping students grow into positive contributors to society.

Frank, who graduated from Florida State University, has been living in St.

Johns County for most of his life. This is the first time he has ever held the title of athletic director, but Frank said he treated his teams at Creekside as if he was the director of the sports program itself.

"I'm new to athletic directing but not new to athletics, to St. Johns County," he said, "I'm really eager and excited."

Frank said his short-term goal is to immerse himself in the community to show locals that he's committed to further developing PVHS' sports programs. His long-term goal, he added, is to help build the athletic department and facilitate student growth in the area of leadership.

"Long-term, I just want to share with the rest of our coaching staff that it's about character development and helping parents raise kids that have the correct values," he said.

Abbatinuzzi noted that former PVHS athletic director David Scott was not dismissed. Rather, Abbatinuzzi said he elected to go back into teaching in the



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County School District  
**Eric Frank has been named the new athletic director for Ponte Vedra High School.**

classroom and has accepted a position elsewhere in St. Johns County. According to Abbatinuzzi, Scott's departure was a personal choice and not performance-related.

## Web.com Tour Championship to feature enhanced onsite experience

Jacksonville-based Web.com providing grounds passes for fans

For the third straight year, the Web.com Tour season will conclude with the Web.com Tour Championship at Atlantic Beach Country Club in Atlantic Beach. The annual event, which will help determine which players earn one of 50 available PGA TOUR cards, will feature a host of enhanced on-site experiences for fans, who will have the ability to gain complimentary entry, courtesy of the PGA Tour's umbrella partner, Web.com.

For the first time in the tournament's Northeast Florida history, weekly grounds passes to the Web.com Tour Championship will be provided, at no additional charge, courtesy of Web.com. Fans can learn more on the tournament website at [www.webtourchampionship.com](http://www.webtourchampionship.com) and click on the "Claim Grounds Tickets" tab at the

top of the homepage to obtain passes.

"The Web.com Tour Championship has established a tremendous home in Atlantic Beach, and we are looking forward to building on that strong foundation at this year's event," Tournament Director Adam Renfroe said. "With new enhancements for our spectators and incredible support from Web.com, we're thrilled to continue growing the on-site fan experience for the Web.com Tour's season-ending event."

The 2018 event will feature multiple new fan enhancements, all of which can be accessed through the grounds pass:

### Pratt Guys Pergola

Located where the greens on Nos. 10, 13 and 17 come together, the Pratt Guys Pergola will provide fans with great views of golf in a relaxing environment, as well as a local barbecue food truck and a full bar featuring craft cocktails of the tournament.

### Florida Blue Lounge

The Florida Blue Lounge will feature a

golf simulator, courtesy of Coastal Indoor Golf, as well as a lounge where fans can enjoy a cocktail, watch other fans hit shots on the simulator or relax on the patio watching PGA Tour professionals warm up on the range.

### Taps and Tacos presented by Brewz

Between No. 9 green and No. 10 tee, Taps and Tacos will feature TacoLu tacos and craft beer by Brewz for purchase, with special beer prices offered after each birdie made on the par-4 ninth.

The Patriot's Outpost, supported by Pet Supplies Plus and JDog Junk Removal, will return in 2018, offering complimentary admission Thursday through Sunday for all members of the military and their families. Perched at the top of Pete's Turn, Patriot's Outpost will provide one of the best views of the 18th hole.

For fans looking to upgrade the on-site experience, the tournament will offer The

## Expedia AARP names Ponte Vedra a top golf destination

By Samantha Logue

On its recently published list of "7 Amazing Places for a Golf Vacation," Expedia AARP named Ponte Vedra as one of the top destinations to stay and play a round of golf.

Singled out for its "legendary" island green, the article lists TPC Sawgrass alongside other iconic golf destinations, such as Torrey Pines Golf Course in La Jolla, California; Pinehurst Resort in Pinehurst, North Carolina; Bethpage Black Course in Farmingdale, New York; Reston National Golf Course in Reston, Virginia; TPC Las Vegas in Las Vegas; and Desert Willow Golf Course in Palm Desert, California.

To read the article in full, visit [www.expedia-aarp.com/blog/7-amazing-places-for-a-golf-vacation](http://www.expedia-aarp.com/blog/7-amazing-places-for-a-golf-vacation).

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Continued from 36

Deck again in 2018, featuring a premiere, all-inclusive hospitality suite alongside the 18th green. The climate-controlled venue has dual views of the 10th tee and 18th green, HDTVs, locally-catered upscale food and a full bar featuring the signature cocktail of the day. Daily tickets for The Deck are \$175 per day, while a weekly pass is available for \$500.

The tournament is continuing its partnership with Pivot CPAs this year with the Pivot Pass — a hospitality venue that

provides a relaxing environment with access to the clubhouse, back lawn and pool deck.

The Pivot Pass allows fans to jointly enjoy a view of the 18th green as well as the Atlantic Beach Country Club pool, with lifeguards on duty throughout the week. This VIP experience also comes with two drink tickets, as well as access to the clubhouse interior, HDTVs and food available for purchase. Daily Pivot Pass tickets are available for \$40, while a weekly pass is available for \$150.

For more information on the Web.com Tour Championship, visit [WebTourChampionship.com](http://WebTourChampionship.com).



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- 1. Stopped from sleeping
- 6. Emergency responders
- 9. Much ado
- 13. Carl Jung's inner self
- 14. Old French coin
- 15. Approximately
- 16. Castrated bull
- 17. "Swan Lake" step
- 18. Relating to pond scum
- 19. \*Great Depression state
- 21. \*"The Maltese Falcon" author
- 23. \* \_\_\_\_ Row
- 24. \_\_\_\_-de-camp
- 25. Churchill's "so few"
- 28. \*Subject of "Reefer Madness"
- 30. Herpes \_\_\_\_, a.k.a. shingles
- 35. Cain's victim
- 37. \*Johnny Vander Meer and Ernie Lombardi
- 39. Go "Boo!"
- 40. Shower with affection
- 41. \*Now demoted planet identified in 1930

#### DOWN

- 43. Antioxidant-rich berry
- 44. Insect, post-metamorphosis
- 46. Slang for heroin
- 47. College cadet program
- 48. Elongated shape
- 50. Shining armor
- 52. Fifth note
- 53. One less traveled
- 55. Loudness knob
- 57. \*First FIFA World Cup location
- 61. \*FDR's brainchild
- 65. Linoleums, for short
- 66. Hole-in-one
- 68. Mr. Simpson to Marge
- 69. \*Seabiscuit sound
- 70. QB exclamation
- 71. Imitating
- 72. \*Johnny Hodges and Jimmy Dorsey played it
- 73. Group of exercises
- 74. In the Queen of Hearts' oven?
- 12. \*Gandhi's \_\_\_\_ March
- 15. Brooches with low relief carving
- 20. Pipsqueak
- 22. Wood-shaping tool
- 24. Cited as evidence
- 25. \*Dominant mass media in the 1930s
- 26. Mushroom cloud maker
- 27. Prenatal
- 29. Snaky swimmers
- 31. Melee memento
- 32. Fiesta fare
- 33. One of the Muses
- 34. \*Third \_\_\_\_
- 36. Building block
- 38. Just for men
- 42. Nose of a missile
- 45. Military offensive
- 49. India's smallest state
- 51. Disinterested response
- 54. Nursemaids in India
- 56. Parkinson's disease drug
- 57. Arm bone
- 58. Cambodian currency
- 59. \_\_\_\_ of measurement
- 60. 1960s boots
- 61. Remaining after deductions
- 62. Another spelling for #4 Down
- 63. \*"It Don't Mean a Thing (If It \_\_\_\_ Got That Swing)"
- 64. \*Colbert showed them in "It Happened One Night"
- 67. Pool shark's weapon

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