

Celebrating 50 years of the

PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

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75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

LOCAL STUDENTS GET HOLE-IN-ONE



About 200 local high school students attended a sports and business education forum on Tuesday at the TPC Clubhouse to interact with representatives from various colleges and companies. Flip to page 5 for more.

Photo by Tracy Wilcox/PGA TOUR

Sand Castles

Pages 13-36



Birthday Party Planner

Page 12

Valentine's Day Gift Guide

Pages 42-43



CAR OF THE WEEK

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INSIDE

One of Us

Page 6

Calendar

Pages 8-9

Business Weekly

Pages 37-39

Sports

Pages 44, 46



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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 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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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 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.

Four readers correctly identified last week's photo as the sign for Tropical Smoothie Cafe. The winner of the random drawing was **Eileen Porter**. Congratulations, Eileen — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET



CAT OF THE WEEK

Matilda is a 3-year-old female spayed cat who was brought to the Pet Center as a stray. Because she's a stray, there may be some traits that are currently unknown. Come visit Matilda at the Pet Center today. #48214



DOG OF THE WEEK

Ginger is a 6-year-old female spayed beagle who is looking for a new home. Ginger is high heartworm positive. Be-

cause she is a stray, there still may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit Ginger today at the Pet Center. #48287

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 are currently \$15 and are being sponsored by the Friends of the Pet Center! They are usually \$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 in St. Augustine, 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	R	S	H	G	A	B	N	A	S	A
O	M	A	H	A	N	I	L	H	A	I	T
B	A	G	E	L	A	D	O	O	R	D	E
S	H	A	L	L	O	W	A	C	A	D	E
	F	O	R	S	T	A	G				
M	E	N	O	R	C	A	M	I	D	D	L
A	X	I	S	I	O	T	A	E	R	R	O
N	A	M	E	S	W	I	F	T	I	O	W
I	M	B	E	D	S	A	R	I	P	O	L
A	S	I	M	O	V	T	O	N	S	L	Y
	N	I	C	E	C	O	S				
C	O	N	G	A	E	D	S	T	A	P	L
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M	E	T	E	D	O	U	T	E	A	T	E
B	O	S	S	M	R	S	D	Y	I	N	G

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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Ultimate Beach Retreat

Jacksonville Beach
Steps away from the ocean, this beach bungalow is the ideal space to call home or utilize as an investment property. Located in a highly desired neighborhood within walking distance of restaurants and shopping, this home is the perfect space to enjoy the quintessential beach lifestyle. **3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths \$775,000**



Extraordinary Views

Riverfront/ Epping Forrest
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 \$1,295,000**



Intracoastal Waterfront Condo

Mariana San Pablo 2ndstory condo featuring open floor plan, luxury amenities, and private balcony with water views. **2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths \$475,000**



Most Desired Oceanfront Location in NE Florida

Las Mirandas / Oceanfront Condo
This first-floor unit was totally renovated with the finest finishes & craftsmanship. Includes an office, staurnia floors, mahogany doors & built-in custom cabinetry. **2 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms + powder room \$1,700,000**

RAULERSON NAMED ST. JOHNS COUNTY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



David Raulerson (center) gathers with St. Johns County staff and family members after being named the 2018 St. Johns County Employee of the Year. Raulerson was recognized at the annual St. Johns County Employee Service Awards Ceremony earlier in January celebrating more than 200 staff members who have up to 35 years of service with the county.

Photo courtesy of St. Johns County



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St. Johns County to hold discussion on regulation of short-term rental properties

By Amber Lake

It's no wonder that St. Johns County's tourism industry is booming. With St. Augustine's Nights of Lights, the PGA TOUR's presence and the regular influx of tourists headed to the beach, the county has plenty to offer.

When it comes to regulating tourism growth, however, the county is looking to address issues that have arisen from the proliferation of vacation rentals. This is due partly to the rising popularity of Vacation Rentals by Owner (VRBO) and Airbnb, which currently hosts over 2,000 homes in the county, according to the Airbnb website.

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners will decide the next step regarding a possible ordinance on regulating short-term vacation rentals. The meeting will deter-

mine whether a future ordinance will be drafted or if additional research is needed. If the commission decides on enacting an ordinance, another public meeting will be held to discuss the approach before presenting it to the commission again.

According to a St. Johns County growth management report submitted on Jan. 10, there has been expressed concern over short-term vacation rentals in the community. A "predominant concern was the effect of (them) on the traditional character of the neighborhood." The management report cited a survey that was conducted, in which most residents were specifically concerned with maximum occupancy of rentals, parking, trash and noise.

By looking at other jurisdictions that have implemented a short-term rental ordinance, the meeting will include discussion on registration of rentals, instating occupancy standards, enforcing

trash pickup and regulating street parking, which is believed to be a hazard for rescue services. It should be noted, however, that in 2011, the Florida Legislature preempted cities and counties from prohibiting vacation rentals. Because of this bill, the county can only regulate them within certain confines of state law.

Steve Milo, the founder and CEO of VTrips (previously Vacation Rental Pros) in Ponte Vedra Beach, said that depending on the regulation, it could be a potentially positive one for his company. He told the Recorder in a statement that, "a reasonable ordinance is one that protects the rights of all property owners, not just full-time residents." He added, "As someone who lives full-time in St. Johns County, I hope the commissioners avoid an ordinance like Flagler County, that resulted in litigation and a \$26 million Bert Harris claim." According to a Florida Times-Union article

in January 2018, the litigation he cited involved a settlement that included him and 75 other property owners. In it, the rental property owners sued Flagler County over a rental property ordinance, claiming it to be unconstitutional under state law.

It isn't just rental companies that might be affected, however. Joseph Cearley, special projects manager for the St. Johns County Growth Management Department, said he has listened to Airbnb hosts who depend on their rentals for their livelihood.

"We've heard some things from (hosts) stating that if this was cut from them it would affect them financially," he said. "That's why we've looked at potentially (exempting) those who live within the residences."

Cearley made it clear, however, that right now everything is, "an option that will be presented as a question to the board."

K9s For Warriors, City of San Antonio Animal Care Services partner on lifesaving large dog program

Ponte Vedra-based nonprofit to build training center in Texas; receives \$2 million investment from Petco Foundation

San Antonio city leaders unanimously voted in favor of a new partnership between Animal Care Services (ACS) and national nonprofit K9s For Warriors to bring a new canine center and rescue program to the Alamo City in Texas.

According to a press release distributed by ACS, the agreement approves an initial 10-year lease of 3 acres of ACS property to build a canine training facility for use by K9s For Warriors in its service dog training program. The initiative will focus on larger, harder to rescue dogs, and 200 ACS pets are expected to work their way through the training to become PTSD service animals throughout the country.

The Ponte Vedra-based nonprofit currently operates two campuses in Florida, and the national expansion will be a big boost for the dog rescue aspect of its program, said CEO Rory Diamond.

"The prospect of bringing our national nonprofit to San Antonio is thrilling to us," Diamond said in the release. "We're more than ready to help the homeless dogs there find a new purpose as a lifesaving PTSD service dog. To achieve that, over the course of the next year, K9s For Warriors will be engaging the San Antonio community to build a base



Photo courtesy of K9s for Warriors

K9s for Warriors is partnering with the City of San Antonio Animal Care Services to open a new training facility in Alamo City, which will primarily focus on harder-to-rescue big dogs.

of volunteers and donors to ensure our organization's success in the Alamo city."

City of San Antonio Animal Care Services Director Heber Lefgren echoed those sentiments.

"Collaboration continues to be the core of ACS' success and we're thrilled to have a partner to support our mission and help our country's veterans," Lefgren said in the release. "K9s For Warriors has a big heart for these big dogs and we love that they will be saving a life to save another."

Petco Foundation invests \$2 million in K9s For Warriors

While the program will begin in the spring, a recent \$2 million investment from the San Antonio-based Petco Foundation is expected to aid in construction of the canine center itself, which will kick off later this year.

According to a press release distributed by K9s For Warriors, the grant investment is the largest ever given by Petco Foundation to the nonprofit. The new

St. Johns County offering volunteer opportunities with boards, committees

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners is providing residents who have an interest in serving their community and participating in local government with a few board and committee opportunities.

The volunteer positions consider and make recommendations regarding a myriad of topics including planning and zoning issues, development projects, libraries, parks and recreation facilities and programs, and arts, culture and tourism matters. The following boards and committees are currently accepting applications:

- Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (application deadline: Feb. 6)
- Arts/Culture/Heritage Funding Panel (application deadline: Feb. 8)

Visit the Boards and Commission Webpage at www.sjcfcl.us/Boards to view the requirements and duties of each board and committee and to download an application. For more information, contact the Board of County Commissioners office at (904) 209-0300 or email mlundquist@sjcfcl.us.

THE PLAYERS Championship sponsors sports and business education forum for local students

By Amber Lake

Approximately 200 local students dressed in ties, suits, skirts and dress pants visited the TPC Clubhouse on Tuesday morning to meet potential employers and mentors at the Training U: Sports and Business Education Forum.

Sixteen companies and 11 colleges held booths to discuss their respective industries with students from high schools all over the First Coast — from Ribault to St. Augustine High. Sponsored by THE PLAYERS Championship, the Jan. 29 event provided the students an opportunity to meet with company representatives and college recruiters before graduating and deciding the next step of their lives. Many of the students who attended come from low socioeconomic backgrounds and aren't presented with many opportunities to network with industry leaders. The second annual event aims to make these connections available to everyone, regardless of privilege.

Christopher Jett, a graduate of Wolfson High School, attended the first Training U event last year. He has since enrolled at University of North Florida in the criminal justice program. Jett said meeting officers from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office at the forum helped galvanize his career path.

"Their words, more than anything, helped inspire me to prepare myself for the risk at hand and be ready to take on what was in front of me," he told the Recorder.

Jett already knew that a career in law enforcement was his aspiration. Meeting those actively involved in the work helped him understand what direction he needed to take and gave him both the motivation and resolution to make his dream come true.

"It was eye-opening to come here and people were like, 'Keep going, there will be people that see you,'" he said. "'(They will see) your effort and your drive and take notice and help you.'"

Jett said after the experience that, "First, I wanted to be a forensic analyst and now I am going to be a detective."

Allison Keller, chief administrative officer of the PGA TOUR, provided welcome remarks at the start of the event.

"You're going to meet people today who can unlock a door for you," she said. "Take the opportunity to ask questions. As you think about what lies ahead, you can know that you don't have to be an athlete to work in sports. You can be a graphic designer, a physical therapist, a computer scientist, you can even work with grass in the field of agronomy."

Jett closed the forum with a few words of wisdom for the students. He reminded them that what they are going to have to learn in their careers can't be taught by speakers. He said although he learned a lot from the panelists, companies and representatives, what, "it didn't teach me was failure."



Photos by Amber Lake

Area high school students gather in front of the TPC Clubhouse after attending the Training U: Sports and Business Education Forum sponsored by THE PLAYERS on Jan. 29.



FSCJ representatives speak with students at the Training U: Sports and Business Education Forum.



Wolfson graduate Christopher Jett attends the event.

"Failure is inevitable," he said. "If you continue to let failure hinder your progress, you will not succeed. Take it from me, I have to work a job to help pay for my tuition and every day the first thing I think when I get home is, 'What if I did this better?' But you can't."

"You can't constantly regret," Jett continued. "Regret is something you can't leave yourself with because succeeding is 10 times more. The world never owes you an apology and it doesn't owe you nothing but a place on earth. So, you're going to have to learn to cope."

K9s for Warriors

Continued from 4

center will be named Petco Foundation Canine Center in honor of the Foundation's transformative investment.

"We are incredibly grateful and humbled by the Petco Foundation's transformative gift to our program and their continued support of our nation's heroes," Diamond said in the K9s release. "This donation will be the cornerstone of our na-

tional expansion and will be the difference in our ability to carry out our mission of rescuing dogs and training them to be life-saving service dogs for disabled American veterans."

K9s For Warriors is a nonprofit organization that has become that nation's largest service dog provider for disabled veterans struggling with the invisible wounds of war brought on since 9/11. The VA estimates that 20 veterans die by suicide every day. It is K9s For Warriors' mission to stop veteran suicide and save veterans'

lives by saving the lives of high-kill shelter dogs and training them to mitigate the invisible wounds plaguing American veterans. K9s For Warriors has rescued dogs from Florida, Georgia, Texas, California, the Carolinas and more. In 2018, K9s For Warriors rescued 257 homeless dogs and graduated 122 veteran-canine teams. The Petco Foundation investment will help nationally with rescuing and training more service dogs.

"Saving shelter dogs and transforming them into helping heroes to support our

nation's veterans highlights the true potential of these canines and inspires others to see the incredible capabilities of shelter dogs," said Susanne Kogut, president of the Petco Foundation, in the K9s release. "We are proud to help make K9s for Warriors' national expansion possible all while helping to save more dogs in Texas. We are honored to provide the vital support necessary to assure that more veterans receive a trained canine companion to help them through the challenges they face when they return home to civilian life."

Melissa Nelson is the president and CEO of the United Way of St. Johns County (SJC).

Melissa Nelson

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

As a professional, I have almost always been in the nonprofit field. I started right after graduating from University of Florida handling public relations for a Chamber of Commerce in Brevard County. Along the way, I took some time off to raise my children, but even then, I was super involved as a volunteer. I've served in this role with United Way of St. Johns County for nearly five years.

How do you explain the efforts of the United Way to those people who are unfamiliar with the organization?

Explaining United Way is tougher than you might think. As the most widely recognized brand in the nonprofit world, it seems surprising. We sum it up by saying that United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability for every person in our community. How do we do this? By building collaborative relationships, actively fundraising, spearheading volunteer efforts and advocating for those who need it the most. There is no other organization that brings together the work of nonprofits, government, individuals and the faith community in the way that only United Way can and does.

What's the most rewarding part about your job?

The most rewarding part of my position is that I can confidently say that not just me, but our entire team — staff, board members, volunteers and donors — can feel confident that United Way-SJC is positively impacting thousands of lives in our community. It could be someone you work with, a child in your child's class at school, the elderly neighbor who sits two pews over in church or even a family member. We all need a helping hand sometime.

What are some of the challenges that United Way faces today?

St. Johns County is a rapidly growing community — especially from Nocatee and World Golf Village north — with much of our population identifying with and working in the Jacksonville metropolitan area. Many are unaware of the challenges in our community and that United Way-SJC is working to address those issues. For example, many are startled to hear that in our own county, we have enough homeless children to fill an entire elementary school. Our goal is to make people more aware of these needs and encourage volunteers and donors to engage right here where we live.

Does your organization have any upcoming events the community might be interested in?

We just wrapped up three very large events, but there is always something on the horizon. Anyone interested in attending a function or getting involved can keep up to date by sharing an email address with us. There is a golf tournament in the works, a ladies' luncheon and so much more. We are busy.

How can people get involved? What opportunities are available?

Every spring, United Way-SJC invites volunteers to partner with us in determining funding for nonprofits. Typically, grants are given to about 30 organizations for 40 to 50 programs. We use volunteers to vet the organizations and programs. It is a great way to learn what we do, who we work with and about community needs. We welcome individuals to the process. In fact, this is the same way I learned about and fell in love with the work of United Way-SJC.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

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

For the most part, I am a lifelong resident of Florida's First Coast. I grew up on Amelia Island, and I have lived here in St. Johns County for nearly 20 years. Just crossing the Intracoastal or driving up A1A gives me a sweet

feeling of contentment. It is beautiful here. Knowing that, you won't be surprised to hear that a great day is spent relaxing with my husband of 30 years, Brad, my 21-year-old twins, Max and McKenna, and a good book, while in my beach chair sipping something sparkling.

Edited by Jon Blauvelt

OBITUARIES

Lucretia Davenport

Lucretia Mount Davenport of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died on Jan. 8, 2019 at age 95.



Lucretia Davenport

Lucretia was formerly from Atlanta, Georgia, where she was a charter member of St. James UNC, honorary member of the Rose Garden Club. Lucretia was also formerly of Big Canoe, Georgia, and member of Big Canoe Chapel.

She attended Sophie Newcombe College in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was born to the late Mr. and Mrs. William C. Malone in Talladega, Alabama. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, John M. Mount; son, John M. Mount Jr.; and her brother, William Malone Jr. Lucretia was also preceded in death by her second husband, William Davenport.

Lucretia is survived by her daughter, Lynn Mount Rudder of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; grandchildren, Jennie Lynn and Chris Howell, Bennett and Lyndsey Rudder of Atlanta, Georgia, Allison and Josh Heikens and Haynes Rudder of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; and two great-grandchildren, Claude B. Rudder III and Maclin Rudder of Atlanta, Georgia.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to the American Cancer Society.

Edward K. Bullock

Edward K. Bullock, 91, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Jan. 27, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Anne J. Fiorito

Anne J. Fiorito, 88, of Jacksonville, died Jan. 25, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Hugh Wilson Ford

Hugh Wilson Ford Jr., 78, of Jacksonville Beach, died Jan. 24, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Eileen Smith Haerther

Eileen Smith Haerther, 96, of Jacksonville, died Jan. 26, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Kelly Lacambra

Kelly Lacambra, 52, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Jan. 16, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Thomas Scott McClure

Thomas Scott McClure, 76, of Neptune Beach, died Jan. 27, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Richard D. McGinley

Richard D. McGinley, 88, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Jan. 25, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Richard D. McGinley

Richard D. McGinley, 88, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Jan. 25, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Eleanor Welch Shapiro

Eleanor Welch Shapiro, 98, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Jan. 21, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

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Paul is featured regularly on Fox Business News and CNBC:



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President and Founder

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TUESDAY February 19th 4:30 pm	-OR-	WEDNESDAY February 20th 4:30 pm	TPC Sawgrass and Convention Center 110 Championship Way Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 <i>Please arrive at least 15 minutes early for free valet parking and registration.</i>
--	------	--	--

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Thursday, Jan. 31	Friday, Feb. 1	Saturday, Feb. 2	Sunday, Feb. 3
<p>Community Caregiving: An Evening for Caregivers Please join the Alzheimer's Association for an evening dedicated to caregivers on Jan. 31 at 5 p.m. Attendees can hear from Mayo Clinic researcher, Dr. Octavio Santos and Elder Law Attorney, Joe Boles. The event includes activities to recharge caregiver's spirits and help connect them to area professionals who can assist them in their caregiver role. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and the program starts at 6 p.m. at the River House, located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine. RSVPs are required.</p> <p>St. Augustine: Community Resilience and Cultural Resources workshop The City of St. Augustine is assisting Flagler College to engage community members in a dialogue on the issue of community resilience, sea level rise and the future impact of flooding on historic places in St. Augustine on Thursday, Jan. 31, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Willie Galimore Center, located at 399 Riberia St. The workshop will have two sessions, the first for public officials and the second for community members and stakeholders. For more information about the community workshop, contact Dr. Leslee Keys, Director of Historic Preservation and Special Initiatives for Flagler College at lkeys@flagler.edu.</p> <p>Ladies Clinic: Driver Distance at PGA TOUR Golf Academy Join the World Golf Village on Jan. 31 at 4 p.m. to spend 90 minutes working on improving the consistency off the tee and gaining more distance with a driver. Cost is \$30 per student. Reserve your spot at www.pgatourgolfacademy.com/clinics. The World Golf Village is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Family Storytime Classes at Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Both YMCA members and non-members are invited to enjoy Storytime Classes with Youth Services Librarian Ms. Anne from 10:45 to 11:15 a.m. on Jan. 31. This event includes dancing and stories. Please contact Anne Crawford at ascrawford@sjcfl.us or call the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library at (904) 827-6950 with any questions.</p>	<p>Catty Shack Friday night feeding This is a 45-minute guided walking tour with the opportunity to see resident animals. At 7:30 p.m., watch the feeding when Catty Shack hands out over 600 pounds of meat. Night feedings are held every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for more information and ticket pricing, go to http://cattyslack.org.</p> <p>ABET presents The Robber Bridegroom Join the All Beaches Experimental Theatre for a bawdy southern folktale about the legendary Jamie Lockhart, a gentleman and bandit. This play is adapted from the Pulitzer Prize winning author of Driving Miss Daisy and Parade. Tickets can be purchased at www.abetheatre.com. The show will run Jan. 25-26 and Feb. 1-3 and 8-10. Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.</p> <p>'The Bridges of Madison County' Players by the Sea and The STAGE Fund present "The Bridges of Madison County." Music and lyrics for the play are by Jason Robert Brown and it is based on the book by Marsha Norman. This play is directed by Lee Hamby and Suzanne Hudson-Smith and will appear on the main-stage every Thursday through Saturday from Feb. 1 to 16. General admission is \$28. Players by the Sea is located at 106 Sixth St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Awakening Tour Join this powerful and life-changing two-day event hosted by Pastor Stovall, Kerri Weems and Celebration Worship on Feb 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. Special guests include Tasha Cobbs Leonard, Steven Furtick, Elevation Worship and Micahn Carter. Attendees are encouraged to gather together in the name of Jesus to see heaven invade Earth. This event takes place at Daily's Place at 1 Daily's Place in Jacksonville. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster.</p>	<p>Love Me True Rescue Love Me True Rescue, located at 5150 Palm Valley Road #403, will hold adoption events every Saturday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.lovemetruescue.com. The rescue is also looking for volunteers (18+). Interested suitors can contact Peggy Hatfield at peggyhatfield63@comcast.net.</p> <p>Guided Exploration Hike During a guided hike on the first Saturday of every month, visitors can learn about the cultural history of the Guana Peninsula, as well as the natural biodiversity of the reserve from 9 to 11 a.m. Hear about the peninsula's 5,000 years of human history, including how native peoples used estuarine resources, what European plantation life was like and current efforts to learn about and save these resources. The event is free, but there is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. The hike is located at the GTM Research Reserve's Trailhead Pavilion west of the Guana Dam in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information or reserve a spot call, (904) 823-4500.</p> <p>Multi-Instrumentalist Bill Prince to present his memoir Master musician Bill Prince will appear at The BookMark on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m., presenting his memoir, "Music is My Ticket: The Musical Journey of Bill Prince." Co-author, Vic DiGenti, will be appearing as well. DiGenti is the author of six novels and five works of non-fiction. This free event also includes a musical performance. For more information about this BookMark event, visit www.bookmarkbeach.com or call (904) 241-9026. The BookMark is located at 220 First St. in Neptune Beach.</p> <p>Jax AquaFest 2019 Explore the ways residents can reclaim and conserve water for future generations on Feb. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at MOSH. Join the City of Jacksonville's Environmental Protection Board, St. Johns Riverkeeper, Florida, Fish & Wildlife and more. Attendees will learn different ways they can support community efforts to safeguard the water, animals and plants that call the St. Johns River home. The Museum of Science and History is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Sundays at Surfer the Bar Every Sunday, join Big Fish Power Yoga for a free Music & Flow class at Surfer the Bar. The class is held upstairs at the bar and runs from 10 to 11 a.m. every week. Bring friends and family and enjoy brunch and mimosas downstairs following class. Register under classes on bigfishpoweryoga.com. Surfer the Bar is located at 200 First St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Sunday Junior Clinic Join the St. Johns Golf Club instructor Copeland West for Sunday, Feb. 3 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for a clinic geared toward high school students between the ages of 13 and 18. This clinic is focuses on high school golf preparation, pre-swing, in-swing and post-swing, emotional management, etiquette, confidence building and specialized instruction. Contact Copeland West to register at (386) 336-0481 or at cope33844@gmail.com. The St. Johns Golf Club is located at 4900 Cypress Links Blvd.</p> <p>Wine, Women and Words Reception Join the Wine, Women and Words Reception, with special guest Diane Debevec, Executive Director of Women Writing for a Change Cincinnati, for an opportunity to hear more about the "herstory" and listen to local women read their writing on the topic of women and leadership. There will also be a special wine-tasting event, featuring a variety of light and sparkling wines. Guest will also enjoy a sneak peek at our latest art exhibit, SHINE, opening a week later and featuring the work of local women artists. This event is on Feb. 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. at 1610 Osceola St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>The New Shanghai Circus Watch astonishing athletes defy gravity and execute breathtaking feats as they stretch the limits of human ability on Feb. 3 at 2 to 4:30 p.m. This event features fearless performers with boundless energy that bring more than two thousand years of Chinese circus traditions. Featuring Shanghai's acrobats, jugglers and contortionists direct from China. The New Shanghai Circus is hosted by the FSCJ Artist Series and will be held at the Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts. Tickets can be purchased through fscjartistseries.org.</p>

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Monday, Feb. 4	Tuesday, Feb. 5	Wednesday, Feb. 6	Thursday, Feb. 7
<p>Trivia at Mellow Mushroom Join Mellow Mushroom every Monday night at 7 p.m. for trivia with Trivia Nation. This event is free to play and there are prizes for the winners. Mellow Mushroom is located at 1018-2 Third St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>JAME Join JAME at the Cultural Center from Jan. 18 to March 2. JAME is an annual juried exhibition of CCPVB's Artist Members. Artist Members can submit in up to five works of art and outside judges select pieces as well as assigned prizes at the opening. The Cultural Center is located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Sierra Club program: Protecting the Matanzas River Jen Lomberk, the Matanzas Riverkeeper, will make a presentation on how she protects this special river from her base in St. Johns County. The river remains one of the last virtually pristine rivers in Florida. She will also discuss the opportunities for recreation on the river and how citizens can get involved in protecting the Matanzas. The program will be held in the Clubhouse of the Ocean Grove Condominiums at 1, Arbor Club Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach on Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. All members and non-members are welcome. For further information e-mail Brian Paradise at bgparadise@comcast.net.</p> <p>Bay Kings showcase This showcase is the band rehearsal evening. The band will be playing new and old material, as well as some pretty unusual stuff too. Bay Kings showcases are a relaxed, free and public gig where the audience can see the band performing live. They can ask any questions, talk to the musicians and get a good feel for how amazing and different the band is compared to everything else out there. This free event is on Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. and is located at the Blue Jay Listening Room at 2457 S. Third St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p>Quit Smoking Now class Celebrate the New Year tobacco free. Join the free Quit Smoking Now class at Flagler Hospital Wellness Center. Classes meet once a week for six weeks starting on Tuesday, Jan. 8 from 6 to 7 p.m. Free patches, lozenges, and gum are available. In addition, a free quit plan, workbook, water bottle, stress ball and other tools to aid in cessation will be available. Call Northeast Florida AHEC at (904) 482-0189 to register and learn more about classes near you.</p> <p>Genealogy at the River House Join the River House for a six-week course to begin the journey into researching genealogy. Call (904) 209-3655 for a reservation. Cost is \$30 for River House Members and \$35 for non-members. Classes are held on Tuesdays beginning Jan. 8 to Feb. 12 at 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. The River House is located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Toddler Tuesdays Join Bravoz Entertainment every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for Toddler Tuesdays. During this time, the facility is reserved for the exclusive use of toddlers, ages 5 and under. One adult is admitted for free with each child's \$8 paid admission. Bravoz Entertainment Center is located at 14985 Old St. Augustine Road in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Palm Valley farmer's market The Palm Valley farmer's market will be held every Tuesday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Community Center at 148 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. It features produce, seafood, jams, baked goods and peanut butter. For more information visit them on their Facebook page Palm Valley Farmers Market.</p> <p>Gaelic Storm Genre-bending Irish band Gaelic Storm returns to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. Guests Jacksonville Pipes and Drums will kick off the night with a special performance. This multi-national, Celtic band grows stronger with each live performance and after two decades and over 2000 shows, it is a true force to be reckoned with. The event is located at 1050 Ponte A1A N in Ponte Vedra.</p>	<p>Wine Wednesday at the Renaissance Join the World Golf Village every Wednesday evening in the Villagio Lounge from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvre tasting. Attendees can sample red and white wines from around the world and savor a chef-inspired appetizer to complement the wines. The World Golf Village is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Marineland River-to-Sea Trail Walk GTM Research Reserve offers an opportunity to follow the wooded trail to the Matanzas River at the River-to-Sea Preserve on Feb 6 and 27 at 9 to 11 a.m. An interpretive guide will talk about old Florida's moss-laden trees, seasonal flowering shrubs and Native American lore — including how they used various plants for food, beverages and medicine. Participants are encouraged to bring a water bottle, insect repellent, sunscreen, binoculars and a camera. This free event is located at the GTM Research Reserve Marineland Field Office at 9741 Ocean Shore Blvd. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Pigeons Playing Ping Pong JaxLive presents Pigeons Playing Ping Pong on Feb. 6 at 1904 Music Hall with special guest The Fritz at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Pigeons Playing Ping Pong brings end-of-the-world enthusiasm to their high-energy psychedelic funk. Based out of Baltimore, this animated quartet has been scorching up the country with their explosive performances and danceable peaks. 1904 Music Hall is located at 19 N. Ocean St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Greenhouse Yoga Join Maggie's Herb Farm every Wednesday and Friday morning at 10 to 11:30 a.m. for a mindful Kripalu flow yoga practice in the greenhouse at Maggie's Herb Farm. Soothe body and mind in the fresh air, grounded on natural, river pebbles for a unique greenhouse yoga experience. Practice yoga surrounded by beautiful greenery, butterflies, herbs, hummingbirds and free-range chickens. Attendees are encouraged to bring their yoga mat, towel and water bottle. Pre-registration is not required. Maggie's Herb Farm is located at 11400 Country Road 13 N. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>Everyone Can Conserve lecture GTM Research Reserve has partnered with St. Johns County Parks and Recreation for a free, family-oriented program on Feb. 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Learn about a different topic each month. Featuring reptiles, marine mammals, pollinators and more. These are educational programs that will feature live animals. Refreshments will also be provided. This event is at the Solomon Calhoun Center at 1300 Duval St. in St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 823-4500.</p> <p>Breast Event Ever Come join RP's Fine Food & Drink on Feb. 7 at 5 p.m. for the first annual "Breast Event Ever." Two Titmice Vodka specials, food specials and raffles including a Stand-Up Paddle Board from Sunrise Surf Shop will be available. All proceeds of raffles and Two Titmice cocktails will be donated to our foundation, which gives 100% of the money donated to help local patients fighting Breast Cancer. Mingle, have some cocktails and apps and help a great cause at 1183 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>TEDxFSCJ for What are Human Rights? Join TEDxFSCJ for What are Human Rights?, a salon featuring speakers with first-hand knowledge of how human rights protect us all. This event will embrace both the local and global dimensions of human rights. The salon will address such questions as, the inherent and equal dignity of individuals regardless of gender expression, race, and nationality, the unprecedented discrimination and violence facing immigrant populations and how global warming threatens entire communities with irreversible harm. This event is on Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts at 11901 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to Amber@opcfla.com or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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WHY I SERVE

Featuring Wounded Warrior Project

CHET KEVIN CROWELL



In this edition of Why I Serve, featuring Wounded Warrior Project, the Recorder sat down with Chet Kevin Crowell, a retired sergeant first class who served as a parachuter in the Army in Panama and Iraq. Crowell received his service dog from K9s For Warriors in 2012.

Why did you serve?

I grew up in a family where I had heard stories of how amazing it was when they served, and I wanted to experience that — being part of that family of people that served. It was kind of selfish in the beginning why I served and then as I got older, the big picture was kind of unveiled about why you're serving. It's historic, it's part of a brotherhood.

when you do share your knowledge and continue to learn from others.

To watch the entire video interview, visit pontevedrarecorder.com and click Why I Serve.

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What did you learn in the military?

The most significant learning that I think I gained from all this is the importance of continuing to serve. I may have retired Dec. 4, 2013, but there are so many ways that I can still have an impact on others' lives or my community. So, I help my local veterans. I help the local organizations. But what I've learned is it's important to continue to serve and to pass on the knowledge that I've gained and not just become some old angry veteran sitting at the VFW griping about what his country did to him. It's amazing



www.woundedwarriorproject.org

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Friends of Ponte Vedra Concert Hall donate patio heaters for venue's new outdoor lounge

Guests visiting the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will now be able to make year-round use of the facility's new outdoor lounge area, thanks to the addition of three propane patio heaters donated by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall (FOPVCH).

The patio heaters were put into action for the first time Jan. 25, when patrons attending a performance by the band The Outlaws had a chance to enjoy drinks in the outdoor lounge area despite evening temperatures that dipped into the 30s. The 925 square-foot nonsmoking concession space — which features couches and full bar service — was added to the concert hall in 2018 thanks to a \$50,000 fundraising campaign mounted by the nonprofit Friends group. The three patio heaters — complete with propane canisters and refills — are the latest facility upgrade the group has financed.

"The addition of the outdoor lounge has reduced the crowds and wait times in the concert hall's indoor concessions area," FOPVCH President Steve Gard said. "Now, with the addition of the patio heaters, concert hall guests can enjoy the outdoor space all year round."

In addition to funding the construction of the outdoor lounge and other equipment, the Friends group sponsors special performances throughout the year. Many of those performances, Gard noted, include culturally significant events such as opera, children's theatre and holiday performances of Handel's "Messiah" that may not be financially profitable, but are important to the cultural life of the community.

"We're just a group of local residents who value the caliber and quality of artists the concert hall attracts to our community," Gard said. "And by sponsoring performances and funding facility upgrades, we can help bring even bigger-name artists to Ponte Vedra."

Already, Gard said, the concert hall at-



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Logue

Elaine Erickson and Michael Savino of St. Simons, Georgia, enjoy the new heaters in the outdoor lounge area at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

tracts well-known performers. In February alone, the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host the Indigo Girls (Feb. 9 — sold out), Tom Rush (Feb. 15), Los Lobos (Feb. 19) and The Zombies (Feb. 20), who on March 29 will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

In addition to being able to buy tickets to performances before they go on sale to the general public, members of the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall receive free drink tickets, limited edition posters and other benefits. For more information on the Friends, including membership details, visit www.friendspvch.org or email friendsPVCH@gmail.com.

NOCATEE HAPPENINGS

COASTAL WINE MARKET HOSTS HARRY HANSEN OF STERLING VINEYARDS

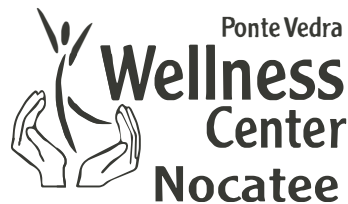


Photo by Susan Griffin

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room co-owner Steve Lourie (right) poses with Harry Hansen of Sterling Vineyards, who came to the Nocatee business on Jan. 23 for its latest installment of "Meet the Winemaker." Hansen provided guests with tastings, including his line of Napa offerings and his super-limited Platinum Cabernet. Coastal Wine Market also pre-sold his ULTRA-limited Iridium Cabernet. Attendees of the event participated in a raffle to win a Sterling gift basket. Sterling wines were sold at discounted prices and also signed by Hansen.

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BIRTHDAY PARTY PLANNER

3 tips to manage kids' birthday party guest lists

Drafting guest lists for children's birthday parties is no small task. Parents may hope to include all the kids in their child's class, only to be met with some difficult decisions due to budgets and space. Parents planning their kids' birthday parties can keep these three tips in mind as they work toward finalizing a guest list.

1. Pick the venue first. The size and scope of the party venue can help parents determine just how many children they can invite to the party. An intimate party at home may mean fewer children, while a big party center can comfortably and safely accommodate lots of kids.

2. Consider the budget. Determining how much you want to spend on the party can help you decide on the guest list. Children's party centers may charge anywhere from \$10 to \$25 per head. BabyCenter.com found that roughly one-quarter of parents surveyed spend more than \$500 for a child's first birthday. Much like with weddings, one of the easiest ways to cut birthday party costs is to trim the guest list.



Photo courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

3. Focus on the child. Rather than the party being a who's who of guests, let the guest of honor create the guest list. This way the guest lists reflects the child's preferences. If you're concerned kids might add too many names to the guest list, explain in advance that you do not have a limitless budget, so some names may need to be trimmed to accommodate the money available for the party.

The guest list for kids' parties can sometimes be tricky to negotiate. But these three simple strategies can make the task that much simpler.

Respond promptly to invitations to avoid frustration, hurt feelings

It only takes a minute to respond "yes" or "no" to an invitation.

According to the etiquette experts at the Emily Post Institute, however, failure to RSVP has become common — no matter if it is a birthday party, dinner party or wedding. The Institute goes on to say that relationships often suffer due to hosts' frustration and hurt feelings.

Hosts await responses so they can determine how much food and beverages to have on hand, and to coordinate other details of the party. When invited guests do not respond, it can lead to emotional and possible financial stress among party hosts.

With the exception of "regrets only" invitations, it is absolutely essential to let hosts know if their invitation will be accepted or not — and to do so within the time frame expressed on the invitation. It may be uncomfortable to say no, but it shows you respect the party host.

- If a phone number is on the invitation, call and personally give a response, as leaving a message can be unreliable.
- Many people now offer texting or email options for responses. It only takes a minute to hit "reply" and give an answer.
- Evites also are popular. Invited guests simply follow the directions laid out in the evite. Remember to follow up promptly with an answer if you initially opt for "maybe."
- Mail back response cards promptly so they arrive by the RSVP.
- Be sure if you receive a "regrets only" invite that you give your regrets if you can't go. If the host doesn't hear from you, your presence is expected.



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MORGAN JAMES
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MARCH 4

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FEAT. ROOSEVELT COLLIER
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ROGER MCGUINN
MARCH 16

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MARCH 20

JOAN OSBORNE
"SINGS THE SONGS OF BOB DYLAN"
MARCH 21

SHAWN COLVIN
MARCH 29

PAT METHENY
w/ JAMES FRANCIES
& NATE SMITH
APRIL 9

DAVE ALVIN
& JIMMIE DALE GILMORE
w/ THE GUILTY ONES
APRIL 12

TAB BENOIT
APRIL 13

EDWIN MCCAIN
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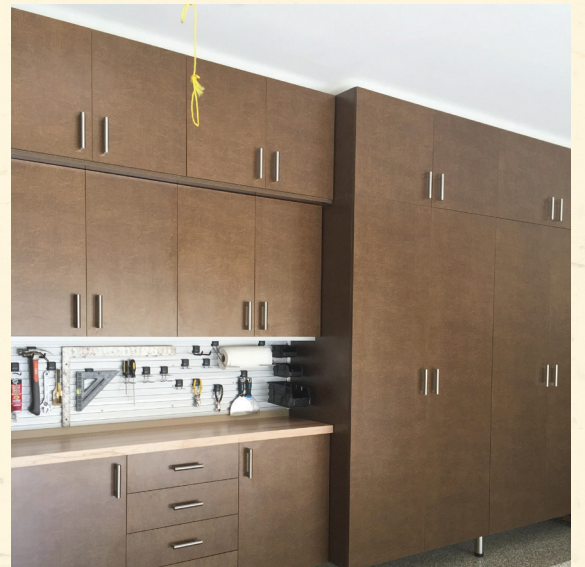
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Welcome to Sand Castles: Before and After



Janet Westling
Contributing Editor

Happy New Year and welcome to our fifth anniversary of our Before and After issue of Sand Castles!

Our Before and After issue is one of my favorite issues of Sand Castles. I love the start of the new year when we set goals that range from organizing your home, getting fit and healthy to creating new designs for your home and setting up a home inspection. We cover all these

topics, and I think this issue lives up to our goal to deliver interesting stories from our beaches to our State Capitol and New York to Italy!

On Jan. 8, former Congressman Ron DeSantis was sworn in as the youngest Florida governor in more than a century and the first governor from Ponte Vedra Beach. Thousands of Floridians attended the inauguration, and I, along with my daughter, grandchildren and many friends from Ponte Vedra Beach and Jacksonville, were there for the swearing-in and the Florida Ball.

We start our new year off with travel tales from RE/MAX Unlimited Realtors Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Petersen, who took their grandchildren to New York City during the Christmas season. Watson Realtor Babs Bowler writes about a trip she took with her sister-in-law to attend a wedding in Rome in September for “The Ultimate Destination Wedding,” at the Sistine Chapel and her tour of Italy.

In celebration of five years of Sand Castles, we hosted a luncheon in November to thank all the realtors who have contributed stories throughout the years. You’ll see photos from that event in this edition.

Laine Silverfield, contributes a story

titled, “Her Song,” about a First Coast nonprofit whose mission is the interruption of the cycle of human trafficking while leading women to freedom. Laine recently hosted a luncheon at her Marbella home to bring awareness and support to this issue. January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Every issue of Sand Castles features our Market Watch and Eric Spottswood from Prosperity Home Mortgage answers the questions, how’s the market, what is happening with the rates and did I miss out on good rates.

Ten of our local realtors contribute stories from Spinnakers Reach in Sawgrass to the Plantation and Marsh Landing, Jacksonville Beach and Nocatee. Touring these stunning homes through the Realtors’ eyes, words and photos spotlights the wonderful properties on the market today on Florida’s First Coast!

I asked home inspector and President of Tabor Hill & Associates Jimmy Cox to write about “The Importance of Home Maintenance and Inspections.” His article is revealing and offers a compelling reason to do an inspection as part of the routine maintenance of your home to prevent small problems from turning into expensive, major catastrophes.

What better time than the new year to start organizing your space, decluttering and creating more usable space through organized closet systems and garage makeovers. Tim Blin, owner of Tailored Living featuring PremierGarage, shares his expertise on creating the perfect space.

“Designed to Sell” offers readers a glimpse inside a condo I recently re-designed with fresh white paint and an updated coastal contemporary look that attracts buyers and sells homes!

Ryan Keller for Video Luxury was my video photographer, and he gives insight into the importance of professional photography when selling your home.

Alice Hickox, chef and owner of Lettuce Do Dinner, returns with a plan of healthy eating we all can adopt this year.

Our home is our castle and at the beaches it is our castle in the sand. From palm trees to sand dunes and golf courses to resort living, Ponte Vedra Beach and the Beaches communities offer the most desirable real estate in Northeast Florida!

Janet Westling, REALTOR, GRI, CIPS
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty
Sand Castles creator and contributing editor
Award-winning section
www.janetwestling.com

MARKET WATCH

Mortgage forecast

By Eric Spottswood

Prosperity Home Mortgage

How’s the market? That is likely the most common question that anyone in real estate or lending gets.

There are a lot of different ways to take that question. But on the lending side, the basis of that question boils down to a primary focus: What is happening with the rates? As most people are already aware, rates have been on the rise and look to continue down that path. So, the real question ultimately becomes: Did I miss out on good rates? Am I still able to afford mortgage financing? What will happen to me if I continue to wait? Here’s the good news for everyone: You definitely haven’t missed out on getting historically low interest rates, the impact is likely less than what you think and there are programs to help guard you against this market movement.

Let’s start with the rates. While they fluctuate daily, the average 30-year fixed program is still commonly under 5 percent with no points! That is a rise of roughly 0.5 percent from this point a year ago. While thoughts of the bottom of the market and seeing rates fall below 4 percent may cloud our view, being below 5 percent is still a historically low rate.

Let’s use this as an example. Think back to when the market collapsed in 2001. Refinances were at an all-time high because the drop-in rates allowed millions of Americans to refinance and take advantage of amazing savings. What was the average interest rate then? 6.92 percent! We’re almost 2 percent lower today than the time when the country was in awe over the rates available and couldn’t rush into refinance fast enough. All that to say it’s still an amazing time to take advantage of the market, even if they do continue to move up.

So, what does the rise in interest rates mean to me and



Photo courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

my potential payments? The answer may surprise you in that you haven’t been impacted by as much as you think. To help give perspective, a change of 0.125 percent in the interest rates only moves your payment up \$7.61

per 100,000 in loans. Considering the average loan in the state of Florida is just under 200,000, that means the change in rates over the last year (0.5 percent) only leads to an increase of \$61.52 a month. Not as much as you would think, right? Don’t get me wrong, taking advantage of the best rates possible is always the best move financially, but you can rest at ease that the impact is likely less on your monthly budget than you thought.

So, what happens if you continue to wait? Almost all experts consider the rate increases to continue for the foreseeable future. Making the decision to rent for another year, or holding off on refinancing for a while longer, likely means you’ll be entering the market at a higher point than what you can get today. I mentioned just before that these changes likely won’t preclude you from being able to qualify, but it’s certainly beneficial to act now and avoid the extra costs if possible.

In the example below, rates moving up 0.5 percent costs the average person \$61.52 based on a \$200,000 loan amount. While that isn’t an insurmountable cost on a monthly basis, it all adds up. That change would mean you’re paying \$738.24 more a year and would end up paying \$22,147.20 more over the life of a 30-year loan. Adds up quickly, doesn’t it? For those on the fence, it certainly benefits to act sooner than later to take advantage of the rates in as low a point as you possibly can.

What’s the best way to keep yourself safe from these changes? As I mentioned above, one way is to make sure you’re acting as soon as possible to avoid what most forecast to be a continued climb in rates. Another way is to find a lender that will allow you to protect your interest rates while you’re shopping so you’re not impacted by market movement.

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Designed to sell

By Janet Westling

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Florida Network Realty

It is amazing what changing the color of a room can have on the look of the space and the feeling you get. I recently listed a wonderful condo at the Carlyle across from the ocean in Ponte Vedra Beach. The former owner had designed an elegant space that was warm and inviting. It was the perfect style and design where she entertained her many friends and family.

As the new year approached, I suggested a new direction and a new design, and our mission was to design to sell.

According to an article in Forbes Magazine, “the practice of redecorating a home to attract buyers is not new, but in recent years it has grown in prominence.”

My objective was simply to create a new look with fresh paint, updated, clean, crisp furniture and a simplistic vibe to the décor. My goal was to create a coastal contemporary look that attracts buyers and sells homes!

Creating a buyer connection, with neutral, natural colors, helps set the stage for the buyer to imagine themselves in that space.

Start by creating a clean, neutral appearance that strives for camera ready classy, making your home more appealing to buyers. Strive for the ultimate outcome of staging your home to look like the beautiful homes you read in magazines or see on HGTV!

Aim for the seamless and sophisticated look when choosing a paint color and remember to paint adjacent rooms the same color.

Every day we are offered free design ideas from Joanna and Chip Gaines to the Property Brothers. They give us the vision and the plan to turn ordinary and out of style living spaces into extraordinary designs for our life.

We all become accustomed to the look they create and when buyers first go shopping online for a home, they want nothing but the best and what they see every day on TV.

So, the best advice I give to my clients is this: Put your best foot forward and do some updates that place your home in the center of the listings that buyers want to see.

One of my go-to paint colors is Sherwin-Williams’ pure white. It allows a room to shine and highlights the features and furniture we want to stand out. It appeals to young and old and accommodates all design styles from traditional to contemporary!



The importance of home maintenance and inspections

By James Cox

Tabor Hill & Associates LLC

When I was recently asked by an experienced realtor to write an article for homeowners on why home maintenance and inspections are important, I immediately thought of another real estate agent in Ponte Vedra Beach who regularly refers us to her clients but has personally been dealing with a mold claim nightmare.

This agent owns a home that was rented out to a great tenant and few problems ever arose, until one day when a major issue became apparent. A musty smell had encompassed the house and upon further investigation, she found that the hardwood floors had a little bit of water damage. Because much of the home had carpeted rugs, the issue was not immediately noticeable.

She feared a slab leak was to blame and called us out to take a look with an infrared camera. We were immediately able to determine there was not an active slab leak, but found the damage was caused by another source. Unfortunately, a small roof leak that had gone undetected over a period of time turned into a big mess. The leak had entered the wall cavity and continued down to the foundation, causing moisture retention between the concrete and her hardwood floors.

Once the problem was found, an insurance claim was made, and then the real dilemma set in for this homeowner. The claim was denied even though she had used the same carrier for over 12 years and had no other previous claims. This claim is months into litigation and the \$30,000 bill has yet to be settled.

Many small issues like the roof leak we found go unattended due to the fact they are simply unknown until they have developed into a major problem. With annual home maintenance in conjunction to inspections, you can be a proactive homeowner and possibly avoid costly repairs!

As time goes on, parts of your house will wear out, break down, malfunction and then stop working all together. Some of these issues could be preventable. Just as most people maintain their vehicle with regular professional service and annual maintenance, the same should be done routinely on your home.

The top three common areas we find the most issues with on annual inspections are:

- Roofing
- Exterior Walls (especially on stucco)
- HVAC (cooling and heating)

General lists of annual maintenance recommendations can be extensive and overwhelming for many homeowners. We are often contacted to perform annual inspections to help owners through this process. After inspecting

Estate epitomizes Ponte Vedra living

By Lisa Barton

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

This renovated home located in the heart of The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach must be seen to be fully appreciated.

Situated on a double lot under oak trees with views over the water to The Plantation's new golf course, this property was originally built by the Revlon family in the early 1990s.

In 2014, the new owners embarked on a three-year, total renovation bringing the interiors into the 21st century world of traditional, sophisticated elegance. Inside, you'll find a home where every detail has been carefully crafted to highlight its aesthetics. As you arrive, the entry is welcoming with hand-laid marble tiles, a grand staircase and soaring ceilings.

The gourmet kitchen features granite counters, custom cabinetry, double islands, a "hidden pantry" and all the high-end appliances a true gourmet chef will appreciate, including a La Cornue Grand Palais, which was custom built for the kitchen and offers both gas and electric cooking options. The butler's pantry has a second refrigerator, wine cooler and ice maker.

The spacious living room is sophisticated yet comfortable, with a custom gas fireplace and intricate coffered ceiling, all nestled around French doors, which open out to the newly designed pool and outdoor living spaces. The master suite has a double door entry, coffered ceilings, a generous sitting area, a balcony overlooking the pool and separate laundry area with a breakfast bar. No

detail was left to chance here in the master bathroom. The custom closets feature lighted display cabinets, built-in drawers and light fixtures.

The other six en suite bedrooms are well appointed and spacious. Each bedroom has a playful yet subtle theme, and views of the golf course or pool. There's no need to leave the house to work out with the fully equipped gym including its own bathroom and refrigerator. A full 1,000-square-foot guest apartment with a living room, kitchenette, bathroom and separate entrance is a great spot for in-laws or guests.

Working from home? You'll have options with two home offices, each with a fireplace and built-in audio-visual equipment. The hand-carved mill work in "his" study is impressive. If you like to entertain, you'll enjoy the game/billiard room and full bar area.

Outside, the new cabana with a summer kitchen, double beer tap, Lynx grill and TV area and full bathroom can accommodate your guests. The new walk-in swimming pool is heated and cooled and has a swim-up bar area. A seven-person spa and large gas fire pit make the outdoor living area an entertainer's delight.

The home systems are run by a state-of-the-art Savant system allowing you to manage lights, climate, TVs and security remotely.

Located at 241 Plantation Circle South, this property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Lisa Barton and offered for \$3,250,000.



Photos courtesy of Lisa Barton



Photo courtesy of Laine Silverfield

Her Song Founder and Executive Director Rachel White stands with Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser, who presented a proclamation recognizing Her Song for its efforts in the community at a lunch and learn on Jan. 17.

Her Song: Area nonprofit tackles human trafficking head on

As the United States recognizes January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a First Coast nonprofit called Her Song is working to interrupt the cycle of human trafficking while leading women to freedom.

According to the nonprofit, human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry, ranking as the second most common criminal activity after the illegal drug trade. Florida is ranked third in the nation for human trafficking, with Duval County ranking as one of the top five hubs for such activity in the state. In this modern-day form of slavery, human trafficking is defined as victims who are subjected to force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor.

Her Song is attempting to break this cycle through survivor care, victim outreach and community awareness. Over the past six years, Her Song has assisted over 500 women away from the life of forced prostitution, physical and psychological torment, drug addiction and unbearable emotional trauma. Freedom Cottage, the residential component of the nonprofit, offers an opportunity for rest, reflection, recovery and transformation.

"A comprehensive care plan is provided for

women not only in residence, but for those incarcerated or living elsewhere," said Rachel White, founder and executive director of Her Song. "Total wraparound services including trauma-informed counseling, life coaching, medical care, education, employment opportunities and legal assistance, enable victims to become survivors and productive members of our community."

In conjunction with National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Her Song held a lunch and learn on Jan. 17. Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser, a retired special agent in the FBI, presented a proclamation recognizing Her Song for their work in the community and encouraging all citizens, especially families with children, to become educated about human trafficking. Glasser's professional experience in human trafficking added to the information disseminated. Both a survivor in residence and a survivor advocate presented their life stories. Both ladies had a common thread: hope. As now thriving women in the community, they are testimony of the ability to heal and regain one's life again.

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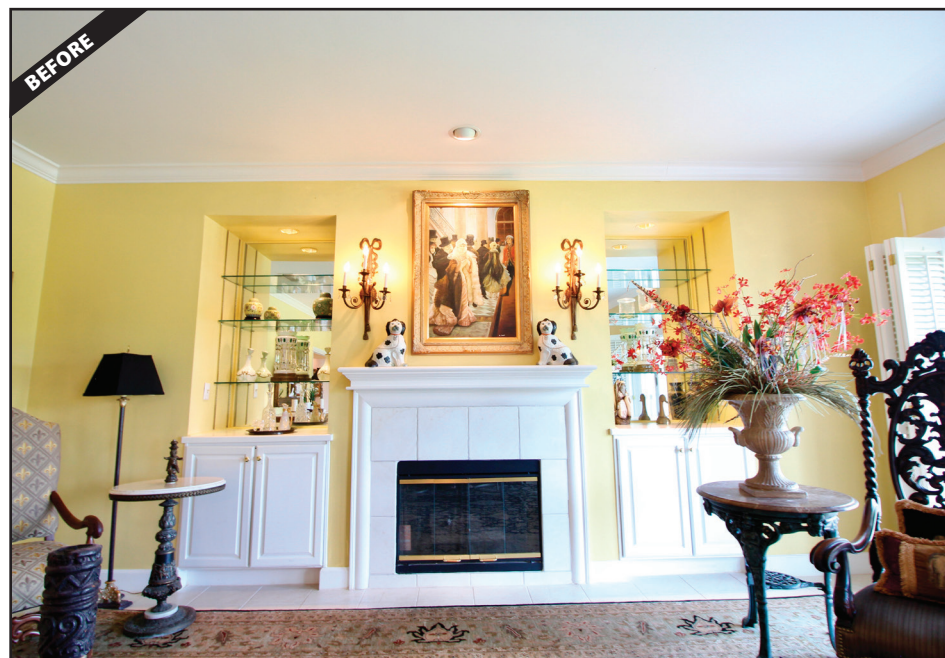
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Photos courtesy of Janet Westling

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Designed

Continued from 16

I used this color in the foyer of my Carlyle condo. We removed the elegant-stripped wallpaper and painted the wall the pure white along with the trim. The living

room was next, and the former yellow walls were painted two coats of white. The white slipcovered sofas and chairs and blue accents with art, pillows and rugs tied together the coastal contemporary look we envisioned.

With our staging done, this beautiful condo is designed to sell!

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Her Song

Continued from 17

“The successes I have seen have been nothing short of miraculous,” said Laine Silverfield, advisory board member for Her Song. “From meeting a young lady seven months ago who was often curled up in a fetal-like position while we talked, to now a beautiful self-assured woman who is an honor roll student at

FSCJ. And from celebrating another resident’s completing her CNA course with high honors and now enrolled in school with aspirations of becoming a nurse. Her Song gives every woman a voice!”

For more information on Her Song, visit www.hersongjax.org or call (904) 513-0203.

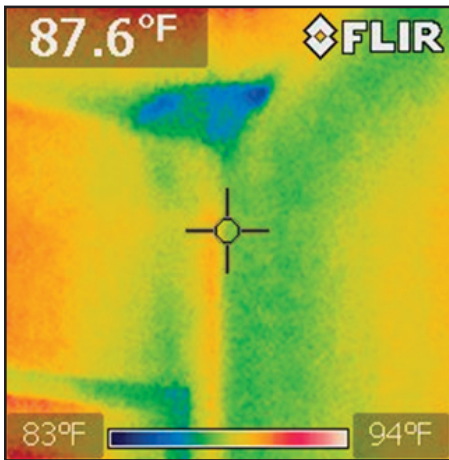


Photo courtesy of James Cox

A thermal imaging camera shows a roof leak entering into the wall cavity.

Inspections

Continued from 16

suggestions for specific maintenance are given based on our findings, they are put into a comprehensive report with pictures for our homeowner’s clarification. Strategic seasonal maintenance schedules with the help of licensed professionals can be key to enjoying your home to the fullest.

An informed homeowner is empowered to make educated decisions that can positively impact their investment, safety, health and more!

James Cox is a certified master inspector with Tabor Hill & Associates LLC. Visit info@TaborKHill.com for more information.

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Market Watch

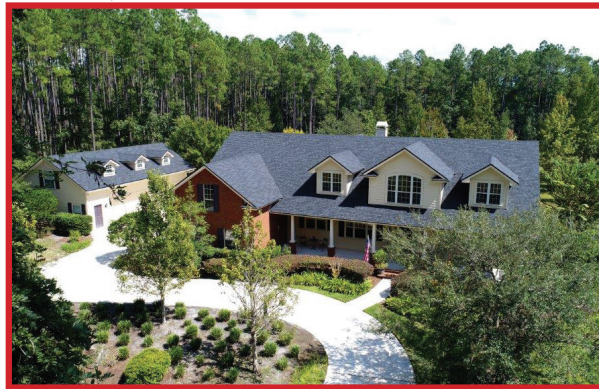
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ALTOR to understand the impacts in the market you’re shopping in.

Housing markets change constantly so understanding the market on both the rental and purchase sides can help provide clarity for your decision and make sure you’re putting you and your family in the best position. Whether it’s today, in the near future or down the line, knowledge is power and opportunities abundant to accomplish your goals.

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The ultimate destination wedding

By Babs Bowler

Watson Realty Corp.

In September, I was privileged to attend a friend's wedding at the Vatican in Rome.

My daughter and son-in-law, Kaki and Tim, and Terri, my sister-in-law, traveled together from Ponte Vedra. The bride and groom, Melissa and Adam, are from Ohio. The ceremony was held in the side chapel of St. Peter's Basilica, known as The Sistine Chapel of the Choir. The gorgeous chapel is where the choir practices. It is a mini version of the beautiful St. Peter's Basilica with ancient Roman sculptures and Renaissance frescoes.

Melissa and Adam's local parish priest in Ohio initiated the grand plan to have their wedding at the Vatican. Over the next 18 months, the couple flew to Rome three times to meet with a Vatican priest and their wedding planner. The 40 guests witnessed a magical event with beautiful music, ceremonial procession and a full Mass. Two days after the ceremony, all couples married during the month were invited back to the Papal Audience held outside the main entrance to the Basilica. They sat in a side area on the altar and each was given a special greeting and blessing by the Pope. All the couples were dressed in their wedding attire. What a sight! There was also a special roped off area for the wedding guests. The weather



was crisp and clear. A perfect day.

Prior to the five-day stay in Rome, the four of us began our adventure in Venice, surrounded by water wherever you looked. Kaki and Tim visited the island of Burano for the day while Terri and I walked through Doge's Palace wearing self-guided ear pieces to navigate the museum. Delicious food and wine could be found at St. Mark's Square or on any tiny side street. Getting around on the Grand Canal on a vaporetto (canal taxi) was a lot of fun. We had passes so we could hop on and off at different stops to shop, sip a glass of wine and people watch.

After three days, we headed south via train to Florence. Over the next four days,

we indulged in the mandatory museum tours, wine tasting and strolling through medieval hilltop villages (San Gimignano, Monteriggioni and Siena). The Accademia Gallery with Michelangelo's statue of David stopped everyone in their tracks. Thank goodness there were plenty of benches to sit and admire all the artwork.

On Kaki's bucket list, she wanted to stomp grapes on her 50th birthday (Sept. 19). Our guide took us to Villa Le Piazzole, a beautiful restored family estate. We carried baskets, walked through the vineyard and gathered our own bunches of ripened grapes. Back at the estate, she climbed into a big tub with all the grapes and celebrated her birthday. The Tuscany



Photos courtesy of Babs Bowler

country-side's rolling hills, vineyards and olive trees were breathtaking. This area of Italy was my favorite.

From Florence, we traveled to Rome via train. We did the required tours including the Colosseum, Sistine Chapel, climbing the Spanish Steps, multiple churches and of course sampling food and wine along the way. Throughout this journey, we stayed as authentic as possible with lodging in a former palace of an aristocratic family in Venice (Hotel Pausania), a 13th century former convent in Florence (Atlantic Palace) and a restored hotel in Rome (Hotel Mozart). I would recommend each of them. They were gorgeous accommodations with the purpose of providing their guests with a sense of time long ago.



Photos courtesy of Deb Pettry

Experience the Nocatee lifestyle in the Outlook at Twenty Mile

By Deb Pettry

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Florida Network Realty

Located in the Outlook at Twenty Mile in Nocatee, this David Weekley home is situated on a cul-de-sac and offers views of both the preserve and water.

Inside the home, the kitchen and family room are well-positioned with the linear fireplace to keep you connected with your family and friends while cooking. The double pocket sliding doors equipped with Hunter Douglas motorized blinds disappear into the wall and allow for that natural space to become part of your everyday life. The lanai is surrounded by a fully fenced backyard with Zoysia grass. The house features a three-car tandem garage.

The layout of this home is conducive to any stage of life. It is a four-bedroom, four-bath en suite layout. The owner's suite and one guest en suite bedroom are on the first floor. Also included on the first floor is an office with French doors and an adjacent half bath. The formal dining room opens to the kitchen and great room for ease of entertaining. The second floor has a large bonus area and two bedrooms with two baths.

Additional upgrades include extended cabinetry in the kitchen, a wine cooler, a granite sink, under counter lighting and frosted glass pantry doors. The home comes with custom lighting and fans; surround sound throughout, including the lanai; water softener with carbon filter; gutters; and a paved driveway, walkway and front porch. Custom wood accents are features of the linear fireplace and island. In addition, this house features a square bannister on the stairs, smooth walls, an indoor air quality system on the HVAC, a beadboard drop zone at garage entry and a Sentricon system.

Living in Nocatee provides residents with resort style living 365 days a year, easy access to the beach and the top-rated schools of St. Johns County. Nocatee also features several parks for both you and your pets, pools, a lazy river, water tower, zip lines, restaurants and shopping. All of this is accessible from your front door by walking, biking or driving a golf cart.

Located at 157 Galleon Drive in Ponte Vedra, this property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Deb Pettry and offered for \$655,000.

Marsh Landing home designed for quality, longevity

By Michelle Floyd

First Coast Sotheby's International Realty

Residential properties are built for different purposes and therefore reflect a wide range of craftsmanship and durability.

On one end of the spectrum are what the real estate industry characterizes as disposable homes, or ones that an owner expects to replace in a matter of years for another. An example of a disposable home would be one that is created to fulfill a temporary need, such as in response to a change in family economics, or for relocation reasons. This is decidedly different from “forever homes,” or one that is built for the long-term with the intent of serving multiple generations. One of the distinctive attributes that underlies the home at 105 Palm Forest is from inception, it was designed and constructed for quality and longevity.

This home was built by John Shackelford Jr., who is known for his building quality and integrity. The architect “knows how to embrace a period style while incorporating modern approaches to functionality within the home.” He earned his reputation primarily in Sea Island, Georgia, and works with an architectural firm out of Atlanta.

He wisely specified structural steel and concrete block and authentically applied stucco, which are just some of the details that qualify this home as built to last. In addition, such interior refinements as deep

custom mill work, stone flooring and custom doors, make this home as impressive inside as it is fundamentally sound behind the walls.

The home at 105 Palm Forest is situated behind the gates in Marsh Landing Country Club and is on a peninsula of land surrounded by either tidal marsh or golf course and water. As one of only six lots in the cul-de-sac, this property provides easy access and much desired privacy.

The home’s eat-in kitchen is spacious enough to accommodate a large “farm house” type table in front of the unique stucco fireplace. French doors from the kitchen and eating area lead out to the covered lanai, summer kitchen, pool and spa. All of these key living spaces have views out onto the pond and golf course fairway beyond. Even the living room lends itself to being used as it has ample space for several seating and conversation areas.

This house is high quality, well located and highly functional for most any lifestyle. The combination of floor plan, building quality and interior refinements, coupled with a location that is within walking distance to the Marsh Landing Country Club, yield a special housing opportunity in Ponte Vedra Beach.

This property is represented by First Coast Sotheby’s International Realty, listed by Michelle Floyd and offered for \$2,250,000.



Photos courtesy of Michelle Floyd



Photos courtesy of Tim Blin

Whole home organization: It's more than just a garage!

By Tim Blin

Tailored Living featuring PremierGarage

What door do you use to enter your home? If you're like the majority of homeowners, the answer is through the garage. Some of you will say it's just a garage, but is it?

The garage is now considered an extension of our home. In many cases, the garage is the largest room in the house and must serve multiple purposes. The main purpose should be the storage and protection of a very expensive asset, our cars. Getting out of your car in a pouring rain storm is no fun!

The garage is one of the easiest places to gain storage, so the rest of the home can be more efficient. When you have a combination of cabinets and organizers, this is part of a strategy for creating a truly organized home.

FREE UP SPACE INSIDE THE HOME

The garage can store items that are taking up valuable space inside the home. Most kitchens or pantries do not have enough room to store our items. Cabinets in the garage can be used to store your belongings that are solely for special

occasions. These are items such as party platters, small appliances, bread makers, rice cookers, ice cream makers, etc.

Once these items are out of the kitchen and pantry, the new space can be organized for maximum efficiency with things you use most often. Say goodbye to crammed kitchen cabinets and overstuffed pantry shelves.

ORGANIZE continues on Page 23

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REALTOR®



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GLEN KERNAN GOLF & CC

Timeless Design. 4BR, 4 Full/2 Half BA. Master Suite, Sitting Room & Balcony. Chef's Kitchen. Family Room w/ Built in Aquarium & Wet Bar. Grotto Style Pool, Waterfall & Sun Shelf. 6,017 SF. **MLS#973075. \$1,750,000**

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Gorgeous 5BR, 5 Full/2 Half BA. Home Theater, Game & Exercise Rooms. Chef's Kitchen, Large Island. Salt Water Pool/Spa, Fire Pit, Putting Green. 3 Car Garage, 5,190 SF. **MLS#957286. \$1,575,000**



MARSH LANDING GOLF & CC

Salt Marsh Views! 4BR/4.5BA. Game Room, 1st Fl Master Suite & Updated Bath. Large Kitchen, White Painted Cabinets & Island. Pool with Paver Decking. 3 Car Garage. 4,122 SF. **MLS#928001. \$860,000**

MARSH LANDING GOLF & CC

Lakefront Home. 5BR/4BA. 2nd Fl Loft, Bonus Room, Bath & Guest Suite. Updated Kitchen with Viking SS Appliances. Screened Pool with Paver Decking. 3 Car Garage. 4,217 SF. **MLS#973901. \$865,000**

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Southern colonial 5BR/4.5BA home in the prestigious community of Marsh Landing Country Club. Almost an acre on the lagoon with beautiful gardens makes this a special oasis. Wonderful outdoor living area, complete with free standing fireplace. The owner's suite is downstairs with 4 bedrooms up. All bedrooms have access to balconies. This truly is a move-in ready home! **\$1,300,000**



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For more information, please contact:

Natalie Bryant

Cell: (904) 233-5532
nbryant@pvclubrealty.com



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COMMENTARY

From Ponte Vedra to Tallahassee: A local perspective of Gov. Ron DeSantis' inauguration

By Janet Westling

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

When the former mayor of Jacksonville, John Peyton, called me in 2012 and asked me to meet with a young candidate running for Congress in my district in the primary, I said yes.

I asked Ron DeSantis if he would meet me in my home, and after a few hours talking about his beliefs at my dining room table, I was on board. Ron DeSantis was elected in 2012 to Congress and in six years represented us admirably.

I never could have envisioned that in 2012, this young man would in just seven years become the youngest governor of Florida in more than a century and the first governor elected from Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

On Jan. 8, I, along with many supporters from Ponte Vedra Beach and Jacksonville, attended the swearing in of Gov. Ron DeSantis. So many people throughout our state helped make this happen. Campaign manager Susie Wiles, a resident of Ponte Vedra Beach, brought the candidate home to a great win in a contest of ideas amid a robust effort on both sides.

"It was an honor to lead a fine group of talented, hardworking people who worked hard to elect Ron DeSantis and Jeanette Nunez," Wiles said. "They will do Florida Proud!"

It is important to note that Susie Wiles helped lead the victory of underdog Rick Scott when he first ran for governor and Donald Trump for president as the campaign manager for Florida.

Cindy Graves, former chair of the Duval County Republican Party and Republican Women Club president, was the invited speaker on Monday, Jan. 7 as part of the inauguration events honoring women at a breakfast titled, "Women Transforming Florida: A Tribute Break-



The group from Ponte Vedra and Jacksonville gathers with Gov. Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis at a pre-inaugural dinner.

Photos courtesy of Janet Westling



ABOVE: Casey and Gov. Ron DeSantis at the Florida Ball

RIGHT: Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Nancy McGowan



fast." Cindy energized the audience and praised the women around our state who accepted the call to volunteer during the campaign.

Nancy McGowan, state chairwomen of Women for Ron and fundraiser for DeSantis, organized the Ponte Vedra/Jacksonville

contingent and helped arrange our reservations at the Governors Inn and organized a dinner she and her husband Ted hosted the evening before the inauguration.

The Governors Inn, located a half a block from the Capitol, was the perfect location! Our group was not the only people



Allison Ferebee, Lt. Gov. Jeannette Nunez, Brad Scott, Janet Westling and Joye Scott

who thought so. Upon arriving on Sunday, I met the entire Jeanette Nunez clan, who were in Tallahassee for the inauguration of Florida's first Hispanic female lieutenant governor. It was wonderful to see this beautiful family celebrate this historic occasion.

The celebration of the McGowan's pre-inaugural dinner began with a group photo with Mr. & Mrs. DeSantis (the governor elect's parents) who were also staying at the Governors Inn. The dinner followed with an invite extended by Ponte Vedra Plastic surgeon Dr. Cayce Rumsey to watch his beloved Alabama Crimson Tide in the championship game at the Governors Inn with an afterparty.

On Jan. 8 at 11 a.m., we all convened at the State Capitol for the swearing in of Florida's 45th Governor Ron DeSantis, Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez and their cabinet. Our new First lady Casey DeSantis, holding 8-month-old son Mason, stood by her husband's side as he was sworn in. In attendance that day were over 3,000 supporters and dignitaries and former

DESANTIS continues on Page 31

Organize

Continued from 21

As consumers, we have a fascination with warehouse stores and buy products in bulk. These bulk purchases make storage even more of a challenge. Having a cabinet in the garage dedicated to items such as paper towels, toilet tissue, bottled drinks, cleaning products, etc., helps keep them from going into the home and taking up valuable space until they are truly needed.

Additionally, closets in the home have a tendency to be a collecting area for items that don't relate to the storage of our

clothing. There are usually many items such as luggage that could be moved to the garage to free up space for better use of our closets.

ORGANIZE YOUR BELONGINGS

Just having the cabinets in the garage will not make you organized, it is part of an overall strategy that will get and keep you organized. If you do not have a plan, then you will be disappointed with the results and will go back to bad habits.

The first thing to do is an assessment of the items you do have. Do I keep, donate or throw away? Depending on how many belongings you have or how easily you can sort into categories will determine if

you can do this yourself or require some assistance. If possible, having someone that is not emotionally attached to the items will help with the sorting process.

The organizing process may sound simple; however, if not done correctly, the space will not be maximized or function to fit your needs. This is where someone trained in organization will be worth the investment.

DE-CLUTTER, DE-STRESS AND ENJOY

Our lives are very busy with family activities and work, and it seems as if our to-do list never gets finished. Organization in our homes is a great way to save time and to allow more time to do the

things we enjoy. When you know where your items are, you don't waste time looking for them or purchasing duplicates. It is such a good feeling to actually get your cars in the garage and see your items neatly organized or hidden behind attractive cabinet doors.

No matter the condition of the garage, this is the year to take charge of the space and not let your belongings control you. It may seem like an overwhelming task, but the satisfaction of having your belongings in order will be very rewarding.

Tim Blin is the owner of Tailored Living featuring PremierGarage. For more information, visit <https://www.tailoredliving.com>.



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Live in desirable Atlantic Beach just a short bike ride to Beaches Town Center. This 80' x 120' corner Lot is waiting for you to design the perfect house for your family to enjoy. Home Owner Social Family Membership at ABCC is included with the purchase. Construction of your new home can commence anytime up to August 2021. \$375,000



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Call Rosemary Kristoff
904-333-4841

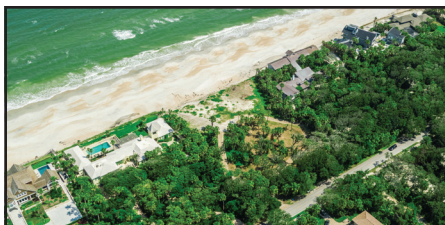


RIVERFRONT SOUTHERN LIFESTYLE IN ORTEGA

High on a bluff above the majestic St. Johns River, sits this completely renovated, one of a kind home, full of Southern Charm with spectacular views of the downtown Jacksonville skyline. Enjoy morning coffee welcoming the sun's first light, and the burst of color as the sun fades into the west. 4BR/4.5BA, 5910sf. \$3,750,000



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965 PONTE VEDRA BLVD.

Build your dream home along the coast of the beautiful Atlantic Ocean. 1.84 acres, 29 ft. dunes, 200 ft. of beach frontage. MLS# 959870 Offered for \$4,250,000



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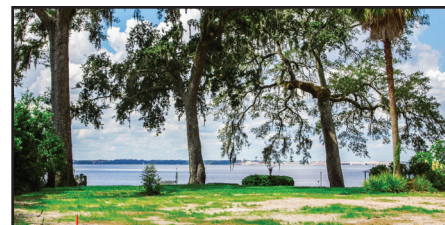


THE PERFECT BEACH ESCAPE

Located between The Lodge and the Cabana Beach Club, this second-story condo gives elevated views of the beach while maintaining the unit's privacy and security. 3 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms. Offered for \$1,625,000



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Spectacular oceanfront views from every room in your private oasis in Sawgrass. This stunning 3BR/3.5BA Spinnakers 1 2nd floor oceanfront condo is extraordinary. This unique contemporary includes over 2500sf & blends modern design with classic coastal details. Offered for \$1,799,000



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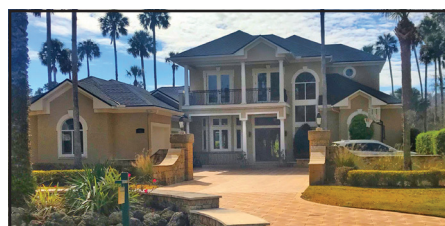


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HANDYMAN SPECIAL! Here is an opportunity to make repairs and call this home. Fabulous St. Johns County schools, fenced backyard backs up to farmland. Start your family's story here in this 8-year-old Mattamy just waiting for your style and flair. Offered for \$200,000



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This impressive oceanfront home reflects that magical merging of beach living and architecture. Situated on 220ft of Oceanfront and designed by Residential Designs by Kevin Gray, Inc and built by Elwood Collier, this estate is a masterpiece of design and craftsmanship. 4 bedrooms, 5 and 3 1/2 bathrooms. Offered for \$8,750,000



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LIVE ON THE GOLF COURSE IN ATLANTIC BEACH CC

If you are looking to live in a golf course community, close to the beach, surrounded by new construction, then look no further. This gently owned home was built in 2016 and boasts stunning design upgrades, and features 5BR/4BA, 3282sf. This wonderful home is waiting for your family to start making memories in. \$1,465,000



**Call Lee Elmore
904-699-4503**

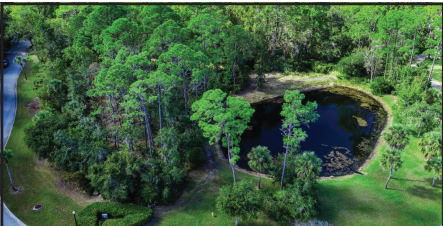


WATERFRONT COMPOUND LESS THAN A MILE FROM THE FERRY

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210 DEER COLONY LN.

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VILLAGES OF VILANO

Beach Where You Live! This beautiful patio home provides a haven within this well-maintained beach-to-intracoastal community just steps from the tennis courts & clubhouse; bring your fishing pole, swimsuit, tennis racket & pickle ball gear. The cul-de-sac home features a great room with fireplace & 2 split bedrooms. \$315,000



**Call Cyndi King
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ULTIMATE BEACH RETREAT

Steps away from the ocean, this beach bungalow is the ideal space to call home or utilize as an investment property. Located in a highly desired neighborhood within walking distance of restaurants and shopping. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths Offered for \$775,000



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Experience a spacious, sophisticated & beautifully designed home in the heart of PVB. This first-floor unit is light & inviting with 2122sf, 3BR/2.5BA & an abundance of windows throughout. The grand living room with a gas fireplace is flanked by built-in bookcases & French doors. \$748,000



**Call Janet Westling
904-813-1913**



MARSH LANDING POOL HOME

Step inside the gates of Marsh Landing CC and you will see why this community is so desirable. This stunning 4BR/3BA, 3,837sf home is priced below appraisal value. Stroll down the Magnolia-lined drive to the elegant paver courtyard, through glass front doors to a Palladian design circular foyer. Waterfront views reflect off the Ebony Wood flooring. Designer kitchen has California Built/custom cabinetry, Viking Commercial Range, Jenn-Air Double Oven, 72" Sub Zero Ref/Freezer. Screened enclosed paver pool deck envelops outdoor entertainment area with gas fireplace, jetted pool spa & power retractable awning. A must see! Offered for \$975,000



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PLANTATION OAKS IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Situated on a preserve lot for the ultimate in tranquility, this large family home has plenty of space for everyone to have their own privacy. Featuring a screened lanai, 3 car garage, 4BR/3BA, living room/dining room/family room and eat in kitchen on the 1st floor, 2BR/2BA on the 2nd floor. 3784sf. Offered for \$829,900.



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1355 OCEAN BLVD.

Beautiful pool home in Atlantic Beach, just one block from the ocean! 4 BD/4 BA, 3,106 SF. MLS# 960360 Offered for \$1,398,000



**Call
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South Jacksonville Beach home offers timeless style

By Clare Berry

Berry & Co. Real Estate

It's so cool to plan a home from the ground up, putting my schooling in architecture and interior design to work. That was what happened about five years ago when I helped Ponte Vedra Beach native Zac Cover team up with another local, Ben Ossi of Ossi Homes and Development, to create a home that would be perfect for Zac and his busy lifestyle.

Zac's parameters for his home and location were the following:

- Accessibility to the beach (this lot is just 11 blocks away) so Zac could get in his exercise time without a lot of travel time.

- Open kitchen designed around a one-piece stone island. Accented by professional-grade appliances and quality appointments and designed for gatherings with friends and family. Low-maintenance exterior (board & batten and lap James Hardie siding all around).

- Low-maintenance interior (distressed wood floors through the first floor and on the stair treads).

- Well-designed bathrooms, with neutral, high-quality tiles installed with care and customized cabinetry with self-closing doors.

- Granite on bathroom vanities; 8-foot interior doors and 5¼-inch baseboards.

- Low-E vinyl windows, trimmed in wood for that finished look.

- Energy-efficient radiant barrier Tech-Shield roof sheathing and 30-year architectural shingles plus gutters.

- 15 SEER HVAC with programmable thermostats

- Low-maintenance landscaping and full sprinkler system

- Timeless "Beachy" style clean/crisp design

In addition, Zac wanted to find a site with a little extra space around him. This house at 3273 Horn Court provides that — the side setbacks of 7.5 feet provide at least 15 feet between houses. On the south end of the property is an additional 25-foot buffer, a city easement. This 25 feet provides an unusually large play area for Zac's daughter, in addition to South Beach Park, also known as Sunshine Park, which is just at the end of the block. The lot on a short street at the very end of the cul-de-sac is another bonus.

This home's style is truly timeless, from its street presence to the inside finishes, like simple decorative mouldings and smooth ceilings. Its design was before its time — the open kitchen layout is exactly what most buyers seek today. Plus it has the good look of wood floors, the practicality of an island kitchen, baths for every bedroom, walk-in closets, uniformly high ceilings (10 feet on first level, 9 feet on the second) — elements only available when the buyer and builder work hand in hand. It's time for a different house for Zac, so he is looking forward to turning this one over to someone who will enjoy it as much as he has. It features four bedrooms, an office and four full baths.

Located at 3273 Horn Court in Jacksonville Beach, this property is represented by Berry & Co. Real Estate, listed by Clare Berry and offered for \$665,000.



Photos courtesy of Clare Berry

Simple swaps for healthy resolutions

By Alice Hickox

Lettuce Do Dinner

I'm a big believer in making New Year's resolutions that you can actually keep, so this year I am continuing to implement very doable, bite-size changes that will reap big benefits. Never underestimate small changes!

As a personal chef and foodie, I understand that if you are feeling deprived of your favorite foods, it can be one of the biggest "sabotagers" of sticking to a new goal or plan. So, I am a huge fan of "swap outs."

Here are some of my favorite "swaps" that are so easy! Whether you are looking to eat more clean foods, incorporate more veggies or lose a few pounds, these simple changes will go a long way. These are changes that even my husband has made, and trust me, he's not been easy in the vegetable department.

First on the list ... spiralized veggies! Having a spiralizer is great if you have the time, but all the grocery stores sell them pre-spiralized for you, making prep a cinch. So, keep eating your favorite spaghetti and meatballs or shrimp scampi; just swap out the pasta for zucchini noo-



Photo courtesy of Alice Hickox

Alice Hickox

dles or mashed cauliflower potatoes! My husband, who thought he hated zucchini, was blown away when I first made spaghetti and meatballs with my homemade sauce over zucchini noodles. "Zoodles" as I call them, are basically flavorless, yet take on the taste of whatever sauce you

pair them with.

The other big swap-out I LOVE is cauliflower. I know: You've all heard of cauliflower rice, cauliflower mashed potatoes, etc. Well, they are actually good! A simple change is to make mashed potatoes, but make them half potatoes and half mashed

cauliflower. You've just slashed a ton of starch and carbs right there. Score!

My favorite, though, because I am a pizza lover and am not willing to give that up, is cauliflower pizza crust. I've always loved a supreme pizza with all the meat and veggies. But hark — angels are singing — a simple swap has turned from a fat trap, belly-bloating nightmare into a fat-burning, belly-shrinking favorite again! And we feel zero deprived.

By the way, my husband also thought he hated cauliflower, and as I write this, he is making a cauliflower crust pizza and is down 35 pounds with some of these simple changes starting a year ago. You can make the crust homemade. But for time-saving purposes, I use our favorite brand with minimal, clean ingredients; all of which my body will recognize and deem safe. You can order from Amazon, or purchase at Lucky's Market called "Outer Aisle Gourmet."

Whatever your healthy goals are for 2019, I have two delicious recipes to help keep favorite foods in your life with some easy, healthy swap-outs! Think Thai food and pizza. Who wants to give that up?

RECIPES continues on Page 35

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1299 Ponte Vedra Blvd | \$5,500,000
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1551 1st Street South | \$449,000
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Home on the ranch

By **Barbara Maple**

Watson Realty Corp.

Tucked away behind the gates of Quail Ridge Farms, you will find this classic brick ranch home surrounded by tall oaks.

The welcoming front porch with gas lanterns adds to the Southern charm, inviting you to sit on a rocking chair and have a glass of sweet tea. Set on over 3 acres, the design showcases the wooded surroundings with plenty of room to roam. Ideal for entertaining, the home features both indoor and outdoor entertaining areas that offer multiple settings for friends and family to enjoy. Wander out to the pond located at the back of the property to cast a line and then host a fish fry poolside featuring your daily catch. This property allows you to even bring your horses. Well maintained, this 3,712-square-foot home offers four bedrooms and four full bathrooms, including a pool bath, an upstairs bonus room and a three-car garage with enough room for your golf cart.

Step into the light-filled foyer where stately columns separate the formal dining and living rooms each with crown molding. As you walk further, enter the spacious kitchen complete with a large island and separate breakfast area overlooking the pool. Floor to ceiling windows in the family

room bring the outdoors in, flooding the room with light yet providing privacy at the same time.

Just down the hall, you will find two generously sized bedrooms with a Jack and Jill style bathroom. A nearby staircase leads you up to the large bonus room, which provides an ideal space for hanging out or watching movies. Downstairs, on the other side of the home, the fourth bedroom and bath are found. A popular part of the house is the master retreat with tray ceilings, fireplace and en suite bathroom complete with a large soaking tub.

One of the most eye-catching features of the home is the screened-in pool and outdoor entertaining area. The summer kitchen and pool deck for sunning or sipping cool beverages create a resort getaway right at home.

From the inviting feel of the front porch to the multi-functional entertaining or family areas, this horse-country estate creates a blend of home and luxury. The tucked away location in Ponte Vedra, which offers several activities and top-rated schools, adds to the appeal of the home.

Located at 10628 Quail Ridge Drive in Ponte Vedra, this property is represented by Watson Realty Corp., listed by Barbara Maple and offered for \$728,000.



Photos courtesy of Barbara Maple



Photos by Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Petersen



Two local realtors take Christmas vacation to NYC

Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Petersen took a few days away from Ponte Vedra Beach to experience New York City at Christmas.

It was a whirlwind time for them with their friends and family with a lot packed into the short visits. Petersen and her crew experienced a wonderful snow storm in the city (some of them were delayed getting in), but the snow made for a special treat in the city. Some of the highlights were seeing "Frozen" on Broadway, "The Radio City Christmas Spectacular" with the Rockettes, The Big Apple Circus in Lincoln Center and Candytopia.

In keeping with the NYC pace, they managed to ice skate both in Central Park and in Rockefeller Center. According to the real estate duo, the highlight is always the Christmas tree in Rockefeller Plaza. This year, they said FAO Schwartz was open and stocked with all of the fun. The windows at Saks, they noted, were wonderfully created with theater as their theme, and Macy's windows were a treat for all as well. Whitaker and Petersen said Santa's wonderland at Macy's was a pleasant surprise, and they all enjoyed seeing Santa and giving him their wish lists for Christmas.

American Girl was a huge hit, they said; selecting the perfect doll with outfits and accessories was quite the treat for the little ones. And then dining with them in the American Girl Café put them over the top. Between Tavern on the Green, Carmines, John's Pizza, Ellen's Stardust Diner (where the entertainment is a show in itself, they said), street food vendors, numerous Starbucks and ice cream stops, the group had plenty of deliciousness to eat.

"This was a fantastic Christmas experience for all of us!" Whitaker and Petersen said. "Maybe we will do it again in a few years! Now, back to work!"

Oceanfront condo blends modern design with classic coastal details



Photos courtesy of Janet Westling

By Janet Westling

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty

Spectacular oceanfront views from every room welcome you to your private oasis in Sawgrass.

This three-bedroom, 3 1/2 bath Spinnakers 1 second-floor oceanfront condo is special. Step inside 740 Spinnakers Reach, and experience one of only eight condos directly fronting the beach.

This unique Sawgrass contemporary includes over 2,500 square feet and blends modern design with classic coastal details. A spacious open floor plan with kitchen, dining, breakfast and living room includes three oceanfront balconies with uninterrupted ocean views. This custom designed home is great for entertaining family and friends. The main living areas feature light porcelain tile floors, walls of glass with stunning views and light-filled rooms.

The chef's kitchen has stainless steel appliances, granite counters, custom cabinetry by Bennett's and a spacious breakfast room overlooking the sea. The second-floor owner's suite features a spa bathroom with custom cabinetry and a soaking tub. The master bedroom with a vaulted ceiling and adjoining sitting room or study overlooks the north end of the condo with a private oceanfront balcony with sweeping views.

The Sawgrass experience offers oceanfront dining, championship golf, a world-class racquet club with 13 tennis courts, fitness center and oceanfront pools. The unique neighborhood of Spinnakers Reach with its security guard gate, convenient beach access

and private pool is just a short walk to the Sawgrass Country Club and Beach Club, an internationally recognized resort community that continually strives to update and improve the Sawgrass experience.

The 27-hole golf course was the first home of THE PLAYERS Championship and hosted the tournament from 1977 to 1981. In 2010, the tennis complex was completely renovated to accommodate the Women's Tennis Invitational. The fitness center and aquatic pool were built in 2013. The Sawgrass Country Club Beach Club underwent an extensive multi-million-dollar renovation that was completed in April 2016. Construction on a new and expanded Golf Clubhouse will begin in 2019 with a projected finish date in the fall of 2020. The plans for the new clubhouse include a larger pub and bar area, separate banquet rooms, a family activities center and larger men's and women's locker rooms.

With fine dining in the golf club, beach club and outdoor dining by the sea, Sawgrass offers its members and guests a variety of dining options. Ponte Vedra beach, a community on the Atlantic Ocean, is convenient to Jacksonville, close to the Mayo Clinic hospital and the University of North Florida. Just minutes to the beach, golf, tennis and fitness center, experience oceanfront living and enjoy vacation living all year round.

Walk the beach, breathe deeply of the ocean breeze and enjoy Sawgrass Living ... simply the best!

Located at 740 Spinnakers Reach Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach, this property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Janet Westling and offered for \$1,799,000.

Game changer: Professional real estate media in the modern world

by Ryan Keller

Video Luxury

Technology is rapidly changing.

For decades, phones were used for talking — now, in 2019, every cellphone owner carries a camera in their pocket. This is great for capturing family events, taking selfies or recording videos of your pets. Although cellphone camera quality has improved, there are certain photographic situations that call for a professional photographer. Real estate photography is a perfect example.

Many agents around the world rely on unedited cellphone-quality pictures to sell their listings. You can spot them instantly on Zillow — the rooms appear small, poorly lit and grainy. The question is: Why?

Professional photos cost money, and a lot of agents are not interested in paying someone to do something they think they can do themselves. Real estate photography is an art; there are tricks and methods to perfectly capture a space. When you hire a real estate photographer, you are not just spending money, you are investing in your listing with the belief that a picture is worth a

thousand words. An evenly lit space, photographed with a wide-angle lens, color corrected and sharpened will make your listing stand apart from the others. A well photographed space will catch the attention of buyers and sell your listing faster.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, a video at 24 frames per second says a lot about your listing! Video tours are becoming increasingly popular amongst real estate professionals. Video is an excellent way to bring your listings to life. A lot of agents rely on free video software that convert your still images into a Ken Burns style video. You have seen it before; the images slowly zoom in and out over smooth jazz. This style of video is great for documentaries on the Civil War — but it doesn't say much about your listing, and it definitely does not introduce a new perspective.

The game changer? Matterport 3D virtual tours. This unique camera uses infrared technology to scan a space and create 3D models, floor plans and virtual tours. It allows viewers to virtually walk through an entire space in high



Photos courtesy of Ryan Keller

According to real estate photographer/videographer Ryan Keller, a well photographed space will catch the attention of buyers and sell your listing faster.

Featuring the former cast member of "Jersey Boys" performing songs from the American Songbook in a classic Rat Pack style.



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Photography

Continued from 29

definition. This is fantastic for homes that have unique floor plans; it can easily give buyers a sense of direction by actually walking through a space. Using Matterport, you will impress your clients with this cutting-edge technology. Matterport tours are professional, easy-to-use and will definitely capture the attention of your clients and prospective buyers. The

future is now!

As technology grows and changes, there are many tools you can use to promote your listing. Professional photography, video and Matterport 3D Virtual tours are a few engaging ways to get individuals excited about your listing, but also a helpful way to find the right buyer for the right home.

Ryan Keller is a photographer and videographer with Video Luxury. For more information, visit VideoLuxury.Wordpress.com.



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DeSantis

Continued from 23

governors including outgoing Gov. Rick Scott and former Gov. Jeb Bush, who was greeted by the crowd with a standing ovation as he entered the front lawn of the Capitol.

The weather was perfect as our new governor delivered his address to the people of Florida. His speech encapsulated the promises DeSantis ran on from his support of the environment to the appointments of conservative jurists to the Supreme Court. His affirmation to protect our cities by denouncing sanctuary status and his commitment to the rule of law was greeted with great applause.

That evening, the celebration continued at the Florida Ball at the Donald Tucker Civic Center. It was a wonderful evening that celebrated Floridians from all over our state. This beautiful young couple reveled in the joyous celebration first with a thank you from the governor and next with a dance. The first lady's gown



Photo courtesy of Janet Westling

The family of Lt. Gov. Jeannette Nunez

was stunning, and the new governor commented that he hoped he wouldn't step on it!

All good things come to an end, and as we returned to the Inn, we posed for one last photo with the lieutenant governor, who was home from the ball ready to get to work the next day!

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Nocatee home features bright, energetic style

By Sarah Olson

Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
Florida Network Realty

One of the first communities in Nocatee, Willowcove is centrally located amid the area's shopping, dining, outdoor recreation and events.

Conveniently located near Nocatee Parkway and adjacent to Nocatee Town Center, Willowcove's location provides for easy commuting to work and play. This home is nestled along one of the many neighborhood lakes directly across from the green space, playground and around the corner from the Nocatee trail, taking you via foot, bike or golf cart to all the included Nocatee amenities. Parks, school, fitness center and more; it's easy to access it from Willowcove.

This David Weekley EnergySaver home features a Beeson floor plan that opens to a foyer. A private office behind French glass doors is nestled at the front of the home. Your separate dining room has built-in shelves and cabinets with space enough for your own furnishings. The guest bedroom suite is located behind another set of French doors and features two bedrooms with a shared middle bonus space.

The spacious kitchen has cabinets to hold a chef's arsenal of kitchenware, and the large island with bar provides ample opportunities for entertaining crowds. Cook like the pros with ease thanks to a gas cooktop and built-in GE Profile appliances. The true focal point of the home is located just past the set of pocket glass doors. Enjoy panoramic lake views from your outdoor lanai, complete with a stone gas fireplace to warm your soul and spirit and a full outdoor kitchen with dining space.

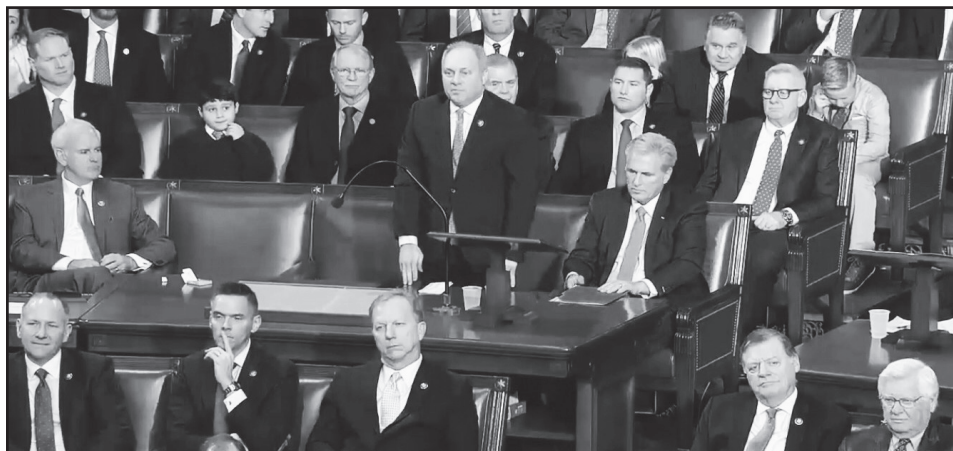
With private lake views, the master retreat is a place for rejuvenation. A spa bath awaits you with soaking tub and separate shower. Easily find that perfect outfit in your large walk-in master closet.

Additional features include a safe room and hurricane shutters, stored in the three-car garage. There is plenty of storage with additional space above the garage accessible from the pull-down stairs. One-level living with an open floor plan, this David Weekley home is bright, energetic and energy efficient. Breathe easy and welcome home to Nocatee.

Located at 46 Majestic Eagle Drive in Ponte Vedra, this property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty, listed by Sarah Olson and offered for \$439,900.



Photos courtesy of Sarah Olson



Congressman Rutherford sworn in for second term

By Janet Westling

On Jan. 3, Congressman John Rutherford was sworn in for a second term in Florida's 4th Congressional District.

Rutherford's grandson, John Carlo, joined him on the floor to witness the ceremony. Minority Leader Congressman Kevin McCarthy held a reception in the Library of Congress following the ceremony.

The Rutherfords were joined by their son, Michael, and daughter-in-law, Francesca, and daughter, Alicia Halford, as well as their grandchildren from Jacksonville.

The day before on Jan. 2, Congressman Rutherford and Rep. Alex Mooney gave a tour of the Capitol for all the guests of newly elected Congressman Michael Waltz, who represents Florida's 7th Congressional District.



TOP LEFT: Rep. John Rutherford gathers with his family and House Minority Leader Congressman Kevin McCarthy at a reception in the Library of Congress following the swearing-in ceremony.

BOTTOM LEFT: Rep. John Rutherford (top left) sits with his grandson, John Carlo, on the floor during the swearing-in ceremony. Rutherford provided his other tickets to the family members of freshman Congressman Michael Waltz.

LEFT: Three of the five grandchildren of Rep. John Rutherford gather on the balcony of the congressman's new office in the Longworth Building.

Photos courtesy of Francesca Rutherford

3-story home, adjoining waterfront lot offer views of Intracoastal Waterway

By **Jim Zeller**

Watson Realty Corp.

Midway between St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra Beach, this property at 1500 Windjammer Lane in the Ponte Vedra Shores neighborhood offers privacy and views of the Intracoastal.

Located just off A1A lies this large three-story home and adjoining wooded waterfront lot. This home is just under 4,900 square feet with five bedrooms and four and a half baths. As you enter the front door, you realize this home can be a perfect multiple generation residence. The first floor boasts a large family room with a full kitchen, large bedroom and full bath. The large elevator lets you travel between all three floors with ease. The oversized three-car garage, laundry and workshop complete this level.

The next level up features a large great room with soaring ceilings open to a large bar/dining area and gourmet kitchen. This area opens to a large covered deck that has views of the Intracoastal Waterway. You can enjoy al fresco dining on the deck and hear the ocean waves breaking just two blocks away. The kitchen features gas

cooking, a separate island with a prep sink and a large walk-in pantry. There are two additional bedrooms on this floor with two full baths and another laundry.

The third floor consists of only two rooms, a large master bedroom and a fifth bedroom, man cave or office. The master features a separate morning bar and its own large covered deck. Enjoy morning coffee or an evening cocktail on the porch and enjoy the cool evening breezes. The master bath features a walk-in shower with twin shower heads and a large overhead rain shower. The bubble tub is positioned next to the large gas fireplace. A large double vanity, water closet and the third laundry complete this space.

It has been recently determined that the wooded waterfront lot next door and priced separately could have a dock constructed that will enable the owner to dock their boat and gain access to the Atlantic Ocean. The permit for the dock is currently being processed by the State of Florida and the Army Corps of Engineers.

These properties are represented by The Luxury Leaders Team at Watson Realty and listed by Jim Zeller. The home is offered for \$949,900 and the lot for \$250,000.



Photos courtesy of Jim Zeller

Sand Castles celebrates 5 years with thank you party



Sand Castles contributors gather at the home of contributing editor Janet Westling in Sawgrass on Nov. 14 to celebrate the publication's fifth anniversary. Westling also thanked the contributors for their involvement.

Janet Westling, the contributing editor of Sand Castles and a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, hosted a group of Sand Castles contributors at her home in Sawgrass Country Club on Nov. 14, to celebrate the publication's fifth anniversary and to thank them for their involvement.

Over the past five years, Sand Castles has featured real estate stories from 60 real estate agents and brokerages from the Beaches to Jacksonville. Contributing writers have covered local nonprofits, trips to exotic locations and much, much more.



ABOVE: A collection of Sand Castles editions from over the years



LEFT: Sharon Leahy and Alice Hickox

Photos by Susan Griffin



Jim Ross and Jennifer White from Kearney Real Estate.



Sarah Alexander and Beverly Hecht



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Photos courtesy of Belk Ingram

Beachfront home boasts big views on the boulevard

By Belk Ingram

Ponte Vedra Club Realty

Ponte Vedra Beach is synonymous with both golf courses and white sandy beaches —both of which you can directly view from this home.

This 135-foot lot is located just 14 lots north (half mile) of the famed, Five-Diamond and award-winning Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, as well as just two miles from The Lodge & Club. The home offers five bedrooms, five full baths and two half baths, laid out in over 5,300 square feet of concrete block construction with special attention to details for luxury and comfort.

Featuring a paved brick driveway and walkways, this oceanfront lot boasts golf course/lagoon views to the west and Atlantic Ocean views to the east. The completely private upper master suite includes a large sitting area, his/her bathrooms and closets and a private, oceanfront porch for enjoying your morning sunrise coffee. The first floor includes an additional three bedrooms, plus private entry to a fourth bedroom that can also be a master suite. The first floor also features Jack & Jill baths and two half baths.

All first-floor bedrooms include oceanfront views and access to backyard

seating on a paved patio, plus room for a pool. Other first-floor features include a fully equipped stainless steel kitchen opening to a large breakfast area and den with fireplace; a separate, spacious dining room; a sunken gathering room with oceanfront views; a game room; a large laundry room with double stainless steel sink; and a significant amount of storage for all your beach gear.

This home is meant for entertaining and the beach life. A Sonos entertainment system is available. The roof was replaced in 2016, and the exterior was painted in 2018. There is an artesian well for irrigation shared with a neighbor to the south. The property is on a septic system; however, public sewer is available.

The house is located with easy access to JTB, fine dining and shopping, and it's a quick golf cart ride to the Inn & Club. Preferred membership initiation fee pricing is available to the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, The Lodge & Club, Epping-Forest and The River Club for the purchaser(s) of this home (certain restrictions apply).

Located at 77 Ponte Vedra Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach, this property is represented by Ponte Vedra Club Realty, listed by Belk Ingram and offered for \$6,900,000.

Recipes

Continued from 26

Thai Peanut Chicken with Sweet Potato Noodles

Serves four

(Note: this is equally good with spiral zucchini noodles!)

- 5 cups pre-spiralized sweet potato noodles (produce section)
- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, diced in bite-size pieces
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter or almond butter
- 1/4 cup low sodium soy sauce (Tamari or Bragg's Liquid Aminos are best and gluten free)
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice (about 3 to 4 limes)
- 1 tablespoon unseasoned rice wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon grated or finely minced ginger (or 1 tablespoon ginger paste in produce section)
- 1-2 cloves garlic, grated or finely minced
- Dash of fish sauce (optional) found on international aisle under Asian foods
- 1 bunch scallions, diced
- 1/2 cup unsalted peanuts, rough chopped
- Fresh cilantro, rough chopped

Preheat oven to 375. Line baking sheet with parchment paper or foil. Spread sweet potato noodles out to fill the pan. Roast sweet potato noodles "naked" for 15 minutes.

Next, in a bowl, whisk together the rest of the ingredients except chicken and set aside. While sweet potato noodles are baking, sauté diced chicken in nonstick skillet for five to seven minutes until browned and cooked through, seasoning with salt and pepper to taste.



When noodles and chicken are both done, toss with peanut sauce; then garnish with chopped, unsalted peanuts, fresh scallions and cilantro. Note: If substituting zucchini noodles, omit baking, and sauté for two minutes in nonstick skillet, then set aside and proceed with recipe.

Now here is a favorite pizza of mine that makes me feel like I am completely splurging; when in fact, I'm getting my healthy on, and my veggies in! Cauliflower pizza crust is a great way to add veggies, eliminate white flour and bad carbs without sacrificing flavor. Use your cauliflower base crust for any of your favorite pizza toppings.

Greek Cauliflower Crust Pizza

Serves two

- 1 (outer aisle gourmet) cauliflower or any other cauliflower pizza crust
- 2 tablespoons Rao's pizza sauce (found at Publix — no added sugar and low carb)

- Fresh mozzarella cheese, grated
- 1/4 cup feta cheese
- Thin sliced red onion
- 4-5 Kalamata olives, halved
- 4-5 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2-3 pepperoncini Greek peppers, sliced in rings
- Torn baby spinach leaves or fresh torn basil leaves

When pizza is assembled, bake at 400 for seven to eight minutes, or until cheese is bubbly.

Note: Cauliflower pizza crust is a great way to add veggies, eliminate white flour and bad carbs, and not sacrifice on flavor! Use your cauliflower base crust for any of your favorite pizza toppings.



Greek Cauliflower Crust Pizza

Cheers to a healthy and happy new year!

Alice Hickox is a personal chef and owner/founder of Lettuce Do Dinner. Visit lettucedodinner.com for more information.

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Business Weekly

PAGE 37 THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Optimal You Brain Centers in Ponte Vedra Beach holds ribbon-cutting ceremony

Page 38



Photo courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

The Ponte Vedra Office, under the leadership of Managing Broker Holly Hayes, received the Chairman's Cup award at Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR's recent awards celebration.

Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR celebrates success at annual awards ceremony

Ponte Vedra/Nocatee Office takes home Chairman's Cup

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty (HSFNR) recently commemorated its accomplishments with a "Next Generation: Reach for the Stars" awards celebration.

The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee Office, under the leadership of Managing Broker Holly Hayes, received the Chairman's Cup, which recognizes overachievement of budget targets in several categories including client feedback, recruiting, listing sides, closed sides, per person productivity, closed volume and profitability.

In addition, the Lisa Barton Team of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office was recognized as the Top Producing Team with more than \$44 million in closed sales. Neill Lasher of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office was also named Rookie of the Year with more than \$2.7 million in closed sales.

The top company award winners also included the following:

- Anita Vining of the San Marco/San Jose office led as Top Producer with \$34 million in closed sales.
- Liz Bobeck of the Avondale/Ortega office was named Top Listing Agent with 53 listings.

■ Stefanie Bernstein of the St. Augustine/Murabella office was honored as the company's Top Transaction Agent with more than 159 transactions and Top Sales Agent with 67 sales units.

AWARDS continues on Page 39

Americana godfather and the reason stringed instruments were invented.

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OYBC HOSTS CHAMBER REPRESENTATIVES FOR RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

Optimal You Brain Centers (OYBC) participates in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with representatives from the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce last Thursday, Jan. 24. OYBC, which opened its office in the later part of 2018, provides a full suite of chiropractic services including adjustments, pain management, massage therapy and neuroplasticity exercises.

Photo by Susan Griffin



Second annual Womens Food Alliance Hospitality Social Expo to be held Feb. 26

The Ponte Vedra Beach-based Womens Food Alliance is hosting its second annual Hospitality Social Expo on Tuesday, Feb. 26 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Morocco Shrine Auditorium in Jacksonville.

The event will allow attendees to taste, sip and mingle with others. Thirty-three exhibits will be featured representing restaurants, chefs, cruises, caterers, wineries, staffing, entertainment, bakers, décor and parties.

The event costs \$20 to attend and is open to the public. A portion of the proceeds of the Expo will be donated to the Clarke Schools for Hearing & Speech.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-food-alliance-hospitality-social-expo-tickets-54383713150?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.

Empowerment retreat to be held Feb. 8-9 in Amelia Island

An empowerment retreat will be held at the Residence Inn by Marriott Amelia Island on Feb. 8-9.

Trudy Toche, a “self-love” motivational speaker and principal of Positively Profiling; Mary Ortiz, a relationship and intimacy coach; and Tammie Mohn,

an author and certified yoga instructor, will lead the conference.

Attendees will be able to learn powerful tools to love themselves and positively move forward in 2019. The conference costs \$60 to attend.

The event will be held from 6 to 9

p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8, and from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9. Special room rates may apply for conference attendees.


RSVP at empowerment-retreat.eventbrite.com. Call (973) 819-6581 for more information.

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Source: *Real Value of Joining a Local Chamber of Commerce*
Shapiro Group, 2012.



Photos courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

The Lisa Barton Team of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office was recognized as the Top Producing Team.

Awards

Continued from 37

Overall in 2018, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty achieved another record-setting year with more than \$1.2 billion in closed sales. The company ranked No. 1 in closed sales with a 15.1 percent market share, No. 1 in new listings with a 14.2 percent market share and No. 1 in pending sales with a 14.7 percent market share in Duval, Clay and St. Johns counties.

“This has been an exceptional year and I am incredibly honored to celebrate our team’s achievements,” said Christy Budnick, president and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. “Our Realtors are industry leaders and amazingly dedicated with an enduring commitment to their clients and the community.”

Festivities at the celebration featured a futuristic, “out-of-this-world” theme, with memorable moments celebrating the company’s agents and employee’s success.

“Our team is the best in the business, and we can’t thank them enough for their loyalty and contributions to the compa-



Neill Lasher of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office was named Rookie of the Year.

ny’s success,” said Linda Sherrer, founder and chairman of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. “We are so proud to be in business with this outstanding group of caring people, and excited to soar to new heights in 2019!”



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A Cat Lover's Dream 

Students go to school with Picasso, van Gogh, Warhol and more

By Laura Morey
Special to the Recorder

It is the start of an ordinary day at Palm Valley Academy in Nocatee.

Students unload from school buses, golf carts and bikes, and enter hallways lined with the art of Rembrandt, Picasso, Haring, Warhol and other great artists. There are 160 mat-to-frame, fine art reproductions filling the common areas of the school, plus colorful, student-created murals featuring uplifting “ARTspirational” messages. This cultural experience was made possible thanks to a generous donation from THE PLAYERS and guidance from the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation.

“When you are a new school, it is a big, blank canvas,” said Jessica Richardson, Palm Valley Academy principal. “It is a large place to fill, and you’ve got to appeal to little kids up on to teenagers. You have to warm things up.”

After touring other schools in the months prior to Palm Valley Academy’s opening in August 2018, Richardson knew about the art enrichment programs the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation had completed in other schools, and she wanted to do the same in her school. She decided to use the entire \$50,000 one-time gift from THE PLAYERS to create the art gallery.

The art collection was curated by the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation to include pieces from all major genres and periods, including impressionism, abstract, expressionism, photography, modern and



Vincent van Gogh’s “Café Terrace at Night” at Palm Valley Academy

classical. Signage for each piece identifies the artist and title. To make it interactive, 10 pieces of art have QR Codes (square barcodes), allowing viewers to scan and learn more about the piece. By the start of the 2019-2020 school year, all artwork will have a QR code and will be cataloged for easy discovery within the school.

Art galleries not limited to Palm Valley Academy

Thanks to the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation, more than 450 art pieces have been installed in Ponte Vedra public schools through the organization’s “I Go To School In An Art Gallery” program.



ABOVE: Palm Valley Academy Principal Jessica Richardson stands in front of one of the many murals that line the halls of the Nocatee school thanks to a donation from THE PLAYERS and guidance from the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation.

Photos by Laura Morey



LEFT: PVPV/Rawlings student Bailee Busch stands next to “Rosie the Riveter.”

Photo courtesy of Catherine Van Housen

Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation developed the program to stimulate creative thinking, influence behavior and enhance Ponte Vedra public schools. To date, there are 488 pieces installed in PVPV/Rawlings Elementary, Ocean Palms Elementary, Landrum Middle School, Valley Ridge Elementary, Palm Valley Academy, Nease High School and Ponte Vedra High School. More pieces are expected to be installed in the near future.

“We know children are influenced by their environment, and that is why the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation created the program,” said Michael Hannon, president of the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation. “We look forward

to seeing how these famed artists will inspire and stimulate our children’s minds and the many generations to come.”

PVPV/Rawlings Elementary School Principal Catherine Van Housen said they love their artwork.

“It brightens up our hallways near both cafeterias, which were kind of institutional-looking,” Van Housen said. “We also have beautiful clusters of artwork throughout our campus. It makes us feel proud of our learning environment. Students frequently make connections to van Gogh’s ‘Starry Night’ because our art teachers explain how it encompasses all of the elements of art and several principles of design.”

Van Housen added, “Our hope is that students will stand in a museum in front of a Monet or a van Gogh and think, ‘Hey, we have that at our school!’”

Funding for the “I Go To School In An Art Gallery” program was made possible by a one-time charitable gift from The Ponte Vedra Women’s Civic Alliance, and by a special grant from the PGA TOUR.

The “I Go To School In An Art Gallery” Program is just one of many enrichment programs offered by the nonprofit Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation. In addition to providing public school teachers with grants to enhance their classroom instruction, the organization raises funds to enrich student learning through the arts and support school beautification efforts through artwork, landscaping, sculpture and more. Funding is provided by donations from the public and organizations.

For more information about the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation, email President Michael Hannon at mhanon5@aol.com.

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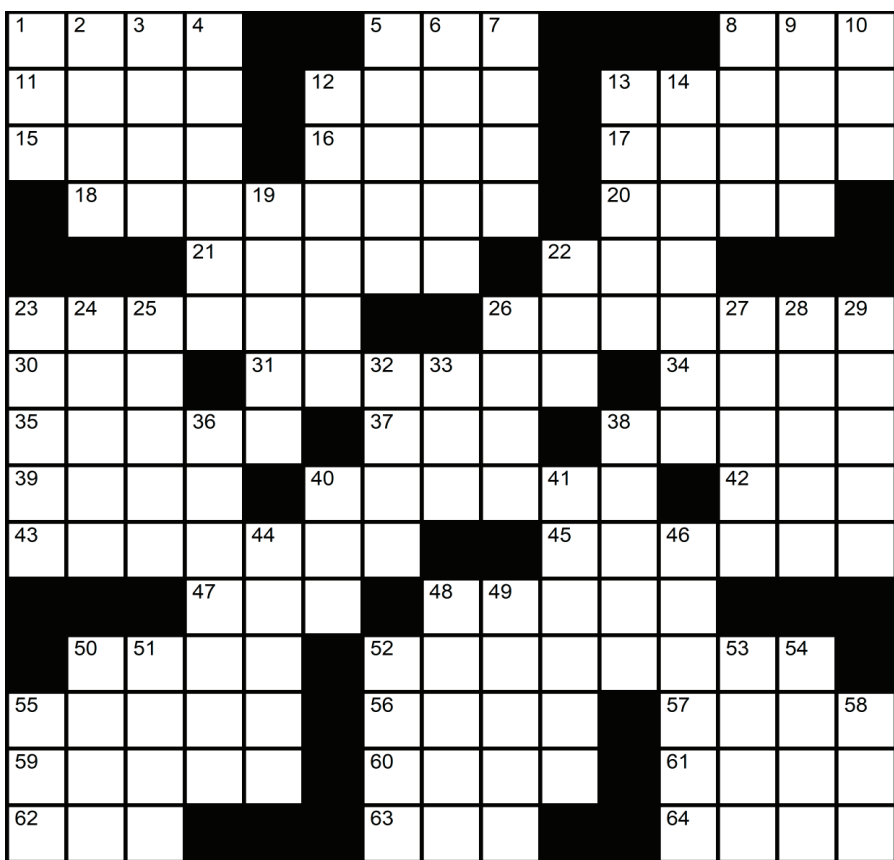
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THEME: CIVIL RIGHTS

ACROSS

- Forever and a day
- Organ of balance
- What Jack Sprat couldn't eat
- Quinceanera or bat mitzvah
- Wagon part
- You can count on these
- Heart of the matter
- Perceive by touch
- Fedora part, pl.
- *Voter test, now illegal
- Ireland's other name
- Written corrections
- One from Laos
- Kind of acid
- *Segregation laws
- *Stop segregation, e.g.
- 40 winks
- Zeus' wife
- Nadya Suleman's children, e.g.

- Subject of "Philadelphia" movie
- Kind of southern pie
- Chico or Groucho
- Cured sausage
- Member of Shoshonean people
- *Montgomery Bus
- Produced by inbreeding
- Brown league
- Kind of ray
- Flying toy
- *He challenged nonviolence
- Juice alternative
- Craving
- Evening in Italy
- Dead to the world
- Harry Potter's mark
- Wet nurse
- Ottoman officer title
- Café alternative
- Kind of bean
- Climber's destination
- "_____ the season ..."
- *Mandela presided over its southernmost country
- Perpendicular to the keel
- French bun
- Authoritative proclamation
- Not to be given to those in authority
- Manhattan Project invention
- Chocolate tree
- "Dear Diary..." note
- Cup of joe
- Happen again
- Do like Demosthenes
- What moon did
- Not this
- Bupkis
- Oscillator, e.g.
- '70s Ford model
- Farm pen
- Meat grinder, e.g.
- For all to see
- Model-builder's wood of choice, pl.
- *_____ on Washington
- Blue-Green scum
- *Nobel Peace Prize winner
- Light bulb
- Necessary thing
- Office dispatch
- Roentgen's machine
- Langley, VA org.
- "Eureka!"

DOWN

- *"The _____ of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice"
- Lena Dunham or Allison Williams, 2012-2017
- Red carpet purse
- The Brady Bunch children, e.g.
- Permission for absence from a college
- Smart _____, pl
- Be dependent
- *_____ Housing Act

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

We appreciate you!

Valentine's Day Gift Guide

Valentine's Day dining options in Ponte Vedra

With Valentine's Day just two weeks away, it's not too early to start making plans with your loved one.

Below are a few dining options available in Ponte Vedra to make you day extra special.

SAWGRASS MARRIOTT GOLF RESORT & SPA

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa may be the perfect place to celebrate Valentine's Day this year.

In addition to taking a romantic stroll around the Audubon-rated grounds, the resort offers guests the opportunity to kick back and relax at the Sawgrass Spa (gift certificates available) and enjoy a prix fixe menu at Vernon's First Coast Kitchen.

Available Feb. 14 from 6-9 p.m., the prix fixe menu is comprised of Vernon's most popular dishes, all of which are created from locally sourced ingredients. Executive Chef Joe Natoli and his team even use honey produced by the resort's own bee colonies and produce harvested from the property's microfarm. The dinner is \$58 per person. Here's a quick look at the prix fixe menu:



■ **First course:** Beef carpaccio or broken burrata

■ **Second course:** Trader Hill Farm greens or fisherman's cioppino stew

■ **Third course:** House-aged New York strip or diver sea scallops or pan-seared chicken or black grouper

■ **Fourth course:** Sweet finale

To make a reservation, visit opentable.com or call the restaurant directly at (904) 280-3405.

TPC SAWGRASS

Enjoy a romantic evening with the one you love at NINETEEN at TPC Sawgrass, home of THE PLAYERS Championship.

NINETEEN features an array of freshly prepared American and continental cuisine. The 2,550 square-foot restaurant's outdoor veranda offers panoramic views of the expansive presentation lawn and both the 9th and 18th holes.

To be held from 5 to 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 14, the Valentine's Day dinner is \$89 per person, with a wine pairing costing an additional \$45. The five-course prix fixe menu includes the following:

■ Tomato, smoked oyster, or risotto nero

■ Black cherry, lime and Madagascar vanilla sorbet

■ Langoustine a la plancha, tajin spiced

■ Eye of ribeye or seared black bass

■ Decadent chocolate cake, milk chocolate mousse, hazelnut cremeux or strawberry macaroon

Contact NINETEEN at (904) 273-3238 for reservations.



PUSSEY'S BAR AND GRILLE

Take a trip to the Caribbean Islands this Valentine's Day without leaving Ponte Vedra Beach.

Pusser's Bar and Grille features lakefront dining, with cuisine including fresh seafood, fresh grilled meats, farm-to-market fruits and vegetables, shareable appetizers and freshly prepared sauces.

The Ponte Vedra Beach staple is offering a Valentine's Day three-course dinner that costs \$65 per couple (plus tax and gratuity). The menu includes the following:

Sharable appetizer (choose one)

■ Spinach salad with warm bacon vinaigrette

■ Ahi avocado poke stack

■ Crab and parmesan stuffed mushroom

■ Lobster bisque

■ Lobster ravioli

■ Oysters raw or baked (8)



VALENTINE'S continues on Page 43

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Valentine's

Continued from 42

Choice of entrees

- Asian seared short ribs
- Roasted duck
- Petite filet mignon
- Stuffed chicken
- Coconut rum shrimp
- Seared scallops
- Grouper oscar



- Beet and bleu salmon
 - Seafood pasta
 - Shrimp and grits
 - Fish of the day
- Shareable dessert (choose one)**
- Key lime pie
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Sports

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019 · PAGE 44

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Photo courtesy of Sherri Anthony

The Nease girls basketball team is enjoying tremendous success this year. The Lady Panthers, led by coach Sherri Anthony (second from right), are 23-1 this season heading into Friday's regular-season finale, and are No. 1 in Class 7A.

No shortage of success for Lady Panthers

Nease girls lead Class 7A in dominating fashion as coach eyes 600th victory

By Paris Moulden

Sherri Anthony is no stranger to winning. The Nease girls basketball coach is closing in on her 600th win in 33 seasons at Nease, and this team may be her best yet.

The Lady Panthers are 23-1 heading into the regular season finale against Seabreeze High School on Friday night, are the No. 1-ranked team in Class 7A, have outscored opponents 1,503-712 and show no signs of slowing down.

The team is loaded with talent, including standout seniors Camille Hobby, Kiya Turner, Tia Robinson and Peyton Carter. It's hard to imagine what could stop this juggernaut, but Anthony doesn't want to look too far ahead.

"We don't know what that moment is going to be until we get there, so we just definitely try to focus on the game at hand and get that done," Anthony said. "Tia [Robinson] said it best, 'If you're worried about the last hurdle but you miss the first one, you're probably not going to get to the last one.' So, you really can't afford to look ahead."

Nease narrowly lost in the Elite Eight

of the 2018 state championships, falling 47-42 to Choctawhatchee High School. Although winning a state title would certainly be a goal for any team, Anthony said in no way would the season be a disappointment if that doesn't happen.

"I am involved with many coaches at many different levels, and I know they would all die to be in the Elite Eight for three years in a row, or to win three district championships," she said. "We won the conference championship last year, people tend to forget all that, and the records, and the fact the kids are doing great academically, or they're going to Division I schools to play basketball. How in the world are you going to be disappointed when you've accomplished all that? There's one team in the state of Florida that's going to win the 7A state championship. Of course, I would like it to be us. But to say that it will be a disappointment if we don't get it. There's no way. I've coached for 33 years, so that would mean 32 years of my life have been disappointing."

The team's success is already confirmed, Anthony said. Her players are flourishing academically, and four will be headed to Division I schools after graduation. Hobby signed with NC State, Turner signed with Middle Tennessee State, Carter will play for Davidson (N.C.) College and Robinson

will likely make her decision in the next couple of weeks, Anthony said.

Anthony also wants to make sure the players take time to enjoy what they've accomplished so far, something she's trying to work on herself.

"The biggest thing I think I've had to fight over the years with myself, as well as with the kids, is that as soon as you win a big game, or any game, you think OK, 'Who's next and what do I have to do to prepare,' and then you forget to enjoy what you just did," she said. "And I hate that because I don't want them to be so worried about the next one that they forget what happened last night and what a great game they played."

And they've played a lot of great games. Turner is working on her 1,500th point of her high school career, while Hobby and Robinson have over 1,000 points each. Not bad considering this season, the starters often weren't even able to play all four quarters because of the number of blowouts Nease has had.

Anthony said in some way that hurts her star players when it comes to postseason accolades or All-Star rosters, because she doesn't want to run up the score. But she also wants to make sure her players get the credit they deserve.

"Sometimes it's hard as a coach to

Lady Sharks beat Bolles, fall to Bartram Trail

The Ponte Vedra Lady Sharks defeated the Bolles High School Lady Bulldogs 47-42 last Friday, Jan. 25 at Bolles.

In front of a packed gym, the Sharks of Ponte Vedra took the first quarter lead 13-9 but trailed at halftime 18-20. The Lady Sharks exploded in the second half behind the quick and gritty play of sophomore Trish Balser, who had all her 10 points in the second half.

The Sharks controlled the paint behind senior Gillian Boss, who had 12 points, and junior Hayden Oates, who had 10 points. The Sharks finished the game with several key rebounds, steals and blocked shots to hold on to the win.

The Lady Sharks then traveled to Bartram Trail on Tuesday, Jan. 29 and ultimately lost to the Lady Bears 51-35. The Lady Sharks were led by the efforts of guards Trish Balser, who had eight points, and Sophia Fraga, who had nine points.

Ponte Vedra hosts Providence for Senior Night on Thursday, Jan. 31.



Photo courtesy of Sherbrooke Balsler

Ponte Vedra's Reeghan Mayer drives with the ball in the Lady Sharks' win over Bolles last Friday.

MORE PVHS SPORTS

Sharks wrestling team falls to Fletcher; finishes strong in dual meet tournament.

Page 46

NEASE continues on Page 46

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Photos courtesy of Ponte Vedra wrestling

Sophomore Rett Maritato settles his opponent from Fletcher for a pin on Jan. 23.

PVHS wrestling falls to Fletcher, then has success in dual meet tournament

During a Wednesday dual meet on Jan. 23, the Ponte Vedra Sharks wrestling team came up short, 45-38, to the Fletcher Senators on their home mat.

Highlight matches for that contest were Preston Turner and Rett Maritato's pins and a 4-1 win by Ethan Baur.

On Saturday, Jan. 26, Ponte Vedra competed in the 10-team Bishop Snyder Dual Meet Tournament. The Sharks rolled as they won four of their five matches (West Nassau 54-27, Episcopal 42-30, Fletcher 52-35 and West Side

54-24). Their lone loss was a close one as they were nipped by Sandalwood 33-31.

Tournament point producers for Ponte Vedra were Rett Maritato with four pins; Alex de Almeida with three pins and an 11-3 win; and Troy Maritato with two pins and 12-9 and 15-4 decisions. Preston Turner had three pins on the day, and Ethan Baur had two pins. Newcomers to the lineup with pins were Harlan Nikolov, Austen Schottel, Zander Lauren and Simon Mann.

PVAA Sharks Youth Wrestling kicks off action

The newly formed Ponte Vedra Athletic Association (PVAA) Sharks youth wrestling team saw their first action this past Sunday, Jan. 27 at the Oakleaf Youth Wrestling Tournament

Head Coach Steven Griffel's PVAA Sharks (5 years old to eighth grade) began wrestling only a few months ago. This was their first opportunity to demonstrate the holds and moves they have been learning during their Tuesday and Thursday evening practices.

Five of the young Sharks placed, led by Nate Wade taking first, Mason Hauseman taking second, Wyatt Dize taking second, Ethan Holmes taking second and Talan Babin taking fourth.

Other first-year wrestlers competing were: Charlie MacGilvray, Vince Myers, Brian Tallis, Branson Babin, Hudson



Photo courtesy Richard Maritato

Wyatt Dize has his hand raised in victory during the Oakleaf Youth Wrestling Tournament on Jan. 27.

Hauseman, Matt Kowitski and Brydan Holmes.

For more information on PVAA Sharks Youth Wrestling, email pvaawrestling@gmail.com.

Nease

Continued from 44

know what to do," Anthony said. "Do I run up the score inadvertently leaving this player in the whole game, so she can get the stats, or do I not play her, and she doesn't get those extra points and I try to argue the case later, which is what I end up doing nine times out of 10. It's a hard call, and it's been especially hard this year because we have so much talent."

Perhaps the most talented team she's had at Nease, and certainly the most athletic. Anthony won the state championship with Nease in the 1998-99 season, when the team was in 5A. She said that team boasted great shooters, but didn't have the athleticism this team has, although they do share many common traits.

"Both teams, what they did, is they bought into what we've asked of them, they love each other, they work hard for their coaches and they love the game,"

Anthony said. "Those are the qualities they both have."

And while not wanting to think ahead too much, Anthony can't help but hope this team gets a taste of what her team felt like 20 years ago,

"I pray this team will get to see what that's like, because they deserve it and they've earned it," she said. "But if that doesn't happen, I hope people realize that they're human, they're kids, and things happen that they can't control."

But, at the end of the day, she wants her team and everyone else to know this season is already a huge success.

"If anybody tries to say these kids should be disappointed no matter how it ends up, there's no way," Anthony said. "There's too many things to be happy about and to be thankful for."

Anthony will go for her 600th win when Nease plays Seabreeze at home at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 31 for Senior Night. The Lady Panthers will host the first-round district tournament game at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 5.

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