

Celebrating 50 years of the

PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

February 28, 2019

Volume 47, No. 112

75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

## 60 years: CELEBRATING A FIXTURE OF PONTE VEDRA



Photo by Amber Lake

PVPV/Rawlings Elementary School celebrated its 60th anniversary last Friday. Pictured is a group of first-year students of the school in 1959 with longtime area teacher and volunteer Jean Langston. **For more about the anniversary, go to Page 4.**



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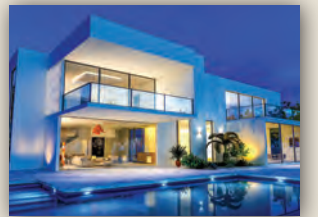
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## Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. Email submissions to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published in the paper, on our website or on our social media platforms.

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### WHAT'S THIS?



#### Do you know what this is?

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

Seven readers correctly identified last week's photo as the sign for A'propos Boutique. The winner of the random drawing was **Kristen Smith**. Congratulations, Kristen — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



### ADOPT A PET

#### CAT OF THE WEEK

Ashe is an 8-month-old female cat who was brought to the Pet Center to find a new home. Ashe is friendly



and playful; however, it is wise to give pets time to adjust in a new environment. Come visit Ashe at the Pet Center today. #48665



#### DOG OF THE WEEK

Ruby is a 2-year-old female mixed breed dog who is looking for a new home. She was brought to the Pet

Center as a stray, which means there still may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit Ruby today at the Pet Center. #45896

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 \$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

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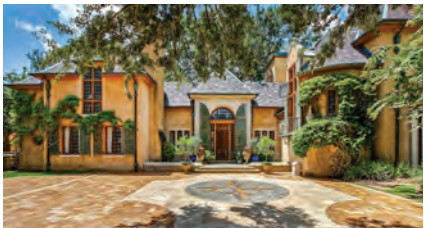
Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

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## Local Rotary Club taking applications for 'Service Above Self' Scholarship

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset is currently accepting applications for the "Service Above Self" Scholarship (SASS).

Students enrolled as juniors or seniors at Ponte Vedra or Allen D. Nease high schools are encouraged to apply. Offered annually by the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset, these \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to the top applicant from each school based on his/her application, which includes an essay about community service. Children of Rotarians

are not eligible to apply.

Details and the SASS application are available at [goo.gl/forms/HAuBTJPijj-LaCcWv1](http://goo.gl/forms/HAuBTJPijj-LaCcWv1). The deadline for receipt of all application requirements is March 14, 2019. The two scholarship winners will be notified by mid-April. Later, they will receive their scholarships at a dinner hosted by the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset.

For additional information, contact the SASS chair, Paula Roderick, at [paroderick1@comcast.net](mailto:paroderick1@comcast.net) or call (904) 280-8933.

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**ABOVE:** Jean Landrum Langston, Randy Brown and Harriet LeMaster gather at the 60th anniversary celebration of PVPV/Rawlins Elementary School on Friday, Feb. 22.

**RIGHT:** Randy Brown addresses the audience.



**First-year student Sam Veal hands former first-grade teacher Mrs. Betty Hatcher a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Mrs. Betty Hatcher was one of the original six teachers from the first day the school opened. Seven of her students were at the event that Friday evening.**

# Kicking it old school: PVPV/Rawlins celebrates 60th year

By Amber Lake

Sixty years ago, Ponte Vedra did not much resemble what it looks like today. Most of the town was huddled around the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, and there were more dirt roads than paved.

Sam Veal, a lifelong resident of Ponte Vedra and first-year student of PVPV/Rawlins Elementary School in 1959, said there were days when the students weren't allowed to play outside because of wild boars on the loose.

"You got to remember that when I went here, this was a little gravel two-lane road," Veal said. "There was no bypass. There was nothing to the north."

The Class of '59 might have seen some dramatic changes throughout the years, but one thing remained consistent — the school itself. In fact, the building is the oldest public building in Ponte Vedra Beach that still exists.

The school celebrated its 60th anniversary last Friday, Feb. 22. The event hosted many instrumental individuals involved with its success, as well as graduates from the school's first year in 1959. In attendance were Jean Langston, the daughter of Roy and Alice Landrum; Sid Mickler; Harriet LeMaster; Jenny Veal, the sister of Sam Veal; and Randy Brown. Also in attendance were many veteran educators and bus drivers who have seen the school's development through the years.

The celebration speaker was Randy Brown, who moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1946. His father was the president of the Ponte Vedra Community Association in the 1950s and was instrumental in getting Eunice Pitt Odom Semmes to donate the 40 acres of land for the school. Brown was PTO president and master of fall ceremonies at the school. At the event, he donned a top hat and tailcoat "morning suit" in honor of his history hosting the elementary school's fall festival in the same outfit.

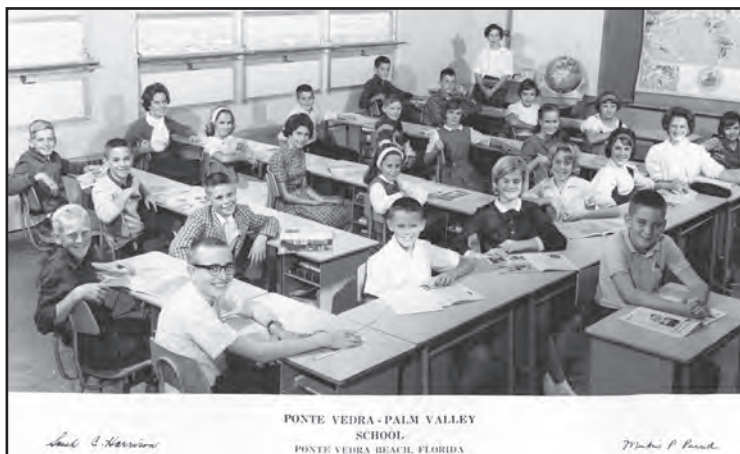
George McLatchey and Jean Brooker Ellis hosted the evening. Both were fourth-grade students on the first day the school opened in 1959 and were in Mrs. Myra Brown's class. Years later, both McLatchey and Ellis would grow up and become teachers at PVPV/Rawlins. McLatchey taught from 1971 to 1981 before moving to Nease High School. Ellis taught fifth grade from 1975 to 2008. Both remember their time with Randy Brown, and McLatchey told the audience that night Brown was the inspiration for his career in teaching.

Also noted was Cynthia Prince, who started the Readers Aloud program in 1986. Currently living at Vicar's Landing, Prince is known as a leader in literacy in Ponte Vedra for founding the program, which brings in a senior from the community to read aloud for 30 minutes a week in every classroom at PVPV. The Readers



**ABOVE:** Cynthia Prince, 95, was honored at the event for starting the Readers Aloud program at the school.

Photos by Amber Lake



**LEFT:** The 1962 class of seventh graders at PVPV

Photo courtesy of Kate Zarczynski

Aloud Program is still inspiring children today at the school.

The event honored those who contributed to the reputation of the school, but it also served as an occasion to reconnect with old school friends, teachers and faculty. One of Mrs. Betty Hatcher's strongest memories from that first year involved a young Sam Veal standing up every day at lunch holding his sandwich high while it dripped down his arm. He always yelled, "Anybody else got a peanut

butter SAM-ICH?" At the ceremony, Veal honored Hatcher with a PB&J, wrapped tightly in a brown paper bag.

At the conclusion of the event, Kate Zarczynski, the Anniversary Celebration chairwoman, presented a collaboration of photographs of PVPV/Rawlins over the years. The slides of students spanned from the school's first year in 1959 to today. Over the years, hairstyles and clothing changed, but the student's smiling faces appeared to cross generations.



Photo courtesy of Lori Moffett

# Beach restoration addressed at Beaches Coalition meeting

By Amber Lake

In the wake of St. Johns County's recent passing of Phase I of the Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) project, the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition addressed beach restoration and the environmental impact on the area's surrounding community at its meeting on Feb. 25.

Lori Moffett, the co-founder for Save Ponte Vedra Beach Inc., was the guest speaker at the meeting held at the Palm Valley Community Center. Save Ponte Vedra Beach Inc. is a nonprofit organization that advocates for the restoration of Ponte Vedra's beaches. The nonprofit has received donations from over 200 people and businesses in Ponte Vedra and Nocatee to

address the issue. Save Ponte Vedra Beach has retained both a lawyer and a coastal engineering firm that was involved in Amelia Island's recent restoration project.

Ponte Vedra's beaches have suffered heavily during Hurricanes Irma and Matthew, said Moffett. This erosion has been coupled with nor'easters, human activity and other environmental factors. In 2018, a study performed by the coastal engineering firm, Olsen Associates, concluded that Ponte Vedra Beach has lost 135 feet of coastline since 1970. For too long, Moffett said, Ponte Vedra has been one of the few places along Florida's coast that didn't have a restoration project implemented. According to Moffett, it shows.

"As a result, we have one of the thin-

nest coastlines in the state," Moffett said. "Mickler's Landing Beach has gotten very narrow. When you take out Miami and the Keys, guess what community is No. 1 in terms of sea level rise in the state? Ponte Vedra. OK? It's us."

The recent passing of Phase I of the MSTU project by the Board of County Commissioners addresses the design of the potential project. Since it's been established, the county can begin to develop an idea of where the project is headed and which other options for funding might be available. Phase 1 of the MSTU would raise money for the project by taxing private parcels east of Ponte Vedra Boulevard.

Some community members at the meeting raised concern as to whether Phase II

of the project would involve taxing those living on the other side of Ponte Vedra Boulevard.

Moffett said that although she can't speak for what Phase II may or may not entail, she hopes the county will avoid additional taxing for the MSTU.

"For me to tell you whether or not you will be taxed, I don't know," Moffett said. "That's not my role.

"We have one critical need at the moment and that is to get our beaches fixed," Moffett added later in the meeting.

In a subsequent conversation with the Recorder, Moffett affirmed that whether there is a tax on the residents and businesses is determined by the county commissioners.

# Ponte Vedra resident, current UF student arrested on charge of sexual battery

By Amber Lake

Ian Deal, a 19-year-old Ponte Vedra Beach teen who currently is a student at the University of Florida, was arrested on Feb. 17 on a charge of sexual battery, according to the Alachua County Sheriff's Office.

A police report states that the victim,

who is a woman, invited Deal, a former Ponte Vedra High School student, to her apartment. She reported that she told Deal beforehand she did not want to have sex. According to the report, the woman said that while at her apartment they started kissing. During which, the individual told deputies that Deal grabbed her by the

neck, flipped her over and took her clothes off. She reported that she told him multiple times to stop and he did not, instead pushing her face into a pillow. Afterward, the woman said Deal rolled over and fell asleep, at which time she called the police, went to the hospital and had a sexual rape assault kit completed.

At the time Deal was arrested, he was found asleep in her bedroom. Deal told the police he had consensual sex without a condom.

Deal was placed under arrest on a charge of sexual battery and transported to the Alachua County Jail. He was released on Feb. 19 on a bond of \$275,000.

*As chairman of THE PLAYERS Championship 2019, Adam Campbell oversees the operations of thousands of volunteers whose efforts enable the tournament to generate millions of dollars to Northeast Florida charities each year. For 20 years, he has volunteered and held committee chairman roles for THE PLAYERS.*

## Adam Campbell

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

I've been a resident of Northeast Florida since the third grade. I'm a graduate of Sandalwood High School and the University of North Florida (UNF). I'm married to another Northeast Florida native, and we have two kids. I've been in the financial planning business for 25 years. My team and I established the Sextant Wealth Advisory Group of Raymond James & Associates in April 2009.

### What does it mean to you to be tournament chairman?

It's absolutely a humbling experience to be able to lead our 2,100 volunteers who make this tournament possible. In 1978, the charitable giveback dollars from that tournament was \$100,000. To put that into context, the 2018 tournament was a \$9 million charitable impact. So, what it means is that, for all of our volunteers, it's really the impact of what we can do to better our community and have the impact on a lot of these grassroots organizations that really need our help and support.

### What are your roles and responsibilities as tournament chairman?

As tournament chairman, my responsibility is to lead those volunteers. We have a very structured organization. I'm very blessed to have five Blue Coats, one being my first vice chairman, who help us with the organizational structure of approximately 45 different committees out here. So, my job is getting out in the community, sharing the great things that this tournament has accomplished and how we keep raising the bar each year, and then also, supporting our volunteers to make sure that they have everything they need to be successful in their various responsibilities and roles.

### What are you most looking forward to with the tournament being in March instead of May?

This course was built for a March tournament. I say that because of the winds that we get. The winds that come in are really going to test these golfers. It's going to be the purest test out there. And I'm just excited for how great the course looks. It is absolutely pristine out there with the overseed. From a golf fan's perspective, I think it's going to be a lot cooler for our spectators. Average temperature is about 74 degrees over the last five years. So, it's going to be a more enjoyable environment for our volunteers, spectators and quite honestly, the players who are competing.

### What changes should residents in the community expect with this year's tournament?

As a result of the ongoing construction of the new PGA TOUR headquarters, parking is going to be a little bit of a challenge this year. We're going to lose some spots in our parking lot, but we've expanded our rideshare program. We've brought Uber on-site by the Couples Gate. So, we're expecting that program to double in size from last year's tournament. Then probably the biggest thing is the new Nicklaus Gate that we have coming in from the parking lot. It's a gorgeous decking going right through the trees. We're also bringing more to the back. So, when fans are coming in to this tournament, they're really and truly getting the ultimate fan experience. The tournament will also feature brand-new theme music and a brand-new graphics package.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

### When you reflect on your experiences at THE PLAYERS over the years, is there a particular story that sticks out to you that speaks to the essence of the tournament?

Going back a couple of years, we had a young lady whose lifelong dream was to come to THE PLAYERS and volunteer. This young lady, from Malaysia, spent her own money to come and volunteer, and that was 2017, when

Si Woo Kim was our champion. So, she was pretty excited to be able to celebrate his victory. Last year, we had nine international volunteers. This year, we have 16, coming from Argentina, Portugal, Canada, Switzerland, Germany.

Edited by Jon Blauvelt

# Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library reopens

The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library reopened on Tuesday after the completion of a fire suppression system replacement project.

“We are excited to open the branch to our patrons much earlier than expected,” Branch Manager Amy Ring said.

With the project beginning in November 2018, the library initially expected to reopen at 101 Library Blvd. by the end of March, but the project was completed sooner than expected.

During the project, the library hosted a temporary presence at the St. Johns County Tax Collector’s Annex on Palm Valley Road. The library also hosted five storytelling sessions at the Ponte Vedra YMCA, as well as a book club at Brucci’s Pizza in Ponte Vedra Beach.



**ABOVE:** Circulation Assistant Cheri Ng, Branch Manager Amy Ring, Circulation Assistant Sally Lopez and Assistant Branch Manager and Youth Services Librarian Anne Crawford celebrate the reopening of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Tuesday.

**LEFT:** Aya was the first child back in the library's children's department.

Photos courtesy of Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library

## MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT



### Yazbec/Hay

Jordan Yazbec and Mitchell Hay were married on Feb. 2, 2019 at The Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine in a ceremony officiated by Rev. David Keegan. The bride is the daughter of Victor and Kristy Yazbec of Ponte Vedra Beach. The groom is the son of Jon and Teresa Hay of Ponte Vedra Beach. The bride and groom both attended Ponte Vedra High School and are graduates of The University of Alabama. They now reside in Gainesville, Florida.



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Thursday, Feb. 28	Friday, March 1	Saturday, March 2	Sunday, March 3
<p><b>Cummer Amelia an Afternoon of Art: Rome as the Center of the Arts</b> This presentation focuses on the Eternal City as a source of opportunity and patronage for artists such as Michelangelo, Raphael, Bernini and countless others. The central role of Rome as an artistic and training hub was sustained by the presence of wealthy merchants, bankers, ecclesiastic figures and, of course, the Church. Works from the Museum's collection offer many examples, including paintings by Claude Lorrain and Charles-Joseph Natoire. The presentation is from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Fernandina Beach Branch Library and is free to attend. For more information, contact Brittany Nazario at bnazario@cummuseum.org or (904) 899-6007. The Fernandina Beach Branch Library is located at 25 N. Fourth St. in Fernandina Beach.</p> <p><b>Town Hall meeting notice</b> A Town Hall meeting will be held by St. Augustine Beach Mayor Undine C. George at 5:30 p.m. at The Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in the Flagler conference room, located on the north side of the building. The meeting is to discuss the future of the pay-to-park program, focusing on a sustainable way ahead for the city's parking needs. The public is invited and encouraged to attend with the request to present constructive solutions and alternatives on the above issues. A computer and projector will be available; power points must be on a flash drive. For more information, call (904) 471-2122. The Courtyard by Marriot is located at 605 A1A Beach Blvd in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Kiss Me I'm Artish!</b> St. Augustine's Lightner Museum is celebrating St. Patrick's Day early from 6 to 8 p.m. Guests can listen to Irish musician Spade McQuade on guitar accompanied by Amanda Estus. Attendees are also encouraged to wear green while they enjoy an early evening of beer, wine and shamrock-inspired treats. This event is free to the public with donations appreciated. For more information, call the Lightner museum at (904) 824-2874. The Lightner Museum is located at 75 King St. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p><b>Art Tapas!</b> Art Tapas gathers artists and patrons to connect in an environment of learning, experiencing and appreciating what arts and popular culture have to offer to our community. Festivities include the annual JAME exhibition, a People's Choice contest, musical and dancing performances, interactive arts &amp; crafts and fashion experiences, live and much more. Delectables and refreshments will be provided, along with a photobooth. Art Tapas is from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Tickets cost \$75 for general admission and \$125 for VIP. For more information, call the Cultural Center at (904) 280-0614. The Cultural Center is located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Alabama at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre</b> Since 1980, Alabama has delivered hit after hit, starting with their first Top 20 hit "My Home's In Alabama." Alabama brought country music to the mainstream by introducing rock style guitars, lights, pyrotechnics and sounds to the country audience. For tickets, go to www.staugamphitheatre.com. Gates open at 6 and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. The St. Augustine Amphitheater is located at 1340C A1A South in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Nutritional Blood Analysis workshop</b> Nutritional Blood Analysis can reveal underlying nutrient deficiencies and give you the information to feel better. Get a personalized health plan at the wellness store on March 1 at Dr. Randolph's Ageless &amp; Wellness Medical Center. Pre-registration and a \$10 cash or check deposit is required upon registering. Receive a complete blood analysis in 30 minutes with only one drop of blood, examined under a microscope and displayed on an LCD monitor. Get instant results and a personalized diet, exercise, and vitamin plan for \$50. Two-hour fasting is required on the day of the test and guests are encouraged to bring a list of vitamins that they are currently taking. Please call (904) 249-3743 for more information. Dr. Randolph's Ageless &amp; Wellness Medical Center. is located at 1891 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p><b>Aylas Acres adoption event</b> Every Saturday, Aylas Acres will host a cats and kittens adoption event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will be held at Thriftique at 142 King St. in St. Augustine. It is suggested that potential adoptees fill out an Adoption Application at AylasAcres.org for files and to streamline the adoption process. For more information call Laura at (904) 377-6733.</p> <p><b>Mardi Gras Crawl at the beaches</b> The Jacksonville Beach Mardi Gras Bar Crawl is kicking off at Lynch's Irish Pub on March 2 from 4 to 9 p.m. with an after party starting immediately after. Nearly a dozen locations in Jacksonville Beach will be participating; including Lynch's Irish Pub, The Tavern on 1st, Surfer The Bar, The Wreck Restaurant and more. There will be different prizes and beads being given out throughout the night at all the different participating venues. For each Mardi Gras pub crawler who visits each participating venue, their souvenir map will get stamped. A fully stamped map will qualify each participant for a prize drawing at the end of the night. Grab some beads and loved ones for the largest Mardi Gras Party in Jacksonville. Tickets are \$15 on EventBrite.com. Lynch's Irish Pub is located at 514 First St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Leah Lopez artist reception</b> Having been featured in several notable periodicals, Leah Lopez is certainly creating a name for herself among knowledgeable art collectors on the market. The reception will be held at the Grand Bohemian Gallery from 6 to 9 p.m. with live painting and refreshments. Describing her work as "...particularly admired for her atmospheric lighting, and for creating compositions that hint at dramatic narrative, even romance, without specifying exactly what's happening," by "Fine Art Connoisseur," Lopez's work assures that all connoisseurs will fall in love with it. For more information, call , Grand Bohemian Gallery Director Summer Hartley at (904) 829-6880. The Grand Bohemian Gallery is located at 49 King St. in St. Augustine. .</p>	<p><b>Sundays at Surfer the Bar</b> Every Sunday, join Big Fish Power Yoga for a free Music &amp; 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><b>Swing Dance Sundays</b> Swing Dance Sundays is a weekly event with free lessons starting at 7 p.m. at The Volstead. Attendees can either bring a partner or come alone. The Volstead is located at 115 West Adams St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Paws Park mural unveiling</b> Take a furry friend out to Paws Park dog park and join for the celebration of the completion of the Paws Park Mural Project at the Paws Park dog park in Jacksonville Beach. This project features 10 different murals painted by 10 local female artists of Duval Gems. The project is a collaboration with the Josh Heinz Foundation, the We Rise Movement and the City of Jacksonville. This event is free to the public and is from 1 to 3 p.m.. There will also be a few vendors and performances by five local female artists, including Bobby, Indy, Tyanna Jones, Sailor Goon and Akai. For more information, email nicosuaveart@gmail.com. Paws Park is located at 605 Penman Rd. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Civic By The Sea</b> The Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville extends an invitation to listeners of all ages for a free concert featuring the exciting symphonic works by Smetana, Tchaikovsky and many more. The concert will be at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church from 5 to 6 p.m. Following the concert, audience members are invited to celebrate with the musicians during a reception. The Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville is a non-profit, volunteer classical music orchestra comprised of professional, amateur and student musicians. Civic Orchestra concerts are informal and free. For more information, call St. Paul's at (904) 249-4091. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>

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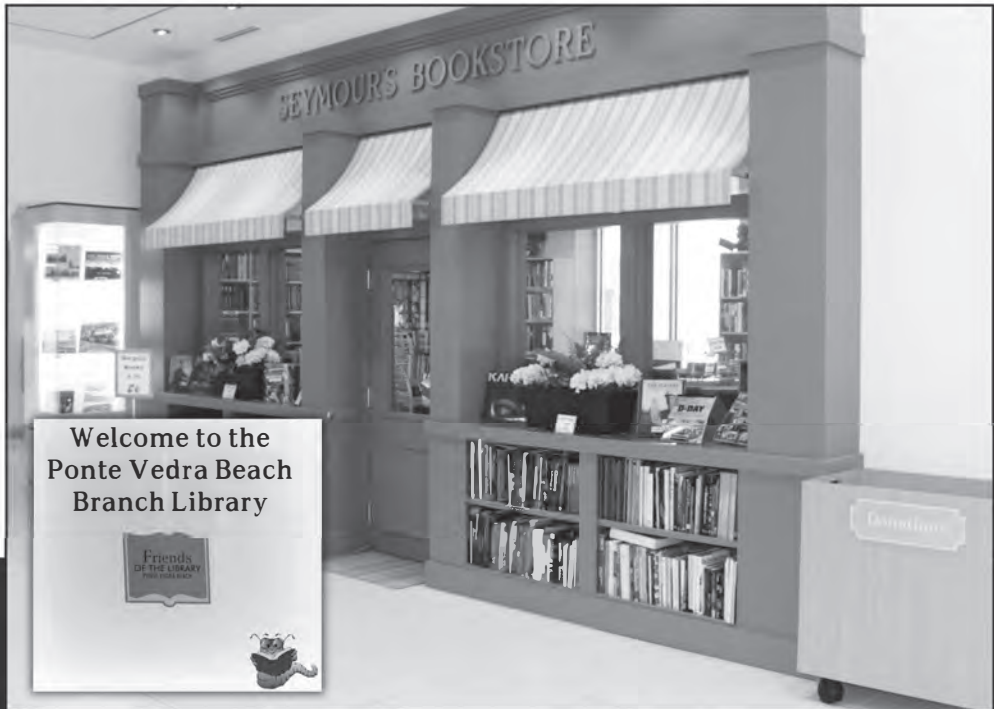
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Monday, March 4	Tuesday, March 5	Wednesday, March 6	Thursday, March 7
<p><b>Trivia at Mellow Mushroom</b> Join Mellow Mushroom every Monday night at 7 p.m. for trivia with Trivia Nation. This event is free to play and there are prizes for the winners. Mellow Mushroom is located at 1018-2 Third St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>All Abilities Night at iFLY Jacksonville</b> All Abilities Night at iFLY is a unique event that makes the dream of flight a reality for those in the special needs community. This program has been custom designed for those with physical and cognitive challenges to create an environment of support and inclusion, while focusing on making what seems impossible, possible. Each flyer receives two flights for \$40 and a free video. Flyers will be assisted by specially trained flight instructors with extra attention and accommodations based on participant needs. The event includes a pre-flight training session and all the necessary flight gear. For details and reservations, please contact iFly at (904) 712-3388. iFly is located at 10579 Brightman Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Fine Art Batik Workshop</b> Cindy will teach her technique of using batik to create complex, modern representational images on cotton at the North Shores Community Center. Students will explore various tools and methods for building multiple layers of color with hot wax and dyes on cotton. By class completion each participant will have completed several batiks. The class is limited to eight students for plenty of individual attention. Materials will be provided. Drawing skills are a plus, but not necessary. The four-day workshop runs March 4 through 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and costs \$390. For more information, contact Cindy Wilson at or cindywil.design@gmail.com. The North Shores Community Center is located at 120 Meadow Ave. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p><b>Palm Valley farmer's market</b> 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><b>Florida Blue free Tuesday at the Cummer</b> Each Tuesday evening from 4 to 9 p.m. enjoy free admission to the Cummer Museum and its historic gardens, thanks to the generous support of Florida Blue. Guests can enjoy free admission to the galleries each Tuesday evening and the Cummer Café is also open for Tapas Tuesday sponsored by VyStar Credit Union. The Cummer Museum of Art &amp; Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Celebrate Mardi Gras with Don Miniard</b> Don Miniard, a Ponte Vedra resident for 25+ years, is the consummate musician, having played professionally for over 35 years. His musical range is second to none, playing a variety of musical formats including soul, country, jazz, rhythm and blues, reggae, pop and classical. The event starts at 11 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. Remember to wear the festive colors of Mardi Gras; purple, gold and green. For more information, contact the Senior Center Activities Coordinator, Danielle Johnson at djohnson@stjohnscoa.com. The Players Community Senior Center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p><b>First Coast Card Club Mardi Gras Holiday</b> The First Coast Card Club invites new and existing members to its Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Holiday on March 5 at 1 p.m.. The event will take place in the St. Augustine Main Library. The event is free with refreshments provided. Remember to dress in festive colors and wear or bring beads. For more information, contact the First Coast Card Club. at (904) 829-0643. The Main Library is located at 1960 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p><b>Wine Wednesday at the Renaissance</b> 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><b>Greenhouse Yoga</b> Join Maggie's Herb Farm every Wednesday and Friday morning from 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><b>First Wednesday Artwalk</b> The First Wednesday Art Walk is a monthly event produced by Downtown Vision, Inc. (DVI), the Business Improvement District, to bring people to the cultural and historical center of the city and showcase Jacksonville's deep and energetic pool of creative talent. Open to visual and performing artists, Art Walk is on the first Wednesday of every month from 5 to 9 p.m., rain or shine in downtown Jacksonville, centering in Hemming Park. This month's theme is Mardi Gras with Spice and the Po Boys leading the Mardi Gras Second Line through downtown with its distinctive Mardi Gras sound. Explore Jacksonville's local art, talent and businesses and much more. For more information, contact Hemming Park at (904) 515-5098. Hemming Park is located at 135 W. Monroe St. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>Growing Home-Grown Food in Your Own Backyard</b> Join garden center and custom landscape provider, Rockaway Inc. for a workshop on how to grow home-grown food in the backyard. This workshop will be held by Greg Burghardt and is \$34.99 per ticket. Handouts and five 4" herbs or veggies are included. Guests are more than welcome to bring their own drinks of choice. Kids get a free 4" strawberry plant throughout the month of March as well. The workshop is from 6:30 to 8 p.m.. For more information, please contact Rockaway Inc. at (904) 853-6572. Rockaway Inc. is located at 510 Shetter Ave. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>'Captain Marvel' premiere in IMAX</b> Carol Danvers becomes one of the universe's most powerful heroes when Earth is caught in the middle of a galactic war between two alien races. Watch it on the big screen at the World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater. Visit <a href="http://www.worldgolfimax.com">www.worldgolfimax.com</a> for tickets and show-times. The IMAX Theater is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>After-Hours at The Players</b> Come support THE PLAYERS Championship by enjoying an evening of food, refreshments and networking with Northeast Florida business leaders at After-Hours at THE PLAYERS. The event is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This annual event hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and JAX Chamber sells out every year. RSVP early to guarantee admission. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. For more information, call (904) 285-2004.</p> <p><b>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to <a href="mailto:Amber@opcfla.com">Amber@opcfla.com</a> or call (904) 686-3939.</b></p>






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Rendering courtesy of Skinner Bros. Realty

A rendering shows the plans for the new Nocatee Town Center expansion that will be anchored by a GreenWise Market.

**NOCATEE HAPPENINGS**

# Nocatee Town Center expansion to include organic grocer, new retail tenants

GreenWise Market to anchor new shopping center opening in 2020

The Nocatee Town Center is expanding to offer more retail, dining and grocery options.

Skinner Bros. Realty, in partnership with The PARC Group, announced last week that the new Nocatee Town Center expansion will be anchored by a GreenWise Market, the specialty organic grocery store owned and operated by Publix Super Markets. This addition will now make Nocatee home to both the first GreenWise Market in Northeast Florida, as well as the largest Publix in the region.

The new shopping center will be an extension of the current Town Center and will be located east of Crosswater Park-

way and south of Nocatee Parkway.

The first phase of the new shopping center will be comprised of two buildings, totaling 40,000 square feet of grocery, dining and retail spaces, with additional tenants to be announced in the near future.

“We are excited for these unique additions to our vibrant community,” said Michael O’Steen, director of planning and development at The PARC Group, Nocatee’s master developer. “We remain committed to meeting the lifestyle needs of our residents and our growing community. The success of Nocatee is making it very attractive to popular local and national retailers.”

The shopping center will be at the heart of Nocatee and will feature exclusive golf cart parking, as well as walkable waterfront space.

**NOCATEE** continues on **Page 11**

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**OBITUARIES**

**Justine Lawrence Aleschus**

Justine Lawrence Aleschus, 93, of Jacksonville, died Feb. 23, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Claudia Bergeron**

Claudia Bergeron, 70, of Jacksonville, died Feb. 22, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Thomas Hardy Blaydes**

Thomas Hardy Blaydes, 88, of Jacksonville, died Feb. 21, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**James Harold Christy**

James Harold Christy Sr., 85, of Jacksonville died Feb. 18, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Gayle W. Jurney**

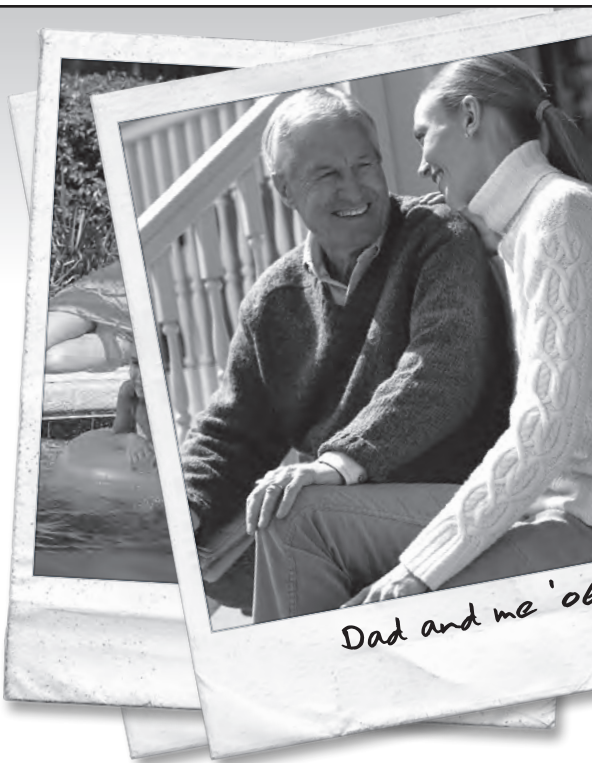
Gayle W. Jurney, 74, of Jacksonville Beach, died Feb. 24, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Helen Kanllakan Leigh**

Helen Kanllakan Leigh, 95, of Jacksonville, died Feb. 25, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Robert David Milligan**

Robert David Milligan Sr., 85, of Atlantic Beach, died Feb. 18, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.



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Map courtesy of Nocatee Ponte Vedra www.nocatee.com

The new shopping center will be an extension of the current Town Center and will be located east of Crosswater Parkway and south of Nocatee Parkway.

## Nocatee

Continued from 10

Construction of the new shopping center is scheduled to begin in the next few months, with an expected opening date in early 2020.

Skinner Bros. Realty will be the development manager in partnership with The PARC Group. Skinner Bros. previously developed the Town Center East retail space directly south of the new shopping center, which includes five buildings and tenants, such as South Kitchen & Spirits, M Shack and Dunkin' Donuts, among others.

"It's been rewarding to see the tremendous success and popularity of our

first phase of development at the Nocatee Town Center," said Riley Skinner, vice president of Skinner Bros. Realty. "We're looking forward to continuing our partnership with The PARC Group in expanding the Nocatee lifestyle with new retail and dining options."

For more information on the Town Center expansion and the Nocatee lifestyle, visit [nocatee.com](http://nocatee.com), stop by the Nocatee Welcome Center or call (904) 924-6863.

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# HEAL Foundation raises over \$300,000 at Gala, Golf Gig

By Jon Blauvelt

The HEAL Foundation (Helping Enrich Autistic Lives) raised over \$300,000 last week at the 13th annual HEAL Gala and Bobby Weed's Golf Gig at TPC Sawgrass.

Included within that total figure, the Ponte Vedra Beach-based nonprofit raised approximately \$83,000 that will be used to provide about 240 tricycles to local special physical education classes. The Gala, held on Feb. 21 at the TPC Clubhouse, hosted 400 attendees, while the Golf Gig, held on Feb. 22, hosted 124 players.

"I will tell you that every person in this room is very special," said Bobby Weed, HEAL Foundation co-founder, at the Gala. "You're all very, very special in so many ways, and you're all here for a wonderful reason and a wonderful cause."

Weed and his wife, Leslie, founded their foundation in 2004 after raising their daughter, Lanier, who is non-verbal and profoundly affected by autism. Since 2007, the foundation has awarded nearly \$2 million in grants providing summer camps, sports leagues and support groups; educational enhancements and iPads for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) classrooms; educational seminars for parents, teachers and therapists; year-round fun recreational and social events for families and more.

Guests at the sold-out Gala enjoyed dinner and drinks, a live and silent auction, a "Bid from the Heart" event, a performance from Haley Weed, the daughter of Bobby and Leslie and sister of Lanier, and additional entertainment by the 7 Street Band. The Golf Gig included breakfast and a subsequent golf tournament scramble on Dye's Valley Course.

Leslie Weed said at the gala they decided to raise money for tricycles this year after learning that Lanier's school in Clay County had to share their two trikes with other schools.

"I said write a grant, we'll get you two bikes back and the next gala I'm going to buy a bike for every school so kids can learn to ride a bike!" she exclaimed.

On a similar note, the HEAL Foundation's next initiative is to build five all-ability parks in the Northeast Florida community.

"There were no autism organizations 20 years ago," Leslie Weed said at the Gala. "They're everywhere now. I'm very happy that we got to start this one early, and we have so much support."



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

**Bobby, Haley, Carlisle and Leslie Weed gather at the 13th annual HEAL Gala on Feb. 21 at TPC Sawgrass. The HEAL Foundation's Gala and subsequent Golf Gig raised over \$300,000.**



**The Weed family addresses attendees of the Gala.**



**Juana Grier and Amanda Castle**



**Kim and Dr. Don Sears**



**ABOVE: The 7 Street Band entertains attendees of the Gala.**



**RIGHT: Haley Weed sings a song to honor her sister, Lanier.**



**Elizabeth and Kane Sears and Robert Lombardo and Deanna Thornton**

# Jumbo Shrimp ballpark job fairs set for March 2, 12

The Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp will hold a pair of job fairs for 2019 game day positions from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 2 and 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12 at the ballpark.

Interested applicants need to only attend one of the job fairs, and will be asked to complete an employee application form. Applicants may bring a completed application to the job fair. All applicants should be prepared to interview at the job fairs and are encouraged to bring a resume and dress appropriately. Potential employees are subject to a background check and drug test.

Parking for the events will be in Lot P and applicants may enter through

the main stadium gates at the corner of A Philip Randolph Boulevard and East Adams Street.

Open positions are for seasonal employment, including but not limited to 70 Jumbo Shrimp baseball home games,

additional stadium events and training. The ideal candidate is outgoing, enjoys being part of a team atmosphere and is ready to have fun while providing top-notch customer service.

The Jumbo Shrimp are seeking candi-

dates for the following positions: game day ticket seller/ticket taker, kids zone attendant, merchandise store employee, 50/50 ticket seller, fan experience representatives, game day clean team, bat boy and ID checker.

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**ABOVE: Sen. Marco Rubio (third from left) meets with St. Johns County Commissioners Jeb Smith, Jimmy Johns, Jeremiah Blocker and Paul Waldron on Feb. 19 in St. Augustine.**

**LEFT: Rubio gathers with Bill Dudley, the president of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County (second from right), and other area veterans.**

## Sen. Marco Rubio visits St. Johns County to discuss veteran services

Sen. Marco Rubio visited the St. Johns County Veterans Service Office in St. Augustine on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

Rubio met with the Board of County Commissioners, Bill Dudley, the president of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, and other area veterans. Rubio discussed with the group the need for a permanent VA community-based occupational center to meet the healthcare needs of St. Johns County veterans.



**Rubio discusses the need for a permanent VA community-based occupational center in St. Johns County with county commissioners, area veterans and Bill Dudley, the president of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County.**



Photos courtesy of Jeremiah Blocker  
**Rubio shakes hands with Joseph McDermott.**

## Local organization to host breakfast honoring veterans

Local nonprofit organization Turning Points in America is hosting a breakfast to honor veterans on Saturday, March 2 at the Applebee's at the St. Johns Town Center.

To be held from 8 to 10 a.m., "Breakfast with Our Heroes" will enable attendees to meet those who served, extend a helping hand to homeless veterans and honor the service of all veterans. The event will celebrate the March birthdays of the Navy Reserve and the Navy Seabees, as well as recognize Vietnam Veterans Day and K9 Veterans Day. In addition, the event will feature raffles, a silent auction and music by the Let Freedom Sing Chorus. The cost to attend is \$12 each or three tickets for \$30.

Turning Points in America is asking for donated tickets for veterans in need

at the Clara White Mission, Sulzbacher Center, Women Veterans Boulevard House and NE Florida Women Veterans Center. The nonprofit is also inviting event attendees to bring food for homeless veterans that is individually pre-packaged and nonperishable. They are also seeking sponsorships of the event.

The Applebee's at the Town Center is located at 4507 Town Center Parkway in Jacksonville. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/breakfast-with-our-heroes-tickets-55172285792#tickets](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/breakfast-with-our-heroes-tickets-55172285792#tickets) to order tickets. For more information, call (904) 705-6439.

Turning Points in America is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization founded in 2016 and located in Jacksonville. For more information, visit [www.turningpointsinamerica.org](http://www.turningpointsinamerica.org).

## Clerk & Comptroller Office to host second annual Saturday passport event March 16

St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller Hunter S. Conrad, Esq. is hosting the second annual Saturday passport event on March 16 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center in St. Augustine.

United States citizens who are in need of a passport but cannot apply during regular business hours are welcome to take advantage of this event. The passport execution fee for first-time applicants is \$35.

To serve as many customers as possible, the Clerk of Court's office encourages passport applicants to visit <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html> to obtain general instructions and forms to get a head start on the

passport application process. As a convenience, the Clerk's office is equipped to take passport photos on-site for a fee of \$10.65 (includes tax).

The Clerk of Court's office will accept passport applications for this event on an appointment-only basis. Appointments will be scheduled in 30-minute increments with the last appointment time being at 12:30 p.m. Clerk staff will be available to assist customers throughout the passport application process.

To schedule an appointment, contact the Recording Department at (904) 819-3632 or [reccoc@sjccoc.us](mailto:reccoc@sjccoc.us). The Richard O. Watson Judicial Center is located at 4010 Lewis Speedway, Building A in St. Augustine.

# Collage Day School hosts workshop on Italian educational philosophy

By Jon Blauvelt

Collage Day School recently hosted a workshop on an educational philosophy rooted in Italy that focuses on viewing children as individuals who are curious and have powerful potential to learn.

Angela Fowler, executive director and lead consultant of Cultivating the Early Years, led the workshop on the concept known as the Reggio Emilia Approach. She is working with Collage to integrate the philosophy into the Ponte Vedra Beach school. The Feb. 14 workshop was free and open to the public and attended by parents, teachers, staff and administration of Collage.

“It was a great visit; the staff and administration are really eager to study the Reggio Emilia Approach,” said Fowler, whose Chicago-based organization is devoted to progressive developmentally appropriate education for the early years, including the Reggio Emilia Approach. “They are all very dedicated to supporting children’s learning in the best way possible. It’s really a pleasure to work with such dedicated and excited teachers and administrators.”

Originating in Reggio Emilia, Italy, the Reggio Emilia Approach is based on the idea that “intelligent children deserve intelligent teachers.” Fowler said some of the key concepts include valuing children as strong capable learners, and understanding that exciting and engaging environments are key to drawing children into meaningful experiences.

Reggio teachers employ four major strategies exposing children to educational opportunities that encourage self-expression, communication, logical thinking and



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

**An attendee of the workshop uses visuals to illustrate four words that describe her as a person.**

problem solving. Each child is tracked along a specific learning journey. Its flexible and child-centric learning approach allows children to be immersed and to explore their learning tasks in greater depth.

Fowler discussed the major tenants of the Reggio Emilia Approach at the workshop and guided attendees through a series of exercises to expose them further to the philosophy. In one of the exercises, Fowler asked attendees to write four words that describe them, and then asked them to use visuals to represent those four words. The purpose was to illustrate the concept of doing one activity in several ways and learning through different pathways or experiences, which is also central to the



A parent and her child participate in a workshop on the Reggio Emilia Approach at Collage Day School in Ponte Vedra Beach on Feb. 14.



Angela Fowler, executive director and lead consultant of Cultivating the Early Years, leads a workshop on the Reggio Emilia Approach at Collage Day School in Ponte Vedra Beach on Feb. 14.

educational philosophy.

“They were very positive and really engaged in the hands-on arts experiences, which are an important part of this approach,” Fowler said.

According to Scholastic, principles of the Reggio Emilia Approach also include an emergent curriculum in which curriculum topics are derived from talking with children and their families; in-depth projects; and collaboration in the classroom.

Collage Day School is a member of the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance and the Reggio Children International Network. Located at 171 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach, Collage is designed to educate students from three months

through sixth grade, and is based on best practice and research on the most effective methods in child development and education. Visit [www.collagedayschool.org](http://www.collagedayschool.org) for more information.

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**Raj Loungani**



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Pages 17-19



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# Ponte Vedra Beach resident to run Boston Marathon in memory of loved ones lost

By Daniela Toporek

Known as the world's oldest race and one of the most challenging, the Boston Marathon is not for the faint of heart. But that's not stopping Ponte Vedra Beach resident Julie Copaken, who is taking on the challenge April 15.

Copaken will run in memory of her father, who died in 2008 from pancreatic cancer. She's running on behalf of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to raise money for cancer treatment and research.

"I've been raising money for the fight against cancer for the last 13 years," said Copaken, whose best friend also died from breast cancer in 2009. "Of all the Boston Marathon charities, Dana-Farber is most closely aligned with my charitable priorities and specific programs for both breast cancer and pancreatic cancer research."

Inspired by her sister, Laura, Copaken started running in 2009. Laura had already been running since college, and Copaken had flown out to Boston three times already to watch and cheer her on. They were both supposed to run the 2018 Boston Marathon with the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team but had to cancel when their uncle died after a multiple-year battle with a malignant brain tumor. His funeral was on marathon day.

The tables turned this year when Copaken's sister underwent foot surgery. Now, Laura will be watching from the sidelines as Copaken conquers the 2019 Boston Marathon on her own.

"My sister had her toe amputated and she wishes she could just run," Copaken said when asked what helped motivate her during training. "I think of her and the people I've lost and think I'm fortunate just to be able to run."

Training four to five days a week and following a strict, 18-week program by renowned runner Hal Higdon since the beginning of November, Copaken is ready to cross the finish line. She's hoping to hit her personal best, with 4:45:00 set as her goal. But if she finishes at 5:15:00, she said she'll be ok with that too.

Twenty-six miles is a long way to go, but with the proper training and mindset, Copaken believes anyone can finish the Boston Marathon.

"To get in, you need to qualify," she said. "There are training programs out there for anyone. Finding an organization close to your heart is something to consider. If I can do it, anyone can do it."

Copaken's positive outlook and determination stemmed from her father, who she keeps in mind with every run — even with her Boston Marathon application.



Photo courtesy of Julie Copaken

**Ponte Vedra Beach resident Julie Copaken will run in the Boston Marathon on April 15.**

When it asked to supply a story of her most memorable race, she didn't even choose running, but instead a memory from her rowing days back in college with her father at her side.

"You only get one shot at nationals, and this was it, so I rowed, and we won!" Copaken wrote in her application. "And for the record, my dad, who had taught me all about commitment and persistence and was truly responsible for getting me to that place and time, was there with video camera in hand videotaping the whole thing. And then he edited together a movie, and put it to music, and mailed off VHS tapes to all my teammates. Because ... that's just the sort of thing he did."

## Cowford Chophouse to hold third annual MOO-VE IT 5K benefiting Justice Coalition on March 2

The Cowford Chophouse will hold its third annual MOO-VE IT 5K on Saturday, March 2 in downtown Jacksonville in remembrance of the late Michael Liles, the former executive director of the Justice Coalition.

The race will benefit the Justice Coalition, a nonprofit organization that advocates on behalf of innocent victims of crime in the five-county area of North-east Florida.

Proceeds from the MOO-VE IT 5K will be donated in Michael Liles's name to the Justice Coalition to support the organization's mission to advocate and educate victims about their rights and work with law enforcement to make communities safer. This year's race will help fund the Justice Coalition's newspaper, the Victims' Advocate, which shares victims' stories and is just one way the organization provides victims with a welcoming and safe community for healing.

"The Justice Coalition provides remarkable support for victims and their families," said Jacques Klempf, Cowford Chophouse owner and a Ponte Vedra resident. "We are proud to bring the community together through the MOO-VE IT 5K to raise awareness and funds

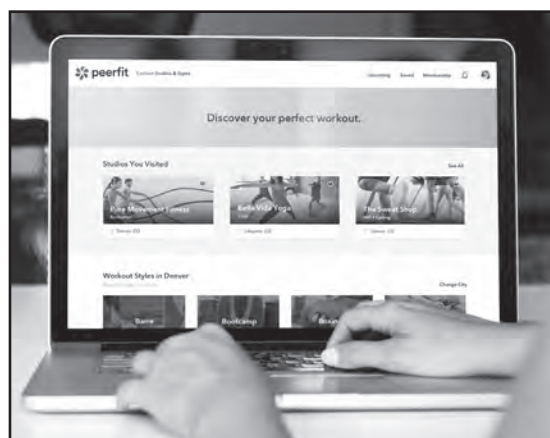
**MOO-VE IT continues on Page 19**



**ABOVE: Orangetheory Fitness is teaming up with digital health company Peerfit on their mission to redefine wellness in the workplace by joining the Peerfit network.**

**RIGHT: Peerfit is the first digital health company to work with employers and insurance carriers such as Aetna, Cigna and United Healthcare to fully fund fitness experiences for their employees.**

Photos courtesy of Jordan Barrish



## Orangetheory Fitness launches pilot partnership with Peerfit to redefine wellness into the Orange Zone

Orangetheory Fitness announced this week they are teaming up with digital health company Peerfit on their mission to redefine wellness in the workplace by joining the Peerfit network.

Peerfit is the first digital health company to work with employers and insurance carriers such as Aetna, Cigna and United Healthcare to fully fund fitness experiences for their employees. Peerfit users will now be able to use their employer-sponsored Peerfit credits at participating Orangetheory Fitness locations in Jacksonville to reserve classes and purchase memberships via their Peerfit dashboard.

"Orangetheory Fitness here in Jacksonville has been partnering with Peerfit for several years and it's a natural partnership that we are happy to now be expanding," said Donna Fenchel, owner of Orangetheory Fitness Jacksonville. "Peerfit makes it easy for corporate employees who have Peerfit credits to either

try Orangetheory Fitness for one workout, take several classes a week or as a way to supplement their membership. No more excuses on why you can't experience 'More Life' with your Orangetheory and Peerfit communities."

The pilot with Peerfit will include all Orangetheory Fitness studios in Jacksonville. For locations visit the Orangetheory Fitness or Peerfit website.

"We are so excited to be partnering with Orangetheory Fitness on our mission to redefine wellness in the workplace," said Ed Buckley, III, Ph.D, Peerfit chairman and CEO. "Their passion for wellness is evident in everything they do, and we know they will have a tremendous impact in the corporate wellness space."

To see if you qualify for Peerfit, go to [peerfit.com/sponsored](http://peerfit.com/sponsored) or [wellness.peerfit.com](http://wellness.peerfit.com) to recommend your employer to offer Peerfit in your workplace.

# StretchLab franchise to open first Florida location in Jacksonville Feb. 28

StretchLab is opening its first Florida location in Jacksonville on Feb. 28.

Located at 13475 Atlantic Blvd., Suite 27, the studio will introduce local residents to highly-trained Flexologists™ in an open, modern, fun and approachable environment.

According to the franchise, the new studio will offer residents an opportunity to transform their daily lives through increases in range of motion and flexibility, including one-on-one assisted stretching and group stretches. To celebrate the opening, StretchLab in Jacksonville will be offering discounted membership rates.

At StretchLab, members work one-on-one with knowledgeable and highly-trained Flexologists to assist with all aspects of stretching. This includes deep stretching, which is scientifically proven to effectively decrease pain, lower risk of injury and reduce stress; and PNF stretching, which focuses on flexibility and range of motion.

The Jacksonville StretchLab is owned and operated by local residents, fitness enthusiasts and married couple, Aaron and Tricia Novak. Passionate athletes themselves, Aaron and Tricia know firsthand the importance of the StretchLab concept. Aaron has competed in over 100 triathlons and five Ironmans, and Tricia has participated in almost 30 marathons. Both say they've seen a difference in performance with proper stretching. The Jacksonville location will be the first of three StretchLab locations the local entrepreneurial couple will bring to the area.

"With the great climate and sports-minded nature of Jacksonville, StretchLab is the best compliment to help people stay as active and healthy as they want to be," Aaron Novak said. "Our experienced staff will ensure that



Photo courtesy of Marissa Goldman

**StretchLab is opening its first Florida location in Jacksonville on Feb. 28.**

members of StretchLab will get a personalized program and help maximize their health for their desired lifestyle."

StretchLab offers a variety of one-on-one personalized stretching services including a 25-minute stretch that concentrates on the client's current stretching needs, as well as a 50-minute head-to-toe deep stretch that addresses all major muscle groups. In addition to one-on-one stretching services, two small-format group stretches are available in which a trained Flexologist leads clients through a warm-up and sequence of stretches to address major muscle groups. Monthly memberships are available for four or eight visits per month, as well as drop-in stretches.

StretchLab has created the Flexologist Training Program. This program was created by renowned stretching expert Brad Walker. With 30 years of practical experience in the health and fitness industry, Walker oversees all training and coaching of StretchLab's

Flexologists. Known across the world for his stretching methodology, he shares his one-of-a-kind expertise with each and every StretchLab location nationwide, including Jacksonville.

"Stretching is still a very new concept in the health and wellness space but it is proven that consistent, proper stretching techniques can help decrease pain, lower risk of injury and allow you to perform better at work, in the gym and in your everyday life," Walker said. "At StretchLab, our experience is unlike any other because of our passionate Flexologists who work with their clients to help them experience a deep, advanced stretch in a modern, friendly and energetic environment."

StretchLab is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The studio can be reached online at [www.StretchLab.com](http://www.StretchLab.com), by email at [atlanticbeach@stretchlab.com](mailto:atlanticbeach@stretchlab.com) or by phone at (904) 440-0334.

## MOO-VE IT

Continued from 18

that provide a voice for victims of crime in honor of Michael, whose incredible work and passion has been helpful and inspirational to so many."

Liles began his work with the Justice Coalition in 2017 after the passing of his wife due to a violent crime. His dedication led the organization to offer him the executive director position, in which he fought to protect victims and their families. Liles died on Oct. 16, 2018 at the age of 62. He and his wife are survived by their five children and eight grandchildren.

"Michael's passion for victims was unparalleled and his work to help them during the most difficult times of their lives will always be remembered," said Robert Bracewell, chair of the Justice Coalition. "While Michael's loss is still felt throughout the community, we continue to carry on our mission to stand up for those affected by crime and hope the Jacksonville community will stand with us by participating in the MOO-VE IT 5K in remembrance of Michael."

In addition to proceeds from the MOO-VE IT 5K, Cowford donated 20 percent of proceeds from its Downtown Wine Down event on Oct. 18, 2018 to the Justice Coalition. Klempf also matched ticket sales with a personal donation to the Justice Coalition in remembrance of Liles and his work with the organization.

Cowford also partnered with the Winston Family YMCA to offer "Couch to 5K" and "Couch to 15K" exclusive training programs to help 30 lucky individuals prepare for the MOO-VE IT 5K or the Gate River Run, a 15k race taking place March 0. Individuals signed up to take part in an all-inclusive six-week training program that began Jan. 21. The weekly training program included three group running opportunities per week at the Winston Y, as well as additional fitness education information sessions. All participants were required to attend two out of the three running sessions per week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

For more information or to register for the MOO-VE IT 5k, visit [www.1stplacesports.com/races/mooveit/](http://www.1stplacesports.com/races/mooveit/).

# 6th annual '5K Run for Peace' benefitting Betty Griffin Center set for April 13



Photo courtesy of Ron Whittington

**The sixth annual 5K Run for Peace benefitting the Betty Griffin Center will be held April 13 at the St. Augustine Pier.**

Runners and walkers alike are invited to participate in the sixth annual 5K Run for Peace benefitting the Betty Griffin Center on Saturday, April 13 at the St. Augustine Pier.

The Betty Griffin Center is a nonprofit agency that provides free emergency shelter and other support services for residents experiencing domestic or sexual abuse in St. Johns County. The race begins at 8 a.m.

"Nearly 600 people took part in the event last year, and we're hoping that even more runners and walkers will take part in the 5K this year," said Joyce Mahr, Betty Griffin Center CEO. "The run has become one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, offering residents a family-friendly and fun way to support our work to help survivors of domes-

tic and sexual assault in our community."

Runners can sign up for the event at [runforpeace5k.org](http://runforpeace5k.org), or through the events section at [www.bettygriffincenter.org](http://www.bettygriffincenter.org). Adult registration costs \$25 through Feb. 28 — increasing to \$30 after that date.

People can also participate as virtual runners, and those who can't participate but would still like to donate to the Betty Griffin Center can do so through the website.

Current "Peace Level Event" sponsors include Beaver Toyota and Jaguars Foundation. Sponsorships are still available by contacting Nicole Pece at [nicolep@bettygriffincenter.org](mailto:nicolep@bettygriffincenter.org) or by calling (904) 808-8544, extension 208.

For more information, visit [www.bettygriffincenter.org](http://www.bettygriffincenter.org).



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#### SkinMedica event

Friday, March 8 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit with the SkinMedica specialist at The Spa Boutique to learn specific tips for your skin. Skin care regime bundles are available and can be customized just for you. Enjoy 20 percent off all SkinMedica products March 8.

#### NUFACE Friday

March 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The NuFace device revolutionizes at home anti-aging treatments. The device naturally lifts, tones and sculpts the delicate skin on your face and neck using microcurrent technology. Microcurrent is a gentle, soothing soft-wave technology found in top spas, medical offices and behind the scenes at celebrity red carpet events. The NuFace device re-energizes and rejuvenates the skin delivering both immediate and long-term results. Eager to learn more? Join the Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. Stop in and for a personal skin consultation and receive a complimentary NuFace Quick Lift.

## LASH JAX to celebrate 1-year anniversary as locally owned full-service salon

LASH JAX first opened in 2018 with a primary focus on eyelash extensions. One year later, LASH JAX has grown into a full-service salon, offering luxury services such as lash extensions, lifts and tints, facials, microblading, permanent makeup, threading, waxing and a boutique with local and small-maker products and seasonal merchandise.

“LASH JAX has experienced exceptional growth and development over the first year,” said Tammy Barr, LASH JAX owner and operator. “Moving forward, our focus will remain on delivering the highest standards of hospitality and



Photo courtesy of LASH Jax

LASH JAX continues on Page 22

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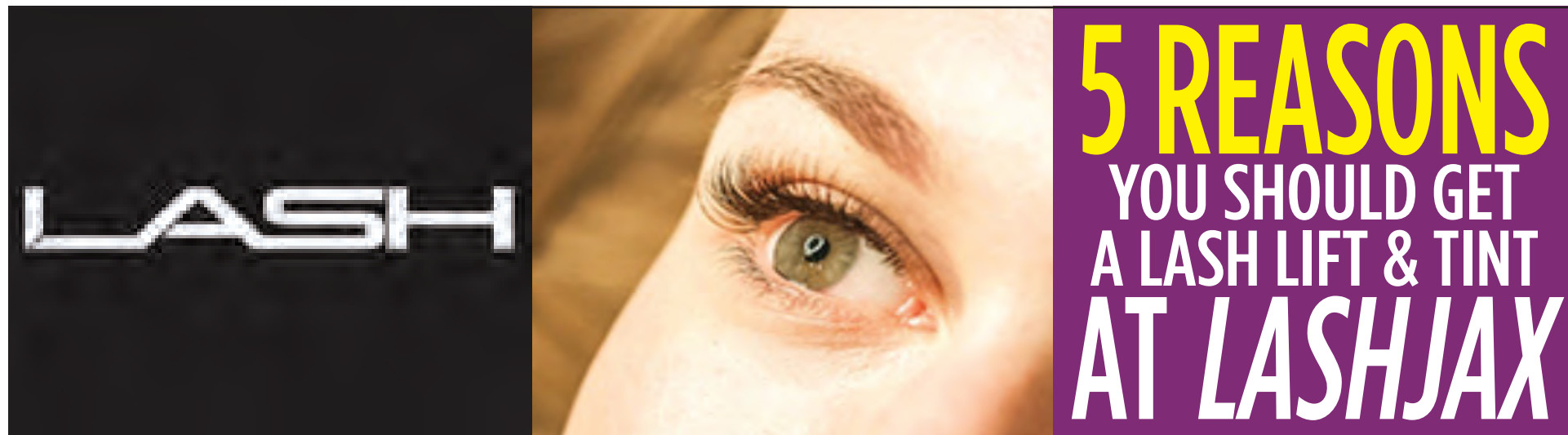
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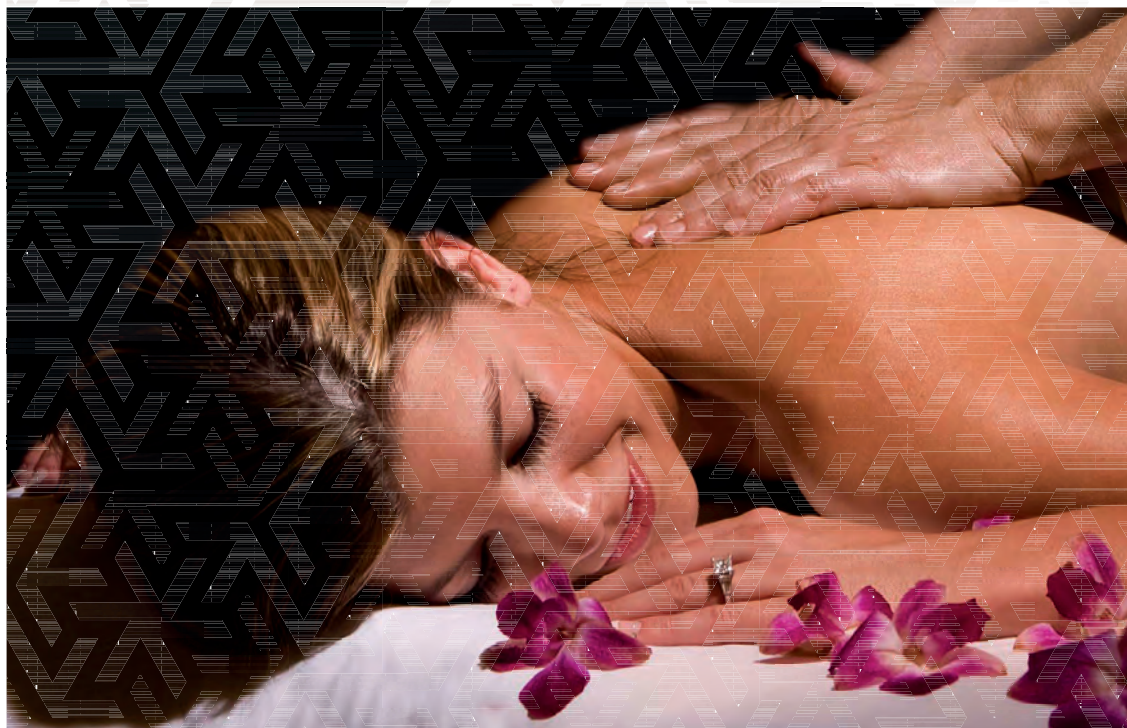


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# Open your eyes: What you really need to know about Lasik (Part 2)



**By Arun C. Gulani, M.D.**

Special to the Recorder

In last week's column, I wrote about the origin of Lasik eye surgery and how the surgery is performed. As mentioned, Lasik eye surgery side effects and complications are possible and though uncommon, need to be addressed successfully.

**Arun C. Gulani, M.D.**  
Guest Columnist

First, let's remember: Lasik is just one of 14 Laser Vision Surgeries among more than 40 Vision Corrective Surgeries (surgeries to remove glasses and contact lenses). Your surgeon must be qualified and experienced to perform all of these or else you are getting a "cookie-cutter" procedure.

With a worldwide referral of Lasik complication cases over nearly three decades, I will in this column summarize four reasons for poor outcomes in Lasik surgery, and then review guidelines to consider when choosing a Lasik surgeon:

## Misleading advertising by a Lasik practice

- Some Lasik practices have surgeons who may be new and inexperienced themselves but use the established name recognition of their more experienced, senior partners (who may have actually even retired from the practice).

- Lasik eye surgery "mills" advertise the joint number of cases done by all chain centers across the nation (e.g. 500,000 cases done) while their surgeon may be a novice.

- Some Lasik practices use celebrity testimonials (e.g. NFL players, movie stars, etc.). In many such cases, the practice actually pays a hefty sum to be known as official surgeons of such celebrities or professional sports teams and/or they most often will do surgery for free to get an endorsement.

## Lack of patient education and expectations

- Patients are not educated about other available vision corrective surgical options since the surgeon may themselves not be capable of performing the full spectrum of surgical options.

- Patients feel intimidated to ask questions about surgeon qualifications, vision expectations, side effects, etc.

## Cookie-cutter surgery by a Lasik practice; "One size fits all"

- Lasik may be all that the Lasik practice performs. They may be ignorant or incapable of performing the entire range of Laser Vision Surgeries. (Remember: Lasik is just one among these Laser techniques.)

- There may be a lack of knowledge, initiative or expertise in offering and performing alternate vision surgery options if Lasik is not ideal for the patient (e.g. new generation ICL surgery for thin cornea patients who are not ideal Lasik candidates).

## Poor pre-operative technological analysis of the patient's eye anatomy, vision and stability

- There may be a lack of understanding on the surgeon's part regarding interaction between anatomy, physiology and optics of the eye to get a great vision outcome.

- There may be a lack of technological finesse to detect early abnormalities and avoid Lasik in improper candidates.

- There may be an inability to deliver the best outcomes due to lack of modern, cutting-edge technology.

## Guidelines to keep in mind when choosing a Lasik surgeon

- Besides visiting the surgeon's website, use a search engine (e.g. Google, MSN, Yahoo, etc.) and type in the doctor's name and see what comes up. Do you find only a website and other paid advertising claims? Or do you find interviews, published articles and third-party confirmations of the doctor's status?

- If your surgeon says that they are the first or that they teach other Lasik surgeons, ask for evidence. Are they first in the world, country or state (decreasing order of importance), or just on their street, zip code or town?

- Meet with the surgeon, get a feel for the integrity and involvement of the surgeon in educating you and answering every question. Also make sure that your surgeon is contactable and that they do indeed respond when you call.

- Make sure that your surgeon will see you before surgery, perform your surgery and also see you and be available after your surgery.

- Find out if your surgeon performs the full spectrum of Laser Vision Surgery (remember Lasik is just one of many Laser Vision techniques) so they can offer what is truly best for you, rather than suggesting the only surgery they know how to perform.

- Do not fall for flashy computer screens and equipment in the office; make sure that you understand all that is going on and insist on asking the surgeon to explain in layman's terms.

- When meeting your surgeon, ask about possible side effects and complications. Ask if in the rare event that you do end up having a complication, can they handle it? If the answer is yes, then ask for evidence.

Thus, due diligence on part of the patient, experienced selection of individualized surgery by the surgeon and effective use of modern technology can all together raise the bar on safety and predictability in LASIK — one of the most successful surgical breakthroughs of modern times.

***Each year, patients from around the world travel to Jacksonville's Gulani Vision Institute to have their vision corrected by ophthalmologist Arun Gulani, MD. A Ponte Vedra Beach resident, Dr. Gulani has been a leader in LASIK, cataract and astigmatism surgery, has invented Lasik complication corrective techniques and is often called upon to train other surgeons in the latest groundbreaking technologies.***

## Art with a Heart in Healthcare raises \$46,000 at annual Wine Dinner fundraiser

Art with a Heart in Healthcare held its second annual Wine Dinner fundraiser on Tuesday, Feb. 12, and the sold-out event managed to raise more than \$46,000 in net proceeds with donor support.

The funds will help provide an artist in the pediatric chemotherapy and hemodialysis infusion clinic at Wolfson Children's Hospital. Funds will also help provide high-quality art supplies and fine art experiences to young patients coping with cancer, trauma and adversity to heal through creative expression.

The event, sponsored by Atlantic Coast Marine, attracted 120 guests at Royal Palm Village Wine and Tapas in Atlantic Beach and featured locally sourced gourmet dining and wine pairings, a live and silent auction and presentations about the nonprofit, among others.

Art with a Heart in Healthcare programs and services funds a team of staff artists, community volunteers and interns from the University of North Florida and master's students from the Arts in Medicine program at University of Florida. Together, they create art that helps to reclaim the child from the illness. Patients are from Palm Coast to St. Augustine to Jacksonville and Fernandina Beach, and beyond. The nonprofit's team of



Photo courtesy of Bonnie Hayflick

**Calvin and Hillary Whitaker gather at the Art with a Heart in Healthcare Wine Dinner fundraiser on Feb. 12 at Royal Palm Village Wine and Tapas in Atlantic Beach.**

artists and volunteers have served tens of thousands of patients and their families in Northeast Florida at Wolfson Children's Hospital, Nemours Children's Specialty Clinic, St. Vincent's Medical Center and Mayo Clinic.

"Art with a Heart in Healthcare holds its annual Wine Dinner fundraiser as one of several ways we benefit from generous donations from those who support our mission," said Christy Ponder, executive director and artist in residence of Art with a Heart in Healthcare.

For more information about next year's event, tickets and sponsorships, call (904) 306-0390 or email [cponderartwithaheart@gmail.com](mailto:cponderartwithaheart@gmail.com). Visit the website at [www.artwithaheart.info](http://www.artwithaheart.info).

## LASH JAX

Continued from 20

service experience. We plan on growing with our customers' needs and remaining open to offering additional treatments our customers want. We care about our customers and nothing gets in the way of our commitment to making them happy!"

In honor of their one-year anniversary, Barr and the LASH JAX team will host an open house on Saturday, March 23 from 3 to 8 p.m. The event is open for all and will offer food and beverages, as well as champagne.

"We always want to give and do more for our customers," said Barr, who also said that LASH JAX will be raffling prizes to the public throughout the event.

Several local businesses who have partnered with LASH JAX through the past year, such as Monahan Jewelers, Laser Loft, Basic B the Label and Belle of the Boulevard, will also be joining and offering special promotional packages and pricing on services.

"We have chosen Chemo Noir as our philanthropic focus this year," Barr added. "And will be offering a fundraising activity and raffle that day as well."

Updates for the event will be posted on Instagram at @LASHJAX.

In its first year, LASH JAX was awarded Jacksonville Magazine's "Best in Jax" and made the publication's "Fabo-list." The salon was voted No. 2 Lash Extensions in Folio Magazine and has earned over 50 five-star Google reviews.

LASH JAX is located at 1500 Beach Blvd, Suite 114, in Jacksonville Beach. Visit [www.lashjax.com](http://www.lashjax.com) for more information.

# Business Weekly

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Online real estate marketplace Opendoor launches in Jacksonville

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Flagler Health+ President and Chief Executive Officer Jason Barrett and Vice President of Operations Don Crist



Flagler Health+ Board of Directors Chairman Matt Baker, Jen Barrett and Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel Carlton DeVoght



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Jason Barrett, president and chief executive officer of Flagler Hospital, announces the healthcare enterprise's new brand name — Flagler Health+ — at a press conference on Feb. 22 in St. Augustine.

## Flagler Hospital unveils new Flagler Health+ brand

By Jon Blauvelt

Flagler Hospital unveiled a new brand name — Flagler Health+ — for its new and expanded healthcare enterprise at a press conference last Friday, Feb. 22 in St. Augustine.

Flagler Health+, headquartered in St. Augustine, will serve to advance the physical, social and economic health of St. Johns County and surrounding Northeast Florida communities.

“We feel all of that (physical, social and economic health) is much more expansive than just being Flagler Hospital,” said Jason Barrett, president and chief executive officer of Flagler. “We believe our portfolio of offerings translates to a plus.”

Flagler Health+ will expand to include health villages in Nocatee, Murabella and other future locations. Barrett told the Recorder the Nocatee location will open in 2020 and feature a 40,000-square-foot facility including primary care, urgent care and advanced imaging. To be located on a 4-acre property adjacent to the Nocatee Town Center, the Flagler location will also feature greenspace to enable the organization of community

events, such as farmers markets and concerts.

“People move to these communities because they want a community,” Barrett said. “We’re going to embrace that, in a way that our offerings are not just (a) sterile medical office complex. It really is an engagement center.”

The Flagler Health+ Village at Murabella will incorporate a YMCA.

With the announcement of Flagler Health+, the hospital is also introducing virtual urgent care visits available via its website and mobile app, downloadable in the Apple and Google Play app stores, beginning last week.

As part of its focus on addressing social determinants of health, Flagler Health+ is expanding Care Connect — its community alliance designed to connect area residents with resources in a coordinated way throughout all of St. Johns County. In the coming year, Care Connect will introduce programs that further support mental health in adolescents while continuing to focus on key issues like homelessness and access to care.

To learn more about Flagler Health+, visit [www.flaglerhealth.org](http://www.flaglerhealth.org).

## The rise of Wi-Fi in home buying: Ensuring connectivity in your home



Matt Devereaux  
Guest Columnist

By Matt Devereaux

Special to the Recorder

Spotty Wi-Fi can be maddening. From stuttering video streaming to spinning wheels on an internet browser, a weak connection disrupts more than entertainment for the average adult. For millions of Americans, it also halts productivity and workflow.

In fact, according to a recent study by FlexJobs and Global Workplace Analytics, the number of Americans telecommuting increased by a whopping 115 percent during the last 10 years. The organization reports that 3.9 million U.S. employees work from home at least half of the time — up from 1.8 million in 2005. The majority of that growing population relies on technology, like Wi-Fi, to communicate and work from home.

With this in mind, it’s no surprise that reliable Wi-Fi has become an essential component for homebuyers to consider. The following insights can help you take control of the Wi-Fi in your current or future home.

### Identifying and solving “dead zones”

A “dead zone” is any area that has spotty or non-existent Wi-Fi coverage. These areas are generally easy to spot — simply take note of the specific areas where you have trouble loading a webpage or streaming a video on your device.

When attempting to fix these dead zones, first examine the area around your router. Large metal furniture or shelving located around your router can muddle the signal and interfere with its strength. Try rearranging the metal elements away from your router to see if it resolves your issue.

The overall environment in which your Wi-Fi router is placed also contributes to your signal strength. For example, older homes often feature a thick plaster construction with metal framing that can interfere with your Wi-Fi.

Homes like this may require the placement of wireless access points, or WAPS, which are hardwired connections that project a Wi-Fi signal from a router to a designated area. WAPS can accommodate dozens of devices per point, increasing the bandwidth across your home.



Photos courtesy of Flomotion

Shown are products from Jacksonville-based apparel and accessories brand Flomotion, which will offer an array of products at THE PLAYERS for the second consecutive year.

# Flomotion returns to THE PLAYERS for second year in a row

For the second consecutive year, Jacksonville-based apparel and accessories brand Flomotion will offer an array of products at THE PLAYERS.

According to a press release distributed by the company, the PGA TOUR has committed to an “even larger array of Flomotion products to offer at this year’s tournament.” Styles will include volley shorts, straw hats, short sleeve tees, long sleeve tees and even stickers. The apparel

will be available for purchase at the PGA TOUR Fan Shop at the Nicklaus Entry, as well as available online at Fanatics.com.

“We are honored to have been able to work on another collection with the THE PLAYERS,” said Camiel Canters, Flomotion founder and owner. “As golf is one of the many reasons that makes Florida a popular outdoor destination, working with such a prestigious company is a dream come true.”

The company said apparel for THE PLAYERS will combine distinct Florida features with notable elements from the tournament. According to Flomotion, the PGA TOUR is already planning to work with the First Coast business again for the 2020 tournament, looking to add even more merchandise selections for attendees.

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

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# When was the last time you reviewed your existing life insurance policy?



**Harry Pappas**  
Columnist

**By Harry Pappas**

If you are like most folks, you think that once you buy a life insurance policy, you can file it and fuhgeddaboutit! I encourage you ... nope, I beg you not to make this critical

mistake. Reviewing your life insurance policy is an integral part to your financial security planning.

The primary reason to examine your policy is to save you money, and perhaps arguably less important is to make sure that your beneficiaries are listed correctly. I have seen everything from deceased parents, ex-spouses and specific children named while excluding later born children.

When I explain to clients that life insurance beneficiaries supersede directions in their will or revocable trusts, it is like a deer in headlights! Whom you name as beneficiaries on your life insurance contract trumps what your will says.

This fact alone repeatedly creates havoc when settling an estate, which is why a periodic review is not only necessary but also quite easy assuming that you know an advisor who cares to take the time to prepare an "inforce illustration" that will summarize the following:

- Type of policy (group versus individual, term, whole life, universal life or variable life)
- Amount of your coverage
- Annual premium
- Policy benefits, features or riders
- Beneficiary structure
- Policy fees
- Policy performance

Based on the inforce illustration data, your advisor should provide you with his

or her thoughts and recommendations. To get the ball rolling, all that you need to do is provide a copy of your most current life insurance policy statement to your financial advisor. That is it!

The turnaround time to get you a copy of the analysis is about 10 to 14 days. Lastly, most of us know what we should do, but knowing is not enough! We must take action! Confucius never said that, but he definitely was thinking it!

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Jay Owen, the founder and CEO of Design extensions and a Nease graduate, addresses attendees of the Chamber at Noon event on Feb. 20 at the Sawgrass Beach Club.

Photos by Susan Griffin



David Godwin and Gloria Dongara



Barb Savage and Dr. Erika Hamer

# Chamber at Noon event features discussion on storytelling in the business world

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted marketing guru Jay Owen at its most recent Chamber at Noon event last Wednesday, Feb. 20 at the Sawgrass Beach Club.

Owen, the founder and CEO of Design Extensions

and a graduate of Nease High School, shared tips on storytelling in the business world and how to tell stories the right way to promote a brand and build customer loyalty.

Visit [designextensions.com](http://designextensions.com) for more information on Owen and Design Extensions.

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**THEME: MARCH MADNESS**

**ACROSS**

- Trunk extension
- Dojo pad
- \*Villanova \_\_\_\_ at end of each half in '18 championship
- Away from port
- Windmill blade
- Key material
- Hefty competitor
- European sea eagle
- Walnut \_\_\_\_, MN
- \* \_\_\_\_ Sunday
- Smelling tainted, as in meat
- Soft and sticky
- Giant bird of "One Thousand and One Nights"
- \* \_\_\_\_ -elimination
- Making sounds like Babe
- Beatle wife
- Not absorb, nor repel
- Twelfth month of Jewish year
- Batman to Bruce Wayne
- Elizabeth Gilbert's " \_\_\_\_ Pray Love"
- Cubic meter
- Ghost of Christmas \_\_\_\_
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- Oddball's attempt?
- Tropical tuber
- \*Penultimate NCAA round
- Like cornflakes leftovers
- Slavic version of John
- Tangerine plus grapefruit
- Chased up an elm
- Blow off steam
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**DOWN**

- Falls behind
- Archipelago unit
- Square one?
- Good-for-nothing
- Nobel Prize winner Curie
- Bug
- High school student
- Rumpelstiltskin's weaver
- Green-eyed monster
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- Part of human cage
- Daytime entertainment, pl.
- Spouse's parent
- Neil Diamond's "Beautiful \_\_\_\_"
- Tiny leftovers
- Intestinal obstruction
- N in RN
- Mirths
- \*1 or 68, e.g.
- Crew tool
- \*Automatic vs. \_\_\_\_
- Creepy one
- \*Coach's locker room talk
- Similar to sextant
- Andrew \_\_\_\_ Webber
- \*Hang a banner, e.g.
- Abraham Lincoln bill, slangily
- Lacking sense
- Ruptured
- Ice, dark, and middle
- \*Twelve's opponent
- Type of molding
- Forearm bone
- Purges
- Slovenly abode

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- Spouse's parent
- Neil Diamond's "Beautiful \_\_\_\_"
- Tiny leftovers
- Intestinal obstruction
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- Mirths
- \*1 or 68, e.g.
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- \*Automatic vs. \_\_\_\_
- Creepy one
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Photos courtesy of Opendoor

**Opendoor, an online real estate marketplace that gives people a simple and convenient way to buy, sell and trade-in homes, is launching this week in the broader Jacksonville metro area.**

# Opendoor launches in Jacksonville area

Opendoor, an online real estate marketplace that gives people a simple and convenient way to buy, sell and trade-in homes, is launching this week in the broader Jacksonville metro area, including Ponte Vedra and Northern St. Johns County.



**Greg Hiltz**  
Jacksonville Opendoor general manager

This is the third Florida market for Opendoor's real estate offering; the company has operated in Orlando since October 2017 and in the Tampa Bay area since May 2018, serving thousands of customers.

According to the company, homeowners who are interested in selling to Opendoor can visit [www.opendoor.com](http://www.opendoor.com) and get a competitive, all-cash offer on their home in 24 to 48 hours. If they choose to accept the offer, the company says they'll skip the hassle of prepping, listing, having open houses and potential double-moves, and double mortgages. After accepting the offer and completing a free home assessment, sellers choose their close date, collect the funds from the sale and move on to their next chapter.

Potential buyers in the Jacksonville metro can download the Opendoor app to instantly discover and tour available homes in the area, no appointment necessary. Every for-sale Opendoor home is available for self-guided tours seven



**Homeowners who are interested in selling to Opendoor can visit [www.opendoor.com](http://www.opendoor.com) and get a competitive, all-cash offer on their home in 24 to 48 hours.**

days a week from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

To lead the Jacksonville operation, Opendoor has enlisted United States Navy veteran Greg Hiltz to serve as general manager. Hiltz leads the team and works closely with First Coast buyers, sellers, real estate agents, local businesses and general contractors and tradespeople.

Opendoor currently operates in more than 20 markets in the U.S. and expects to be in 50 cities by the end of 2020. Headquartered in San Francisco, Opendoor has over 1,200 employees.

To learn more about Opendoor, or to get an offer on your home, visit [www.opendoor.com](http://www.opendoor.com).

# Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR names Realtor Anita Vining Top Producer for 2018

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty (HSFNR) recently named Realtor Anita Vining the company's Top Producer in 2018.

Vining led the company with more than \$34 million in closed sales. In addition to 2018, she has achieved Berkshire Hathaway Florida's Top Producer honors in 2013, 2015 and 2016 as well. Vining has produced more than \$300 million in real estate sales since 1997.

A resident of Jacksonville for more than three decades, Vining is knowledgeable about all areas in Northeast Florida. She has been a licensed Realtor for more than 40 years and is a consistent multi-million-dollar producer. Vining specializes in luxury real estate, waterfront properties, gated and golf course communities, and is a Certified Relocation Specialist (CRS).

In the community, Vining serves on the Jacksonville Public Education Fund



**Anita Vining**

Board of Directors and is a board member of the San Marco Merchants Association. She supports multiple local charities and organizations, including Dreams Come True of Northeast Florida, by donating proceeds from each of her closed sales.

"Anita is a positive force in Northeast Florida and

serves the community and the real estate industry with tremendous commitment and passion," said Christy Budnick, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty president and CEO. "Her leadership and contributions to our firm and the community are awe-inspiring, and a direct reflection of her dedication and expertise."

For more information on Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Realtor Anita Vining, visit [www.AnitaVining.com](http://www.AnitaVining.com).

# Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR adds Lea Taylor to Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty (HSFNR) recently announced the addition of Lea Taylor to the company's Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office.

Taylor is a Florida native with a passion for real estate who recently relocated to Florida's First Coast. She is excited to apply the real estate expertise from her work in Palm Beach to help clients' transactions succeed in Northeast St. Johns County and adjacent Jacksonville beach communities.

"I am blessed to have this opportunity to grow with such a world-renowned firm offering unmatched service to clients in one of our nation's great places to live," Taylor said.

With more than 20 years of experience in real estate, Taylor is able to understand the market and works closely to find the right home — as well as neighborhood — to match the lifestyle of each client, said Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR in a press release. The company also said Taylor has developed a highly successful system to market and sell properties for homeowners who wish to sell.

Knowing each client is unique, Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR said Taylor works closely as a single agent to achieve the best experience for a client. Taylor is



**Lea Taylor**

known to make the process enjoyable and efficient by staying tuned in.

"From your very first meeting to the final closing, Lea provides best-in-class service to her clients," said Holly Hayes, broker/manager of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office. "She has the experience you can count on and

the passion to make things happen even with the most challenging circumstances."

Taylor is an active member at The National Association of Realtors, Florida Realtors and the Local Northeast Association of Realtors.

She is also an enthusiastic boater and naturalist.

"I look forward to continuing my legacy of giving back to the community by taking advantage of the volunteering opportunities at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas Preserve and other beach programs," Taylor said.

For more information, Taylor can be reached by phone at (561) 401-6005 or by email at [Lea.Taylor@FloridaNetworkRealty.com](mailto:Lea.Taylor@FloridaNetworkRealty.com). Visit her website at [LeaSellsLandToSea.com](http://LeaSellsLandToSea.com).

The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office is located at 333 Village Main St., Suite 670 in Ponte Vedra Beach.

# Beacon Lake honored at NEFBA Laurel Awards

Lakefront lifestyle community recognized for marketing efforts

The Northeast Florida Builders Association's Sales and Marketing Council recently honored BBX Capital Real Estate with a Laurel Award for Best Realtor Promotional Event at Beacon Lake, a lakefront lifestyle master-planned community in northern St. Johns County. Tapas and Tours, a progressive luncheon and model tour that welcomed 175 realtors to the community, was highlighted.

"We are honored to receive this recognition for our successful Tapas & Tours progressive luncheon and model tour," said Bruce J. Parker, managing director for BBX Capital Real Estate, Beacon Lake's master developer. "Beacon Lake offers a welcoming neighborhood environment that makes our community stand apart from the rest. We appreciate the accolades from our industry peers, and we hope it will encourage everyone to visit our community and learn more about living at Beacon Lake."

Beacon Lake offers coastal-inspired home designs, a lakefront setting with a

nautically themed Lake House Amenity and Fitness Center and a family-friendly neighborhood with pocket parks and stop-a-whiles for enjoying the community's natural surroundings. The community's builders, Dream Finders Homes and Mattamy Homes, are building coastal-inspired homes featuring welcoming front porches and open floor plans.

During Tapas & Tours, guests mingled and ate gourmet fare as they toured the community's five furnished and decorated model homes, showcasing the latest in-home design trends. Each of the community's models featured a gourmet meal and a different give-away prize, which kept a steady flow of guests moving from model home to model home throughout the event.

Many of the realtors that attended Tapas & Tours have returned to Beacon Lake to see the progress on the community's 8,200-square-foot Lake House Amenity and Fitness Center. The Lake House will be the heart of Beacon Lake and provide plentiful opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreation and relaxation for every member of the family.

Anchored by a 43-acre paddle-friendly lake and nestled within 358 acres of nature preserve, Beacon Lake's amenities make it



Photo courtesy of Clockwork Marketing

**Bruce J. Parker and Janis Raffkin Spira display the Laurel Award for the Best Realtor Promotional Event, which was presented to BBX Capital Real Estate for Tapas & Tours at Beacon Lake.**

unique. Residents can cool off at the Splash Park, fun pool, junior Olympic swimming pool or lakeside sand beach. They can also launch a kayak or canoe and explore the peaceful, natural beauty of Beacon Lake.

The Lake House will include a state-of-the-art fitness center with cardio and strength training equipment, free weights, spin bikes and a fitness studio. The Culinary Studio and Demonstration Kitchen in the social room will be available for catered events and will provide cooking classes and chef demonstrations. Other amenities include the tennis courts, multipurpose playing field and the dockside Crew House that provides kayak and canoe rentals. A dog park will offer Beacon Lake's furry residents and their owners a place to exercise, socialize and play. There will also be a neighborhood park for children.

Beacon Lake is within the St. Johns County Public School District and zoned for A-rated schools, including Ocean Palms Elementary School, Alice B. Landrum Middle School and Allen D. Nease High School for the 2018-2019 school year.

In Beacon Lake's Phase 1, Dream Finders Homes and Mattamy Homes offer single-family home designs ranging in size from 1,600 square feet to more than 3,500 square feet, and are priced from the mid-\$200,000s to \$500,000s. Five decorated model homes are open for tours.

Beacon Lake is located on the south side of County Road 210 between U.S. Route 1 and Interstate 95. The community offers residents a central location near shopping, dining, employment centers and area beaches. For more information, visit [www.BeaconLake.com](http://www.BeaconLake.com).

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# Trailmark and Greyhawk honored at Laurel Awards

## GreenPointe Communities receives 7 marketing honors

GreenPointe Communities, LLC., was recently honored by the Northeast Florida Builders Association's Sales and Marketing Council with seven Laurel Awards honoring TrailMark, a nature-first community located just 20 minutes from Jacksonville in northern St. Johns County, and GreyHawk, a new recreation-rich community in Northeast Clay County.

GreenPointe received six awards for TrailMark, including best community welcome center, best community website, best consumer promotional event, best overall advertising campaign, best digital marketing campaign and best print ad campaign. The company also received a best logo award for GreyHawk.

"We are honored to receive recognition for successfully communicating the exceptional settings and competitive differences at our communities of TrailMark and GreyHawk," said Gaynelle James, GreenPointe Communities marketing director. "GreenPointe Communities is esteemed for creating communities that offer a sustainable lifestyle and environment where people want to live. We appreciate the accolades from our industry peers, and we hope it will encourage everyone to visit our communities and learn more about these unique communities."

TrailMark is a thoughtfully planned neighborhood with parks, trails and a full amenities center for residents. GreenPointe worked with the design team of ELM and Ansana Interiors for the 4,400-square-foot outdoor-inspired Welcome and Information Center. The center is the first stop where neighborhood visitors are introduced to the community, tour the amenities complex and get an in-depth overview of the builder team. Highlighting TrailMark's unique hallmark location and its Northeast Florida natural elements, the center promotes interaction between visitors and neighbors while showcasing opportunities to live life connected — with nature and with the community.

From the domain name, to imagery selection and verbiage, each aspect of TrailMark's website was carefully assembled to reflect the brand essence of discovery.



Photo courtesy of Clockwork Marketing

**Construction Manager Gregg Kern, Marketing Director Gaynelle James, Senior Development Manager Liam O'Reilly and North Florida Regional President Mike Taylor display GreenPointe Communities' seven Laurel awards from the Northeast Florida Builders Association's Sales and Marketing Council.**

Through varied, uncluttered methods of navigation, each click of the mouse leads the viewer through gateways of discovering the community and Northeast Florida. The website, [www.TrailMarkLiving.com](http://www.TrailMarkLiving.com), demonstrates the blend of nature with everyday living, elevating the dream of home ownership.

TrailMark's SummerPalooza promotional event showcased the community's family and recreation-first lifestyle. TrailMark welcomed everyone to join residents, builders and local merchants for a day of family fun and celebration. With more than 1,500 attendees, the event included live music, a farmer's market, a chainsaw carver demonstration, a bungee ride, human hamster ball game, a 70-

foot obstacle course, inflatables, face painting, food trucks, model home tours and giveaways. The event increased community awareness, generated hundreds of leads for the builders and provided a way to kick off summer for everyone.

GreyHawk's logo complements the community's natural setting. Its motto, "Room to Soar," reflects the essence of the GreyHawk, where families "can ascend to a new level of living and spread their wings in this new master-planned community" near Branan Field Wildlife Area. With a target market of upward bound families with kids, the logo invokes feelings of renewal, active outdoor family recreation and the place to "find your perch."

# Shearwater offers first townhomes in new neighborhood

Shearwater, the new master-planned residential community on County Road 210 in St. Augustine, recently announced that David Weekley Homes has begun construction on one-story and two-story townhomes in The Cove neighborhood.

Shearwater's first multi-family project ranges in size from approximately 1,563 to 2,543 square feet with two to three bedrooms and two to three bathrooms.

David Weekley Homes builds townhomes designed for all families, single professionals and downsizers. According to developer Freehold Communities, these townhomes allow potential homebuyers to live a no-maintenance lifestyle, which is perfect for active families.

"We have partnered with one of the nation's top builders, David Weekley Homes, because of their commitment to their customers," said Suzanne Maddalon of Freehold Communities. "The David Weekley townhomes in The Cove



Rendering courtesy of Freehold Communities

**A rendering shows the plans for Shearwater townhomes in the new neighborhood, The Cove.**

showcase Shearwater's dedication to providing prospective homebuyers with quality home styles and designs that fit all lifestyles."

Potential homebuyers have three different options for floor plans. The first option is The Barnes, a single-story townhome

with an open living room, dining room and kitchen featuring extra windows. The second option is The Megan, a two-story townhome with an open great room on the first floor and the kitchen with owner's retreat on the second floor, featuring optional balconies.

The third option is The Alton, a two-story townhome with an open living room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor and two bedrooms, a bathroom, the laundry room and the owner's retreat on the second floor. In addition, each townhome will have a two-car garage, 9-10-foot high ceilings, private entry and open-concept living spaces throughout.

David Weekley townhomes start in the mid-\$200,000s and are for sale now, with estimated summer occupancy.

Shearwater is located at 206 Shearwater Parkway in St. Augustine. To learn more about Shearwater, visit the Kayak Club, located at 100 Kayak Way in St. Augustine, or visit [www.shearwaterliving.com](http://www.shearwaterliving.com).

Shearwater offers home designs from D.S. Ware Homes, Drees Homes, David Weekley Homes, Lennar, Richmond American Homes, MasterCraft Builder Group, Dream Finders Homes and Toll Brothers.

Welcome Home!

193 ST JOHNS FOREST BLVD.



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158 HIDDEN PALMS LN. U#202



Beautiful 3 BD, 2.5 BA condo with over 2,300 sq.ft. of living space. Located in Portofino at Ponte Vedra, a gated community that offers superior concrete block construction, 10 ft ceilings, 2 car attached garage & hurricane shutters. **MLS# 980057 / \$498,000**

7835 HEATHER LAKE CT E



Beautifully maintained and updated Deer Creek Country Club home featuring 4 BD, 3.5 BA and over 2,400 sq.ft. of living space. The new screened lanai is fantastic with a fabulous heated pool, spa and plenty of room to entertain. **MLS#980047 / \$440,000**

227 NORTH ROSCOE BLVD.



You'll love the endless water views this pool home has to offer! Located directly on the Intracoastal Waterway featuring 5 BD, 4.5 BA, over 4,700 sq.ft, a new boat lift and floating dock. **MLS# 973337 / \$1,390,000**

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# Ponte Vedra Beach featured in Where to Retire Magazine

Where to Retire Magazine has selected Ponte Vedra Beach as a top retirement destination.

Ponte Vedra Beach is profiled in a feature titled "8 Cities on (or Near) the Beach" in the March/April 2019 issue, available nationwide now.

Where to Retire Editor Annette Fuller said that these eight coastal locales are attractive to retirees.

"Ocean views and dips in the sea can be balms for the soul," Fuller said. "These eight cities beckon retirees with sunny shores, water vistas and plenty of aquatic activities. Ponte Vedra Beach in Northeastern Florida is well-known for its fabulous golf greens, but its access to the Atlantic



Photo courtesy of Kathryn Worrall

Ocean and Intra-coastal Waterway is a huge perk for boaters, fishermen and others. World-class tennis facilities, various cultural offerings and the Sawgrass Village shopping center add to the city's assets."

Where to Retire, now in its 27th year of print, is published six times a year. The magazine covers the best retirement regions, towns and master-planned communi-

ties, and recently released its sixth edition of "America's 100 Best Places to Retire." It has a national circulation of 200,000 and is sold on various newsstands and at Barnes & Noble bookstores. A one-year subscription is \$18.

## Devereaux

Continued from 23

### Asking the right questions in the home buying process

A crucial — but often overlooked — step in the home buying process is to assess the space's Wi-Fi capabilities. Many homes, even those built in the last 20 years, may lack the necessary components for speedy Wi-Fi due to the huge leap in technology in recent decades.

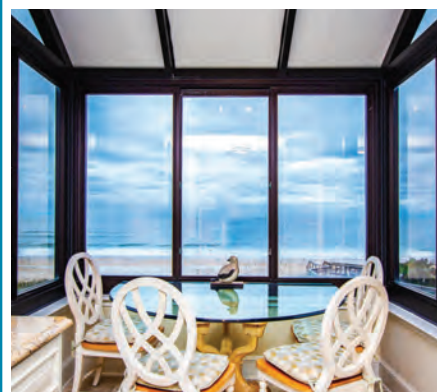
Seek out homes that have the infrastructure to maintain a steady connection. Many current homebuilders work to anticipate potential issues before move-in. For example, Lennar brings in a third party to "heat map" every unique

floorplan, ensuring all of the company's new homes are Wi-Fi CERTIFIED. This process allows the company to properly identify how many WAPS are needed and exactly where they should be installed for corner-to-corner coverage.

While it may not be the first thing you worry about in the home buying process, be sure to consider the capabilities of your new space. This way, you can assure that your Wi-Fi remains strong — and that your telecommute will remain productive and painless in your new home.

**Matt Devereaux is the division president of Lennar Jacksonville. Founded in 1954, Lennar is the only home builder nationally certified with the Wi-Fi Alliance. To learn more, visit Lennar.com.**

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REVIEW

# PVHS theater department performs 'Our Town'

By John Lancaster

Special to the Recorder

The Ponte Vedra High School theater department showcased its production of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" last weekend.

Directed by the head of the drama department, Jason Nettle, the play in three acts tells the story of two young lovers and their journey through life in a small town. Although the couple has troubles, by the end they realize what is really important.

The local high school's rendition of Thornton Wilder's masterpiece opened with a rustic stage setting lined with numerous picture frames. The set design of antique furniture and pastoral clothing set a proper precedent for the environment of a conservative midwestern American town.

Junior Mason Ebert played several roles, acting as the stage manager and narrating the play for the audience. Ebert was perfect for the job as he carefully articulated each line, depicting beautiful scenery, and even hopped in as other characters during the play.

Sophomore Kathleen Vergnolle and junior Graham Corbett acted as the main characters — Emily Webb and George Gibbs, respectively. Vergnolle and Corbett both encapsulated the play's themes of love and pain. The connection between the characters felt not only



Photos by John Lancaster

genuine, but tender as well. The powerful wedding scene provided insight to the challenges of marriage and hinted at the struggles to come for the characters.

Other noteworthy performances came from junior Jasmine Hurt acting as Mrs. Gibbs, and seniors Sebastian Carson as Dr. Gibbs, Sydney Scott as Mrs. Webb and Ty Lewin as Mr. Webb.

In the program guide, Nettle snuck in a letter for the audience to be opened after the show. In this letter, he justified his choice of the rather somber play.

"The dead in the show realize that we waste our time on earth because we're too busy 'living' and missing what's



important ... Don't waste any of your moments," Nettle wrote.

The seemingly somber play presents a realistic and ultimately positive outlook that still resonates today more than 80 years after its original publication.

Ponte Vedra High School's drama department will present its next production, "Seussical," April 11 to 14.

*John Lancaster is a student at Ponte Vedra High School.*

# Florida Chamber Music Project to feature works of Schumann March 10 at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The Florida Chamber Music Project (FCMP) will feature four of Robert Schumann's works at their March 10 concert at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. They will be joined by pianist Hyunsoon Whang for Schumann's Piano Quartet in E flat major.

"We are excited to be joined by pianist Hyunsoon Whang for this concert," said Susan Pardue, FCMP artistic director. "We will be taking advantage of this and featuring her in three solo pieces by Schumann to start the program. We will then join forces for Schumann's lovely piano quartet."

Korean-American pianist Hyunsoon



Hyunsoon Whang

Whang is an active performer and a dedicated teacher. Since the age of 12, she has performed hundreds of concerts in the United States,

Canada, Europe, Iceland, Japan and Korea. She studied at the North Carolina School of the Arts, the St. Louis Conservatory, The Juilliard School and earned a doctorate from Indiana University under the tutelage of legendary György Sebök. A recipient of Oklahoma Governor's Arts and Education Award, Whang holds the McMahon Endowed Chair in Music at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Show tickets may be purchased at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Offices, all Ticketmaster outlets, individual ticket purchase link and by phone at (800) 745-3000.

FCMP was founded five years ago. Violist Susan Pardue serves as the artistic director. Joining her are violinists Patrice Evans, Anna Genest and Annie Hertler and cellist Laurie Casseday. All are members of the Jacksonville Symphony.

The final FCMP concert of the season will be May 5.

Follow Florida Chamber Music Project on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@FLChamberMusic). Visit them online at [flchambermusic.org](http://flchambermusic.org).

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## St. Augustine Community Chorus to celebrate 70th anniversary with gala party and concerts for public

A milestone has arrived in the performing arts in St. Augustine, with the St. Augustine Community Chorus celebrating its 70th year/season and hosting a gala benefit and two concerts to honor it in March — claiming ownership of being the oldest performing arts organization in the historic city.

“We are delighted to be at this great age as an organization and continuing to provide relevant, joyful musical entertainment for this city that so embraces music in all forms,” said Lynn Abjornson, president of the St. Augustine Community Chorus. “We love that there are so many talented musicians turning 70 this year including Bruce Springsteen, Bonnie Raitt, Billy Joel, and Lionel Richie — great music is enduring, and singing is a lifelong pleasure.”

The public can attend one of three events to be part of the festivities: a gala dinner, dancing and silent auction event on March 8 at Riverview Club in St. Au-

gustine Shores; or two concerts on March 16 or 17 at Lewis Auditorium, all with the St. Augustine Orchestra in a shared program.

“I Hear America Singing” is the name of the concerts that will be jointly conducted by Maestros Mike Sanflippo and Scott Gregg. The program includes music by iconic American composers such as Bernstein, Copland, Gershwin and Berlin, as well as folk tunes and recently composed pieces. Classics that will be performed include selections from “West Side Story” and “Porgy and Bess,” and several of Irving Berlin’s greatest hits: “There’s No Business Like Show Business;” “Puttin’ On The Ritz;” “Blue Skies” and “God Bless America!” The public will also hear Aaron Copland’s quintessential piece, “Lincoln Portrait.”

“This program was conceived as a celebration of Americana,” said Mike San-

**CHORUS** continues on **Page 34**



Photo courtesy of Molly Sweet

**The Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville will be performing a free concert on March 3 at St. Paul’s by the Sea Episcopal Church.**

## Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville to host free concert March 3 at St. Paul’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

On Sunday, March 3, the Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville will make its debut to the Beaches community in a performance at St. Paul’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church that celebrates music of the seas.

From Handel’s “Water Music” to Smetana’s depiction of the Moldau River, the orchestra has curated a unique program rounded out by “Emergence,” an original work written by the orchestra’s artist-in-residence, Anne McKennon. The free concert will take place at 5 p.m.

Under the leadership of conductor Dr. Marguerite Richardson, the orchestra members donate their time and talent to engage

thousands of listeners each year. Since the inception of the orchestra in 2016, the 60-person group of volunteer musicians has played in some unique venues, such as the Jacksonville Zoo, Manifest Distilling, Intuition Ale Works and MOSH.

The members of the Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville believe that a symphonic music revolution is possible and see a future where orchestras are not confined to the symphony hall and where anyone can enjoy and appreciate this art form on their own terms.

All concerts are free, family-friendly and open to the community.

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# St. Johns Cultural Council to hold ROWITA Awards Celebration March 31

The St. Johns Cultural Council will hold the 10th annual Recognizing Outstanding Women in the Arts (ROWITA) Awards Celebration on Sunday, March 31 at 3 p.m. at the Limelight Theatre in St. Augustine.

The free event will honor the six women chosen to receive the 2019 Dr. Gail Pflaster ROWITA Award for their contributions to the artistic environment in St. Johns County. The 2019 honorees are Dr. Dorothy Barrett, Margaret Jameson, Linda McAnarney, Regina Gayle Phillips, Dr. Susanne Schuenke and Jo Sinclair.

Barrett volunteers with the St. Augustine Orchestra, the EMMA Concert Association and the string instrument programs at The Webster School, Sebastian Middle School and St. Augustine High School Center for the Arts.

Jameson is the founding member of Clay Network, a Northeast Florida nonprofit that provides educational opportunities, contributes to charitable causes in the community and supports the Clay Network's membership by providing sales opportunities, group support and mentoring.

McAnarney is the visual art teacher at Julington Creek Elementary School. She

has cultivated collaborations with the Flagler College Art Department, the Mayo Clinic, Compassionate St. Augustine and local artists.

Phillips originally came to the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center as a volunteer. Within a short time, the Museum's Board of Directors recognized her as having the skills to promote and expand the museum. Under her leadership as the museum's director, the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center has become a vibrant and historical place to attend concerts, historical presentations and cultural discussions.

Through Schuenke's work as a writer/illustrator, curator of exhibitions for local organizations and lecturer/teacher at Flagler College and The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, she has imparted her belief that art enriches every human's life.

Sinclair has shared her passion for creative encounters throughout her diverse career as a professional artist and as an art educator of youth and adults at Flagler College, Ketterlinus Elementary School, The Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach, Butterfield Garage Gallery and other local organizations.

The Jr. ROWITA Fellowship will also be awarded during the celebration. The Fellowship is a scholarship for graduating high school women who intend to develop their artistic skills through continued study and training. A meet and greet reception will follow the afternoon program.

The Dr. Gail Pflaster ROWITA award recognizes the impact and influence women have made to the literary, visual and performing arts in St. Johns County. The idea for the award was conceived by the late Dr. Pflaster, a local writer and committed arts supporter.

"There was no one in the community celebrating our local women arts leaders, so Dr. Pflaster and I created ROWITA," said Joy D'Elia, St. Johns Cultural Council ROWITA program Coordinator. "The ROWITA award identifies women who have inspired and vitalized our arts community in St. Johns County through their art and actions. I am constantly amazed and inspired by the women we have honored each year."

Nominations for the ROWITA awards come from the general public. For more information, call the St. Johns Cultural Council at (904) 808-7330.

## Chorus

Continued from 33

flippo, who has been conducting the Chorus since 2015. "I Hear America Singing' is also a great theme for our concert, as choral singing continues to be the most popular form of participation in the performing arts in the U.S., with approximately 12,000 professional and community choruses in the country."

Mitch Kolesaire, board chairperson of the St. Augustine Orchestra, which is in its 57th season, expressed his delight in performing their first collaborative concerts with just the St. Augustine Community Chorus.

"I think it will be tremendous for the public to see and hear the Chorus and Orchestra onstage together with such a powerful voice and inspiring delivery," he said.

Tickets are on sale now for the gala and concerts at saosacvents.ticketleap.com. Information on the Chorus is available at [www.staugustinecommunitychorus.org](http://www.staugustinecommunitychorus.org); information about the Orchestra is available at [staugustineorchestra.org](http://staugustineorchestra.org). The St. Augustine Orchestra was just awarded the Best Large Band/Orchestra award in FOLIO Weekly's first "Best Of St. Augustine" readers' poll.

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## Nease girls advance to state semis

By Hannah Favorite

Special to the Recorder

The Nease girls basketball team defeated Booker T. Washington 65-44 Friday, Feb. 22 in the regional finals at home. With the win, the Lady Panthers advance to the state semifinals in Lakeland, where they will play Fort Myers on Friday, March 1, at noon.

Leading Nease to victory against Booker T. Washington was captain and senior Kiya Turner, who scored 24 points. Camille Hobby added 20 points.

*Hannah Favorite is a student at Nease High School.*



**ABOVE: The Nease girls basketball team gathers after beating Booker T. Washington in the regional finals on Feb. 22 at home. The Lady Panthers will play Fort Myers in the state semifinals on March 1.**

**LEFT: Camille Hobby takes the ball down the court. She finished with 20 points in the win against Booker T. Washington.**

Photos by Hannah Favorite

## Sharks top Panthers in lacrosse

The Ponte Vedra High School boys lacrosse team beat Nease on Tuesday night, 19-2, in the annual rivalry between the teams.

Tony Rossi and Dylan Hess led the Sharks in goals with four and three, respectively. Cam Welch, Freddie Amato and Carter Parlette each had two goals. Parlette also had three assists. The tandem of Jimmy Burns and Andrew Ewalt won 20 of 22 faceoffs.

After previous wins over Gulf Breeze and Mandarin, the Sharks were 3-0 as of Wednesday. The team played Fleming Island on Wednesday night before this edition of the Recorder went to the printer. Ponte Vedra hosts Woodward on Friday, March 1 at 7 p.m. at the Shark Tank.

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# Anne Nimnicht honored with Deane Beman Award

Others recognized at 7th annual 'Celebration of Golf Banquet'

It was a full house at the San Jose Country Club on Tuesday, Feb. 19, when a crowd of 250 people attended the seventh annual "Celebration of Golf Banquet" to honor Elizabeth "Anne" P. Nimnicht, who received the Deane Beman Award, and numerous other 2018 winners and award recipients.

Nimnicht holds the distinction of being the only person to chair events on the three main tours of the PGA TOUR — the PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions and the Web.com Tour. Born in Gainesville, she attended Jacksonville University and never left the First Coast, where she met her future husband, Billy Nimnicht. A large contingent of family members, tennis companions and friends from the golf community were on hand to honor their friend. Nimnicht, the first female chairperson of THE PLAYERS (1997), was introduced by fellow PLAYERS Championship "Redcoat" Mike Hartley.

Nimnicht is the fifth recipient of the Beman award, following in the footsteps of Deane Beman (2014), Herb Peyton (2015), John Hayt (2016) and Joe Louis Barrow, Jr. (2017). The award was named for the former PGA TOUR commissioner who brought the PGA TOUR to Ponte Vedra Beach more than 40 years ago. It recognizes a lifetime of contributions to professional golf and other community-benefitting activities.

Longtime First Coast resident, Nease High School graduate and two-time PGA Tour winner Len Mattiace was the evening's guest speaker. In a question and answer format conducted by 2018 Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) Director of the Year and former PGA TOUR executive Duke Butler III, Mattiace talked about the impact junior golf in North Florida has had on him. He also discussed his highs, lows and lessons learned as a PGA TOUR member, as well as his dedication to helping others, particularly those impacted by bullying in his adopted hometown of Jacksonville.

Dennis Walters, who will be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame this summer at the U.S. Open, also attended as a special guest. A paraplegic since 1974, Walters shared stories about his unique and inspirational life in golf and answered questions from attendees prior to the start of the banquet, with his trusty dog and sidekick, Bucky, seated next to him. On hand to support their longtime friend were former TOUR winners Billy Maxwell and Bob Dickson.

The banquet is co-sponsored by the Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) and the Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA, and supported by the Jacksonville Women's Golf Association,



Photos courtesy of JAGA

Anne Nimnicht gathers with her family after being presented with the Deane Beman Award at the Celebration of Golf Banquet on Feb. 19 at San Jose Country Club.



Soon-to-be World Golf Hall of Fame inductee Dennis Walters and Bucky pose for a picture at the banquet.



ABOVE: Longtime First Coast resident, Nease High School graduate and two-time PGA Tour winner Len Mattiace serves as the event's guest speaker.

LEFT: JWGA President Suzanne LaPlante with Championship Award winner Therese Quinn

The First Tee of North Florida and the North Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. The event was a sellout affair for the fourth year in a row.

Other groups represented were the North Florida Junior Golf Foundation, the PGA TOUR, THE PLAYERS Championship and many from its "Redcoat" leadership group, along with area golf clubs and officials.

Brent Martineau, sports director of Action News Jax and a strong supporter of golf on all levels in Jacksonville, served as the emcee for the third time.

In addition to Nimnicht, the following

people and organizations were recognized:

## Jacksonville Women's Golf Association Award (presented by Suzanne LaPlante, President/JWGA)

- 2017-18 JWGA Championship Award – Therese Quinn

## 2018 JAGA Awards (presented by Randy Nader, President/JAGA)

- Club Executive of the Year – Greg Sheara (Timuquana Country Club)
- Community Service Award – Jeff Willoughby (The First Tee of North Florida)

- Director of the Year – Duke Butler III (TPC Sawgrass)
- Earl Kelly Long Time Service Award – Tom Dudley (Timuquana Country Club)
- Professional of the Year – Ray Barr, Jr. (Jacksonville Golf & Country Club)

## Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA Awards (presented by Tim Cooper, Chapter President)

- PGA Professional of the Year – Russ Libby (Hidden Hills Golf Club)
- Teacher of the Year – Byran Kipnis (Eagle Harbor Golf Club)
- Assistant of the Year – John Grzybek (The Plantation at Ponte Vedra)
- Superintendent of the Year – Jeff Plotts (TPC Sawgrass)
- Senior Player of the Year – Brad Rolinson (Ponte Vedra Beach)
- Player of the Year – Bob Wallace (Ponte Vedra Inn & Club)
- Amateur of the Year – Jeff Adams (TPC Sawgrass & JAGA)

Timuquana Country Club superintendent Alan Brown was called on to reflect on the activities and 2018 highlights of the North Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, while Jacksonville Golf & Country Club head professional Ray Barr Jr. introduced three elite golfers from his club who achieved a milestone in JAGA history in 2018 when they became the first winners from the same club to capture JAGA's three men's "majors" in the same year. They are: John Lobb/62nd Senior Amateur, David Wicks/9th Match Play Championship and Davis Roche/57th Jacksonville Amateur.

Chairing the banquet this year were JAGA's Michael McKenny of Timuquana Country Club, with administrative coordination provided by JAGA director and PGA Northern Chapter member Kevin

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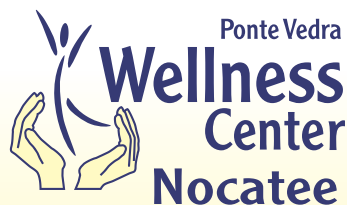
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Ponte Vedra wrestling senior captain Troy Maritato stands atop the podium after winning the district title at 182 pounds class for the Sharks. He will be competing in the Regional Tournament on March 1 in Tallahassee.

Photo courtesy of Rich Maritato

## 6 Sharks grapplers advance to regional tournament

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, Ponte Vedra High School completed its most successful 2A-4 District wrestling tournament in several years, as six Sharks wrestlers advanced to the 2A Regional Championships to be held in Tallahassee on March 1.

The Sharks will be led by senior co-captain and district champion Troy Maritato at 182 pounds. Maritato won his title by coming back from an early 4-0 deficit to defeat St Augustine's Ryan Murphy by a final score of 8-6.

Ethan Baur at 145 pounds completed a solid regular season (31-12), finishing second in the district. Freshmen Mikey Stephens at 113 pounds and Julian Villegas at 106 pounds placed third.

Completing the list of region qualifiers

were Alex de Almeida at 138 pounds and Rett Maritato at 152 pounds, who both finished fourth in the district.

Wrestlers who finish fourth or better in the Regional Championships will qualify for the state wrestling tournament in Kissimmee on March 8.

"The boys performed well at the district tournament," said Ponte Vedra wrestling head coach Josean Gonzalez. "I would have liked the whole team to advance to the regional tournament, but this is our first step to becoming a competitive program. The increased difficulty of the schedule definitely made a difference this season. We have to really lock in and kick up the intensity this next week to prepare for regionals."

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