

Celebrating 50 years of the

PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

September 12, 2019

Volume 47, No. 140

75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com



DORIAN SKIRTS



Having experienced the wrath of hurricanes past, Floridians mobilize to provide aid and comfort to those who were in the direct path of Hurricane Dorian.

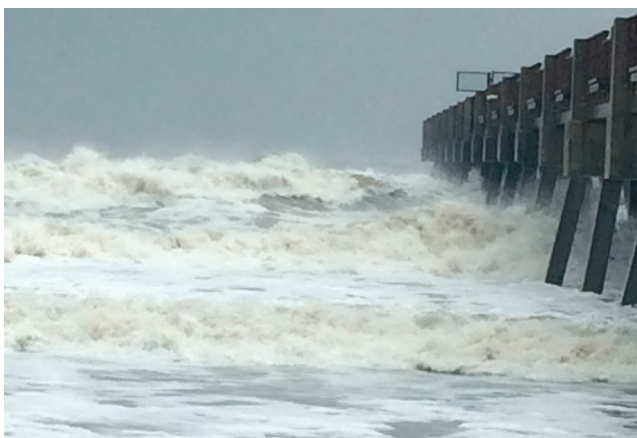


MORE COVERAGE INSIDE:

'Tryin' to reason' with unpredictable hurricane season, *Page 5*

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Area residents help those in Bahamas, *Pages 11-12*



FIRST COAST

Photos by Susan Griffin



CHEERS TO 50 YEARS!
Help us celebrate
Page 4



Ponte Vedra Auto Show Preview
Pages 13-28



Look for 9/11 remembrance coverage in next week's issue

CAR OF THE WEEK

2018 MERCEDEZ-BENZ C300 AMG LINE SEDAN

8,936 MILES, LOADED
STK# 11662

PRICE \$30,900

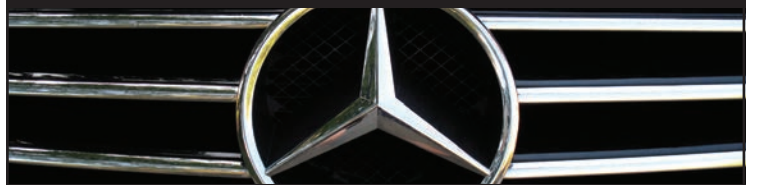


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One of Us

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

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

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email answer to pvrecorder@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.

Six readers correctly identified last week's photo as the sign for Painting with a Twist. The winner by random draw was **Vito Augusta**. Congratulations, Vito — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Thomas was picked up and brought to the Pet Center as a stray. He is a



5-month-old male domestic shorthair with lots of personality. This handsome boy loves to chase his toys, loves to purr loud and be cuddled. Come see Thomas today at the Pet Center. #51065



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hank came to the Pet Center as an owner surrender. He is a neutered, 4-year-old male shephard/lab mix. He is house-trained, loves to play fetch, play in the water and has

lots of energy and affection to give. Come see Hank today at the Pet Center. #44614

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

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

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

discover membership

JACKSONVILLE ZOO AND GARDENS

Learn more at jacksonvillezoo.org/membership

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Oceanfront Retreat

Built to take advantage of the captivating water views and north of Mickler's Landing, this 4,878 property includes a pool and new roof (2017). With 150 ft. of ocean frontage this 1.45-acre lot is the ideal place to make your private beach retreat.

6 bedrooms, 6.5 baths \$3,750,000



Panoramic Views

Panoramic Views
With the Guana River to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, this oceanfront home offers stunning panoramic views. Built with top engineering designs, this home thoughtfully merges comfort with sustainability.

7 bedrooms, 7.5 baths \$2,950,000



Most Desired Oceanfront Location in NE Florida
Las Mirandas / Oceanfront Condo

This first-floor fully furnished unit was totally renovated with the finest finishes & craftsmanship. Includes an office, staurnia floors, mahogany doors & built-in custom cabinetry.

2 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms + powder room \$1,650,000



A Sophisticated and Luxurious Retreat on Ponte Vedra Blvd
Ponte Vedra Beach/ Oceanfront

This impressive oceanfront home reflects that magical merging of beach living and architecture. Situated on 220ft of Oceanfront this estate is a masterpiece of design and allows owners the ultimate beach living experience.

4 bedrooms, 5 and 3 1/2 bathrooms \$7,995,000



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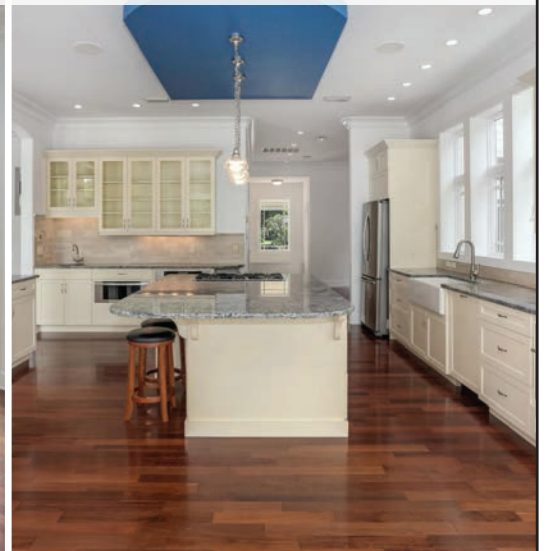
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1102 A1A N, Unit 108 | Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
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For more information about these works, the artists, or other works, contact Bob Nickerson at First Coast Artists at 904.280.8187.



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Cheers to 50 Years!

Milk, bread and the Ponte Vedra Recorder

By Christine Rodenbaugh

In 1969, a gallon of milk was \$1.10, a loaf of bread was 23 cents and a subscription to the Recorder was \$5 by mail. Prices have gone up in 50 years, but from where we sit, a subscription to the Recorder is still a great value at \$35. (Forgive the shameless plug.)

The first issue of the Ponte Vedra Recorder published Nov. 7, 1969. To celebrate the wit, wisdom and history of the Recorder's readership, newspaper staff is eager to learn about and share your clippings from past issues. So, look in the attic or in those boxes tucked away at the back of the closet to find past issues of the paper. Maybe you have a scrapbook with clippings of family weddings, births or graduations. Was a friend or family member honored for playing sports, volunteering or engaging in politics? Whatever the subject, if you have pages from or complete issues of past Ponte Vedra Recorders, contact the staff at pvrecorder@opcfla.com. You can scan take pictures of pages or clippings and send them in. Or, stop by the office and we'll capture the images for you.



BRIEFS

St. Johns County Tentative Millage Rate and Budget Hearing rescheduled

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners' tentative millage rate and budget hearing originally scheduled for Sept. 3 has been rescheduled for 5:01 p.m. Sept. 12 at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View.

Planning and Zoning Agency meeting

Due to Hurricane Dorian, the regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 5 was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19 at the County Administration Building.

Recreation Advisory Board meeting canceled

Due to Hurricane Dorian, the September Recreation Advisory Board's monthly meeting has been canceled. The next meeting will be in October at the County Administration Building. These meetings are open to the public. For more information, meeting agendas and minutes, visit www.sjcf.us/Recreation/AdvisoryBoard.aspx.

Outpost transmittal hearing set for Sept. 17

On Sept. 17, the Board of County Commissioners will host a transmittal hearing to vote on a recommendation to the state for a land use change from conservation to residential on the Outpost property. The hearing is following a Planning and Zoning meeting which voted in favor of recommending to the board an approval. The transmittal hearing will be held at the St. Johns County Auditorium in the County Administration Building at 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine. The time is yet to be announced.

Weed and Seed Program/Weed and Seed Steering Committee meeting

The St. Johns County Weed and Seed Program/Weed and Seed Steering committee meeting is scheduled from noon to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 19 in the BCC Executive Conference Room located in the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss Weed & Seed issues and any other business of the committee.

St. Johns County Building Services hotline for residents with structural damage

St. Johns County activated a hotline for residents and business owners with concerns regarding property and structural damage due to Hurricane Dorian. If you have storm-related structural damage or permitting questions, call the St. Johns County Building Services Structural Hotline at (904) 827-6836.

Delicious Destinations rescheduled

The 18th annual Delicious Destinations event was rescheduled for Sept. 20-21 due to Hurricane Dorian.

The food and wine event was originally scheduled for Sept. 6 and 7. The Celebrity Chef by the Sea luncheon will now take place Friday, Sept. 20, with the VIP reception and main event taking place on Saturday, Sept. 21. Both events will be at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

The event benefits St. Vincent's Community Outreach Programs. The St. Vincent's Foundation is a faith-based charity that strives to meet the health needs of the sick and poor.

For more information on Delicious Destinations, go to deliciousdestinationsjax.com.

Ponte Vedra Corp. proposes 3-year development delay for Outpost property

By Amber Lake

Ponte Vedra Corporation, a subsidiary of GATE Petroleum, recently announced it may allow for a three-year holding period for the development of Vista Tranquila, the 66-home community the company intends to build. The proposal could create the opportunity for nonprofit environmental organizations like the North Florida Land Trust to acquire the property for preservation purposes.

"We know that there is a desire by some to keep our property in its current state," said president of GATE Lands, Drew Frick. "Our proposal to delay any development on the property for three years allows those parties time to secure funding and purchase the land. If the funds can be raised to purchase the Outpost property, both those wanting to keep the property as is and PVC would achieve positive results from this process."

The corporation doesn't plan to withdraw the application for a land use change, however. The proposal would only allow for potential purchase of the 100 acres by a private preservation group or public entity, giving them time to secure funding for purchase prior to development. As it stands, the stay would commence following the approval of the Commission's vote to adopt the pending Comprehensive Plan Amendment application and Planned Unit Development rezoning application for the property. In addition, the PVC has not yet released what "a reasonable value" for the property would be,



Photo courtesy of Nicole Crosby

Ibis fly over Guana Lake near the Outpost in 2017.

although an appraisal would be valued higher for residential rather than conservation land.

The proposal for a three-year stay occurred after the Planning and Zoning hearing in August that recommended the board to approve the change to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment from conservation to Residential A for the Outpost. The agency voted 3-2 in favor, with PZA members Bill McCormick and Jeffrey Martin dissenting.

About 400 residents in opposition to the development attended the hearing, exceeding the maximum occupancy of the St. Johns County Auditorium, where the PZA meeting took place.

Nicole Crosby, cofounder of Save Guana Now, said the organization is still pushing for residents to email representatives and attend at the com-

mission meeting on Sept. 17.

"We do support acquisition of the Outpost property to preserve its environmental features and to protect the GTM," Crosby said. "However, we continue to oppose the change of designation of land use to residential. We would love to see the property acquired but we can't count on that happening."

The transmittal hearing for the Outpost property will be held on Sept. 17 at the St. Johns County Auditorium. The county has yet to release an exact time but will update the agenda on its website. Visit sjcf.us/county/AgendasMinutes.aspx for more information. Additionally, saveguananow.org will post the meeting time when announced, along with directions to the event and commissioners' email addresses for those interested in voicing opinions.



In an effort to save the structure, residents used tie-down straps over this home in South Ponte Vedra on A1A. Some of the straps are attached to fixed objects; others are attached to the Escalade in the driveway.



Power crews work to restore service along Roscoe Boulevard. Photos by Susan Griffin

'Tryin' to reason with hurricane season'



At 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4 the Usina Boat Ramp and fishing pier were flooded. High tide in the area was about 12:30 p.m.



Meehan's Irish Pub in downtown St. Augustine boarded up for the storm and left a message for Hurricane Dorian in Gaelic. The famous Irish saying, "póg mo thón," translates to kiss my arse.

By Christine Rodenbaugh

On Sept. 1, Hurricane Dorian wreaked havoc on the Bahamas making landfall as a Category 5 storm. According to the National Hurricane Center, it was the strongest in more than 80 years with sustained winds of up to 185 mph. At least 50 people in the Bahamas lost their lives, according to later reports.

Dorian was an unpredictable storm. It formed as a tropical depression Aug. 24 off the lesser Antilles in the Caribbean. Hours later it was a tropical storm. Four days later, the storm struck the U.S. Virgin Islands as a Category 1 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of up to 130 mph.

On Aug. 28, Dorian's track seemed to be headed for Puerto Rico and was anticipated to continue to Florida. Governor Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency. By declaring a state of emergency, Governor DeSantis ensured state and local governments would have ample time, resources and flexibility to prepare.

With hurricanes Matthew, Irma and Michael still fresh in Floridians' minds, preparations got underway. St. Johns County residents could fill up to 20 sandbags without charge at several locations. Businesses and homeowners boarded up windows, big box home stores sold out of generators, some gas stations ran out of fuel and water flew off grocery store shelves. Sunday, Sept. 1, the City of St. Augustine opened the downtown garage for free parking during the storm and the St.

Johns County Fairgrounds was opened for RV and boat storage and overnight stays without charge.

St. Johns County issued mandatory evacuation orders effective at 8 a.m. Monday, Sept. 2 for Evacuation Zones A and B as Hurricane Dorian continued to churn over the Bahamas moving just 30 miles northwest in 24 hours.

By 2 p.m. Tuesday, the storm seemed to be headed toward the Carolinas, skipping landfall in Florida. But coastal residents were still nervous. Hurricane Matthew never made landfall in Florida and still caused flooding and beach erosion in St. Johns County. Hurricane Dorian did indeed remain offshore and passed by St. Johns County as a Category 2 storm Wednesday, Sept. 4.

The ocean breached recently replaced dunes in Summer Haven within weeks of the multi-million-dollar project's completion. Just South of the Villages of Vilano, State Road A1A was closed briefly because waves broke through sand barriers and flooded the right of way. Public works crews pumped water from Porpoise Point Drive and it was dry by Friday. Assessment of beach erosion will continue through Sept. 20.

For now, Florida can breathe a sigh of relief and contribute to efforts to supply aid to the Bahamas and neighbors farther up the coast. Like the Jimmy Buffett song goes, we'll be "tryin' to reason with hurricane season" until it ends Nov. 30. So, keep supplies left over from Dorian on hand — just in case.

More Hurricane Dorian coverage, pages 10-12

Danielle Johnson Smith grew up in a military family allowing her to experience cultures outside of the United States. In her quest to understand “why we do what we do” she discovered how to change her own reality for the better. Currently, she seeks to share that knowledge with other First Coast women.

Danielle Johnson Smith

What can you share about your background?

That’s always a funny question for a child whose parent served in the military. The place that had the most impact on my life was Spain, where I lived for three years. Being exposed to different cultures and how others viewed life opened my eyes to another way and helped shaped who I am today. I also spent 19 years in a small town outside of Asheville North Carolina, until I decided to recreate my life and move to the beach in 2006.

How did you choose FSCJ?

As an out-of-state transfer student, FSCJ was very appealing because of the school’s flexible schedule, convenient locations, smaller classes and their well-versed and knowledgeable faculty.

Did you begin as a psychology major?

Yes. I have been obsessed with trying to understand human behavior and “why” we do what we do and psychology provided those answers. It was when I was exposed to belief systems and subconscious programming that I became attracted to the field of life coaching.

What was your path to becoming a life coach?

Over 10 years ago, I discovered Tony Robbins and my life completely changed. I learned I could change my reality by changing my belief system and breaking down old paradigms. It took many years to start tapping into my potential. What started out as a passion to learn about neuroscience and psychology led to studying emotions, feelings and thoughts. Once I learned how to effect change in myself, I naturally wanted to help anyone who felt that their circumstances were the reason they were not happy. It was exciting to help shift their perspective and see the results of that implementation.

It felt so surreal in 2017 when I attended a Tony Robbins event and became a firewalker. (Yes, it was scary!) I currently have five coaching certifications and am studying Neuro Linguistic Programming and Hypnotherapy to add to my practice.

Is “life coach” a recent career option?

I started my coaching business in January 2017. Many think that coaching is a new phenomenon due to all its social media exposure, but our history is rich with early thought leaders and



philosophers who were teaching people a new way of thinking and viewing the power of our thoughts. Napoleon Hill (1937) and Earl Nightingale (1957) are two of the earliest champions of this. For example, Hill outlines in “Think and Grow Rich” that our thoughts become things.

Is a life coach different from a therapist? How?

Absolutely. A therapist is a healthcare professional who can evaluate, diagnose and treat people with emotional and mental disorders. They also can help someone understand the “why” behind the problems often delving into childhood trauma and family dynamics in order to facilitate change and healing.

A life coach provides accountability, motivates, inspires and identifies the obstacles and thoughts that are holding someone back. We focus on the how to achieve results to reach any given goal. We start in the “here and now” and focus on the future.

Who should consider a life coach?

Of course, my favorite quote by Bill Gates is ... “Everyone needs a coach....” A life coach is a partner, someone who’s there for you through life’s most difficult and challenging times, to guide

you through and help you see things differently. We walk side-by-side co-creating a new path to your dreams and desires.

I help women through anything, big or small. I’ve inspired women who feel stuck, want to make a life change, work through relationship problems or feel like they are not living up to their full potential.

Although most life coaches can help anyone in a wide variety of challenges, we often choose a specialty that we are an expert in such as money, health, career, life purpose, relationships and more.

I personally specialize in helping women over 30 embrace, evolve and embody the women they are born to be. What brings me joy is helping women navigate dating, breakups and (interpersonal) relationships and working through being stuck to create a more fulfilling life. It’s very rewarding to see people light up with new information, strategies and change the trajectory of their current life situation.

How was your Hurricane Dorian experience different from other storms?

I have experienced four hurricanes, but this one I approached in a different manner. In years past I created a lot of

my own stress. This year I prepared everything, purchased healthy snacks, exercised to relieve stress and surrendered control.

What do you enjoy most about living in Ponte Vedra?

I love the small community atmosphere, the slower pace of life and the green landscape. We are in a great central location to St. Augustine and Jacksonville but still tucked away from the big city life.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I spend the majority of my free time listening to personal growth podcasts, doing HIIT workouts, biking to the beach and eating at our favorite local Mexican restaurant on Friday nights.

Would you like to tell us about your family?

I am very excited because in April I married my best friend, Bradley, on the beach. We are both online entrepreneurs committed to helping others realize their full potential in and around fitness, relationships and mindset. We are currently looking to adopt a rescue dog.

Edited by Christine Rodenbaugh

'Rummage for Riches' at Lord of Life Lutheran Church sale



Volunteers Rae Marzocchi (from left), Jennifer Sawyer and Hilda Markantonatos, sort piles of clothes for vintage lovers.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church will host its first rummage sale, "Rummaging for Riches," from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14 at 276 Roscoe Blvd. N in Ponte Vedra Beach.

"In this area there are always a lot of people moving in who discard goods as they redecorate, or who downsize as children leave home, return to family elsewhere, or take a job out of state," said Cindy Tanton, Church Council President. "So, we have a lot of merchandise that we will be selling in up to 10 different categories inside the church."

Shoppers can find kitchen and bathroom goods; pet-related items; clothing, shoes, accessories and jewelry; home décor, arts, crafts and holiday; children's stuff; furniture and books; hardware, tools, lawn, garden, sports; and electronics.

The rummage sale will be held rain or shine inside the

pavilion. The funds raised will go to the church's building campaign. The church has received all the local approvals necessary to build, and next steps include surveying and staking the area, and pouring the concrete foundation.

"If you need to furnish an apartment for your college-age child, this would be a great event to check out, or if you like reusing and recycling goods, we are sure you will uncover some super finds," Tanton said.

The first known use of the word "rummage sale" was in 1858 according to "The Merriam-Webster Dictionary." Amazingly, about 165,000 yard sales are held each week in the U.S., according to Signs.com.

For more information, email Alice McCrory, church secretary at info@lordoflifepvb.org or call (904) 285-5347 or email Sheila Kolesaire, church council member at skolesaire@gmail.com or call (973) 687-0188.

Ocean Palms PTO seeks to update aging play structure

The PTO at Ocean Palms Elementary School is swinging into the new school year with a goal that will keep children grounded in play. The plan — to raise approximately \$150,000 this year from school families, corporate sponsors, grants and generous community members to replace the current 15-year-old play structure that serves the more than 600 students at the school.

The play structure, which provides much-needed mental breaks, stress reduction and important physical exercise for students, is a big part of the children's school day. So, the PTO is sliding in with a grass-roots fundraising campaign. If the fundraising goal is reached this year, a new playground will be installed in summer 2020.

Find out how you can help by emailing committee chairs, Jennifer Werba at Jennifer.Werba@gmail.com or Stacy Rendzio at Stacy.Renzio@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy of Ocean Palms Elementary

Ocean Palms Elementary School PTO seeks to raise \$150,000 to replace the school's 15-year-old playground.

OBITUARIES

Jessica Elizabeth Morgan

Jessica Elizabeth Morgan, 69, of Jacksonville, died Aug. 30, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Robert "Bob" Bramblett

Robert "Bob" Bramblett, 86, died Aug. 27, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com



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Thursday, Sept. 12	Friday, Sept. 13	Saturday, Sept. 14	Sunday, Sept. 15
<p>Thirsty Thursday at Al's Pizza What's a better combination than pizza and beer? Every Thursday from open to close, Al's Pizza serves \$1.50 Yuengling Lager and house wines. Al's Pizza is located at 635 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Downtown Wine Down Downtown Jacksonville's rooftop bar at Cowford Chophouse will be hosting its "Downtown Wine Down" event from 3:30 to 9:30 p.m., Sept. 12. Listen and dance to live music from local group, The Band Be Easy, while enjoying food and drinks specials, as well as a giveaway for a \$100 Cowford Chophouse gift card and a complimentary sangria cocktail. The rooftop will be open to the event only and closed to the public until 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be found at www.EventBrite.com by searching for "Downtown Wine Down" by Cowford Chophouse. Cowford Chophouse is located at 101 E. Bay St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Blue Sky Golf Club's 5-year anniversary The Blue Sky Golf Club is celebrating five years in business and will be providing \$5 drink specials starting Sept. 12, through Sept. 15. Enjoy specials on multiple cocktails, appetizers and more. Blue Sky Golf Club is located at 1700 Monument Road in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Intro Series to Power Yoga Big Fish Yoga's "Intro Series" starts yoga practices off right. Join the Big Fish Teaching Team and assistants in the classroom to learn the basics of yoga postures and why this practice works to create strength and flexibility. Expect results and understanding of the practice in this 10-class series meeting Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For dates, pricing and more information, visit www.bigfishpoweryoga.com. Big Fish Power Yoga is located at 3852 S. Third St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p>Dine with the artists Dine with the Artists is a quarterly program held at the Cultural Center that features an artist talk, featured exhibit and of course, dinner. September's spotlight is on local artists, Bruce Carr, Jeanne Hollington, Vicky Lennon and Karen F. Rose and their current exhibition "Curatorial Choice," which is on display at the Cultural Center until Sept. 21. Guests will eat dinner with the artists amongst their creations. "Dine with the Artists" will be held Friday, Sept. 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. This event is open to the public. Ticket cost is \$90 per person and includes a full dinner. Donations are requested for adult beverages. Tickets can be purchased at www.ccpvb.org or by calling (904) 280-0614. Proceeds from dinner help to grow the Cultural Center's expanding exhibition calendar. The Cultural Center is located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Professional Networking Group meeting The Ponte Vedra Professional Networking Group schedules weekly meetings inside Fidelity Bank, where members network with each other and guests. Each member/guest will introduce themselves and one member will present about the businesses he/she represents. The next meeting is Sept. 13 at 8:45 a.m. Fidelity Bank is located at 110 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Sushi at JAX Cooking Studio Ever wanted to know the secrets to great sushi at home? Visit JAX Cooking Studio from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and learn how to make sushi rice and how to roll a variety of sushi on mat. The class will also discuss sauces and seasonings that are typically served alongside sushi. The menu includes Philadelphia rolls, spicy tuna rolls, crispy shrimp rolls and an accompanying salad with ginger vinaigrette. Registration for the class is \$65. To register or for more information, visit www.jaxcookingstudio.com. JAX Cooking Studio is located at 14035 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Veteran's Agent 5K at Nocatee Splash Park The Veteran's Agent 5k and Fun Run is dedicated to supporting the K9s for Warriors organization in Ponte Vedra. The goal is to raise \$27,000 to train and place a service dog with an American hero. The race will start at Nocatee Splash Park at 8 a.m., Sept. 14. Those racing should arrive by 7:30 a.m. To register for the 5K or for more information, visit www.veteransagent5k.org. K9s For Warriors provides service canines to "warriors" suffering from post-traumatic stress disabilities, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma as a result of military service after Sept. 11. Nocatee Splash Park is located at 245 Nocatee Center Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Roscoe Rummage Riches sale Lord of Life Lutheran Church will host a rummage sale with items from 10 categories including home decor, furniture, tools, outdoor, garden, electronics, children's items, pet items, kitchen, bathroom, clothes, accessories and more. Shop the church for bargains and items ranging from 25 cents to a few dollars. The sale is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., Sept. 14. Lord of Life Lutheran Church is located at 276 Roscoe Blvd. N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Marvel Trivia bar crawl Crawl with Marvel fanatics at Jax Beach's Marvel Trivita bar crawl from 4 p.m. to midnight, Sept. 14, at Jacksonville Beach. Play with teams from one to eight friends and go from bar to bar, answering a total of 100 trivia questions through the night. Check in between 4 and 6 p.m. at Sneakers Sports Grille. There will be a costume contest for best Marvel costume, raffles with prizes like tickets to future events, a professional photographer following every step of the way and a grand prize for the winning team. Not enough action? There will also be an after party hosted at Hoptinger from 10 p.m. to midnight, where the winners will be announced. For more information, visit www.crawlwith.us/jacksonvillebeach/marvel. Sneakers Sports Grille is located at 111 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p>Florida Chamber Music Project's seventh season opening The Florida Chamber Music Project will open its 2019-2020 season Sunday, Sept. 15, at 3 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. The opening show will feature Brahms and Mexican composer, Arturo Marquez. Brahms String Quartet No. 3, Opus 67 will be performed and paired with Arturo Marquez' Homenaje a Gismonti. Marquez often uses sounds and styles from his native home, Mexico, in his work. There will be a reception with the musicians following the concert. Season or individual show tickets may be purchased at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices or at www.TicketMaster.com. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>2019 Ponte Vedra Auto Show The St. Johns County SJC Chamber of Commerce will host the 17th annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show Sunday, Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Nocatee Event Field. The Auto Show, open and free to spectators, will feature up to 180 classic and new collector cars all vying for the show's 30 trophies. This year's show features a newly designed website, ready for entry registrations. Registration is \$50 per vehicle. Special anniversaries include the 30th anniversary of the Lexus, 60th anniversary of the Mini, 50th anniversary of the Porsche Mid-Engine, honoring the anniversary of the 914 and the 30th anniversary of the Land Rover Discovery. For more information, visit www.sjcchamber.com/pv-auto-show-info or call Lucia Miller at (904) 285-2004. Nocatee Event Field is located at 245 Nocatee Center Way in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>Sundays at Surfer the Bar On Sundays, join Big Fish Power Yoga for a free "music & flow" class at Surfer the Bar. The class is held upstairs 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 at www.bigfishpoweryoga.com. Surfer the Bar is located at 200 First St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>

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Monday, Sept. 16	Tuesday, Sept. 17	Wednesday, Sept. 18	Thursday, Sept. 19
<p>Southern Tea at Skinny Jax On third Mondays, Skinny Jax hosts an event that features demonstrations, beauty product samples, along with giveaways (limited supply), discounts and a drawing during the final hour. The September Southern Tea, beginning at 4 p.m., will offer live demonstrations and facial procedures, with a combination of multiple products, featuring representatives from the brands. For more information, contact Skinny Jax at (904) 999-0977. Skinny Jax is located at 1492 Third St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Go Kart week at Autobahn Indoor Speedway It's international go-kart week and the Jacksonville Autobahn is hosting a week fun specials for guest! Available all day Monday, Sept. 16, grab the entire crew and save for "The More People You Bring, the More You Save" deal. Bring friends and family out to race together and each person in the group will get \$2 off for each person in the group (up to max 50% off your purchase)! The Autobahn Indoor Speedway is located at 6601 Executive Park Court N. in Jacksonville</p> <p>Don Felder at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall welcomes renowned four-time Grammy-Award winning guitarist, Don Felder, Monday, Sept. 16, 2019. Don Felder is renowned as a former lead guitarist of The Eagles, one of the influential rock groups of their time. The band's record-setting compilation, "Their Greatest Hits (1971-1975)," sold over 29 million copies in the U.S. alone. A member of The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame since 1998, Felder served as a member of The Eagles for 27 years and co-wrote the band's biggest hit smash, "Hotel California." For tickets, visit www.ticketmaster.com. The show starts at 8 p.m. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p>Jax Beach classic car cruise Join car enthusiasts at this montly car show at the Sewalk Pavillion in Jacksonville Beach from 5 to 8 p.m., Sept. 17. Anyone that has a classic car they want to show off are welcome to cruise. For questions or more information, email info@betterjaxbeach.com. The Seawalk Pavillion is located at 75 First St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>First Coast Card Club playing date The First Coast Card Club will host its playing date at a St. Augustine games store at 2 p.m., Sept. 17. The event is free to attend with walk-ins and guests welcome. Refreshments will be provided. Call the club organizer at (904) 829-0643 to RSVP, the games store location or for more information.</p> <p>Bingo Tuesday with Mellow Mushroom Join Mellow Mushroom every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. for food, drinks, fun, and prizes. Grab some good friends and family, and get ready a groovy time. Stick around after for late-night happy hour specials. Mellow Mushroom is located at 1018-2 Third St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Florida Blue free Tuesday at the Cummer On Tuesday evenings 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 and the Cummer Café, which is also open for Tapas Tuesday. This event is sponsored by VyStar Credit Union. The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>\$1 Tuesdays for kids at Trasca & Co. Take the kids out to eat and save some money on Tuesdays at Trasca & Co. Eatery. Children eat for \$1 with the purchase of an adult entrée. The special works for dine-in, take-out and deliveries. For more information, call Trasca & Co Eatery at (904) 395-3989. Trasca & Co. is located at 155 Tourside Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p>Wednesday Pier Farmers Market On Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to noon, the Pier Farmers Market at the St. Johns County Pier offers fresh fruit, vegetables, bread and local arts and crafts, ranging from 60 to 80 different vendors. Visitors can find a variety of unique, quality goods from local businesses. After browsing, visitors can take a stroll along scenic St. Augustine Beach. The market helps the local economy by allowing local merchants to sustain their business and also offer fresh, local foods to the community. For more information, call (904) 315-0952. The St. Johns County Pier Park at the St. Johns County Ocean Pier is located at 350 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach.</p> <p>LGBTQ+ survivor support group The Women's Center of Jacksonville is providing an LGBTQ+ survivor support that is free and confidential to all. This is a peer-focused group and will be from 5 to 6 p.m., Sept. 18, at the Center. For more information, contact Alexa Parsons at (904) 722-3000 ext. 208. The Women's Center of Jacksonville is located at 5644 Colcord Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Coffee with Comrades Join fellow service men and women Sept. 18, and exchange memories at the Beach House Assisted Living & Memory Care for its "Coffee with Comrades" event on Wednesdays. Coffee and donuts will be served, along with memorable stories from military veterens. Coffee with Comrades starts at 1 p.m. The Beach House Assisted Living & Memory Care is located at 1315 Second Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Wine Wednesday Tasting: Blind Tasting Join Town Hall Jax, Wednesday, Sept.18, from 5 to 7 p.m. and enjoy guided tastings while guests discover wines from different regions. Cost is \$15 to attend and reservations are recommended. For more information, call Town Hall Jax at (904) 398-0726 or email hello@townhalljax.com. Town Hall Jax is located at 2012 San Marco Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Grief support group A griefs support group meets on the third Thursday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church, in Room 102 of the Family Life Center. The group is for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. For information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665. St. Paul's Catholic Church is located at 578 First Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Adult Coloring Club Adults are finding that coloring clubs can help reduce stress while meeting new people. Create new art and use the freedom of expression from 10 a.m. to noon, Sept. 19, while de-stressing and making a masterpiece. Supplies will be provided, so pick out a design and start coloring. For more information, call the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library at (904) 273-3990. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Tennessee Titans watch party at Engine 15 Join Jacksonville Jaguars fans at Engine 15 Brewing Company for the Thursday night game featuring long-time rivals, the Tennessee Titans. For every touchdown the Jags score, guests will receive a free beer card for Engine 15. The game starts at 8:20 p.m., Sept. 19. For more information, call Engine 15 at (904) 249-2337. Engine 15 Brewing Company is located at 1500 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Ancient City pint night Hoptinger in Jacksonville Beach is throwing an Ancient City pint night, with \$4 Ancient City brews and free merchandise. Pint night is from 7 to 9 p.m., Sept. 19. For more information, call (904) 222-0796. Hoptinger is located at 333 First St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to Daniela@opcfla.com or call (904) 686-3939.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Compiled by Daniela Toporek</p>

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Dorian pounds Ponte Vedra's beach!

Please contact our commissioners to make sure we get sand back on our beach!

Ponte Vedra's beach has lost a massive 2.5 million cubic yards of sand or 170,000 truckloads since the 1980s, and about 135 feet of width. There is now little public beach to enjoy at high tide and no protection against another severe hurricane season.

Please contact all five commissioners and ask for funds from the county's budget surplus to go toward Ponte Vedra Beach re-nourishment.

Jeremiah Blocker: bcc4jblocker@sjcfl.us;
 Henry Dean: bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us;
 James Johns: bcc1jjohns@sjcfl.us;
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Residents were evacuated Monday, Sept. 2 to Wednesday, Sept. 5 because of Hurricane Dorian's unpredictable path. Photos courtesy of Vicar's Landing

Vicar's Landing evacuates for Hurricane Dorian

Residents watch 'Gone with the Wind' rather than deal with hurricane force winds

By Amber Lake

Hurricane Dorian caused a commotion up and down the coast of Florida, but not for the residents of Vicar's Landing.

About 300 staff members and residents spent their time between Atlanta and Camp Weed in Live Oak, thanks to the evacuation preparations and planning by the retirement home community.

The threat of hurricanes can be especially devastating for the elderly and disabled, who are less able to leave their homes quickly and efficiently. In addition, the stress of the process can take a toll for those with memory decline who depend on routine. Because of recent

storms, this is not Vicar's first rodeo as it also provided a seamless evacuation process in 2016 for Hurricane Matthew and once before in 2014, when Ponte Vedra was put under a mandatory evacuation notice.

"This is something that obviously we drill on every year since hurricane threats are a big deal for us," said Vicar's Landing CEO Bruce Jones. "We have relationships with vendors and provide handicap wheelchairs bus service that we use for our health care folks."

Residents of the independent assisted living facility were transported by coach bus to an Atlanta hotel. Since reservations had been made in advance, the luggage was already in their rooms by the time the bus arrived. Good weather allowed excursions during the day, this year attending

VICAR'S continues on Page 12



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Local nonprofit delivers supplies to Bahamas

By Daniela Toporek

Jimbo Stockton is the founder of local nonprofit Adventures in God's Creations, a ministry that provides emergency assistance to those in crisis situations. When Hurricane Dorian drilled the Abaco Islands in the Bahamas Sept. 1, Stockton didn't think twice about helping. Stockton called volunteers from his ministry and he and his Island Crisis Flyers team flew to the islands to deliver not only supplies, but also hope.

"Island Crisis Flyers is part of Adventures in God's Creation ministry," Stockton said. "It's a sub ministry. We're a bunch of volunteers that are trying to help the Bahamian people right now in the middle of this crisis."

Stockton called ministry volunteer and Ponte Vedra local, Marzena Mignone, to help collect supplies that could be delivered to the islands. Mignone immediately rented a U-Haul truck and posted on Facebook that she was going to be at the Winn-Dixie shopping center accepting donations, not realizing she'd be flooded with responses the next day.

"It was just crazy. I woke up the next morning and I had 350 people share my post," she said. "I had never driven a 6-foot truck before, but I definitely have now."

Mignone started with one U-Haul truck to fill, but after the first day, she ended up with five.

"She's done a fantastic job," Stockton said. "She's been down on many mission trips, seen the smiles of the children's faces, supporting the Haitian village they call The Mudd. It's right in the middle



ABOVE: Volunteers sort and fill up plastic bins used for hurricane-relief supplies.

LEFT: Multiple U-Haul trucks rented by Mignone are filling up with supplies donated by Ponte Vedra residents.



Ponte Vedra local, Marzena Mignone, teamed up with Jimbo Stockton and his Adventures in God's Creation nonprofit to host a hurricane-relief drive Sept. 5 and 6.



Volunteers help stock the U-Haul trucks located at Winn-Dixie off Solana Road and A1A.

Photos by Daniela Toporek

of Marsh Harbour that got annihilated and is where the primary death toll is. Marzena has seen the people up close and personal and she just has a big heart to help."

Stockton is looking for another volunteer to rent and fill one more

U-Haul at the Seawalk Hotel in Jacksonville Beach and transport it to Stuart Jet Center in Stuart, Florida, the ministry's base for shipping supplies to the islands.

SUPPLIES continues on Page 12

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STORM DELAYS OPENING OF MICKLER'S WHARF



Photo by Christine Rodenbaugh

Because of mandatory evacuation notices and the unpredictable path of Hurricane Dorian, the construction barge at Mickler's Wharf was moved from the site at the end of Canal Boulevard on Sept. 2 and taken out of the water. "We strapped everything down on the pier just to be on the safe side," David Plummer of Outback Marine Construction said. Construction resumes this week, but the opening is delayed until later in October.

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Vicar's

Continued from 10

the Atlanta Botanical Gardens and the Gone with the Wind Museum. Afterward, they watched the movie.

"At Camp Weed we also take our health center activities staff, so they continue doing their exercise and cocktail socials with their regular activities scheduled," Jones said.

During the hurricane, the Vicar's Landing property sustained no damage. When the residents returned, the building was in full operation and dinner was being prepared.

Area aviation company aims to help hurricane victims in Bahamas

By Paris Moulden

While Florida may have escaped the wrath of Hurricane Dorian, the Bahamas was hit with a devastating blow from the Category 5 storm, particularly the areas of Abaco Islands and Marsh Harbour.

After seeing the devastation of the popular Caribbean island, Elliot Mintzer, president of MySky Aviation, felt compelled to help, and knew that many area residents would want to give back to a place that gave them so much enjoyment.

"Many residents in Ponte Vedra vacation and spend time in the Abacos," Mintzer said. "For all those times they've gone and made those memories, it's now a time for us to pull together as a community and really help the people who have allowed the residents of Ponte Vedra to have that experience."

MySky took its first load of donations over on Friday, Sept. 6, and plans to keep the efforts going as long as needed.

"There's no set number of runs, but we're going to keep going as long as we have items to take there," Mintzer said.

Several local businesses have donated

their aircraft to help, and those wanting to donate supplies can bring whatever they think can be used by those on the island, Mintzer said.

"They can bring whatever they feel works best for them," he said. "Any help helps."

So far, the death toll in the Bahamas was at least 50, and hundreds of people are displaced because of the storm. Mintzer believes this is the time for area residents who have enjoyed time in the Bahamas to show their appreciation for those affected.

"We've been organizing flights to the Bahamas for years," he said. "These are wonderful places to make memories with your family, and these people have been devastated. They basically had their lives ripped from them, and it's our chance to give back. It's a way to show we care for them and their family."

To donate, drop off supplies at Atlantic Aviation at the Northeast Florida Regional Airport in St. Augustine. To help fund the efforts, MySky also has a GoFundMe page for MySky Aviation Dorian Relief Supply Flights.



Photo courtesy of MySky Aviation

A Video screen grabs show a private plane being loaded with supplies on Friday, Sept. 6, at the Jacksonville Executive Airport to take to the Bahamas.

Supplies

Continued from 11

"This catastrophe is beyond imaginable and it's a whole new level of destruction down there," Stockton described the Abaco Islands after making a trip there

to deliver supplies over the weekend. "Everybody's shell shocked. They've gone through a nightmare, but there's resilience, where they want to see rebuilding take place."

To volunteer or donate to hurricane relief in the Bahamas, visit www.adventuresingodscreation.org.

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Welcome to the 2019 Ponte Vedra Auto Show

The St. Johns County (SJC) Chamber of Commerce will host the 17th annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show presented by Fields Auto Group on Sunday, Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Nocatee Event Field.

The Auto Show, which is open and free to spectators, will feature up to 180 classic and new collector cars all vying for the show's 33 trophies. Preregistration closed Wednesday, but day-of-show registration will be open Sunday from 7:30 to 9 a.m., first-come, first-served. The fee is \$50.

Four special anniversaries and one Memorial trophy will be showcased this year. Special anniversaries include the "30th Anniversary of the Lexus, 60th Anniversary of the Mini, 50th Anniversary of the Porsche Mid-Engine Honoring the Anniversary of the 914 and the 30th Anniversary of the Land Rover Discovery."



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"Best in Show" Porsche 914 50th Anniversary	Berry & Co. Real Estate
"Best in Show" 30th Anniversary of the Land Rover Discovery	Jaguar Land Rover Jacksonville
Porsche Jacksonville "For the Spirit of it!"	Porsche Jacksonville
"Spirit of Amelia"	Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance
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Florida Crown Region Best Contemporary Porsche	Florida Crown Region
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Most Outstanding Pony Car	O'Reilly Auto Parts
Best Contemporary Pony Car	All Florida Safety Institute
Most Outstanding Muscle Car	Ponte Vedra Wellness Center
Best Contemporary Muscle Car	The Morgan Company
Most Outstanding Corvette	T-Mobile
Best Contemporary Corvette	Allstate Insurance
Best of Britain	Pop-A-Lock
Most Original	Sensible Recycling
Euro Excellence Award	Ponte Vedra Recorder
Best Pro Tour Retro Rod	Atlantic Self Storage
Spirit of Racing	PURE Powersports
Judges Choice	Sight and Sound Productions
Best Preserved Interior	Bluebird Pharmacy
Best Restored Exterior	Eurospec
Asia Excellence Award	Florida Blue
Fast and Furious Award	iFLY Jacksonville
"Spirit of Nocatee" Golf Cart	Ponte Vedra Golf Carts
Hagerty "People's Choice Award"	Hagerty
Best of Autobahn	Fisher Tousey Leas & Ball

SHOW SCHEDULE: SUNDAY, SEPT. 15

- 7:30-9 a.m.** – Show cars check in
- 9 a.m.** – Auto Show opens
- 9:30 a.m.** – Judging begins
- 11:30 a.m.** – Awards announcements begin
- 3 p.m.** – Auto Show concludes

'Directing traffic'

Brad Raney to emcee the 2019 Ponte Vedra Auto Show

The Ponte Vedra Auto Show's master of ceremonies, Brad Raney, is an international speaker and author, management trainer and entrepreneur.

Raney's love of muscle cars started with his mother's 1966 Ford Mustang — pony seats, wood steering wheel, Ivy Green with a standard 289 engine that was upgraded to a 302 some years later. Brad got to drive it when he turned 16, mostly to impress the girls on dates. Brad later owned a Camaro Sport coupe — triple black including louvers and a killer sound system. (Yes, it was the mid-1980s!) More recently, Brad has been driving Acuras since 1991 — from the classic '92 Vigor to his current '07 RL fully loaded model.



Brad Raney

Raney's first book is about finding the perfect job and has sold on three continents. His latest book, "Reach YOUR Peak: Become CEO of Your Success!" is selling across the country in traditional and e-book formats. Raney is currently working on his third book between speaking at various businesses and gatherings around the U.S.

Raney has spoken to more than 100,000 people and was part of the successful Pink Slip Tour presented by Virgin Mobile, that made stops in Miami, Orlando, Jacksonville, Atlanta, Minneapolis and Detroit.

"I am just directing traffic, for lack of a better term," Raney said. "There are lot of guys out there with a lot of knowledge and I am just excited to be a part of it."

During the Ponte Vedra Auto Show, Raney will bring his knowledge of collector car auctions (Barrett Jackson and others) coupled with his love of luxury exotics (Lambos, Ferraris, Jaguars) to the microphone. His razor-sharp wit and humor will help make the 2019 show one to remember for participants and attendees.

What's new at the 2019 Ponte Vedra Auto Show?

By Daniela Toporek

With new head judges on the horizon for the 2019 Ponte Vedra Auto Show on Sunday, Sept. 15, new features have been added to spice up the already anticipated event for competitors and spectators alike!

CAR CORRAL

For the first time, the Ponte Vedra Auto Show will host a Car Corral, organized for enthusiasts who want to show off their builds without having them judged at the show or for those with a significant car or truck to sell.

“There will be a whole section blocked off,” said Auto Show head judge, Bob Grant.

“We call it the ‘Shameless Commerce area.’ Thank the radio show Car Talk, for

that name.”

The corral will be adjacent to the Auto Show field, displaying the vehicles to thousands of spectators for maximum exposure. It will give sellers and enthusiasts the opportunity to speak with collectors and prospective buyers in detail about each of the cars.

Both cars and trucks may be a part of the corral. Preregistration closed Wednesday, but day-of-show registration will be open Sunday from 7:30 to 9 a.m., first-come, first-served. The fee is \$50.

GOLF CART AWARD

Another fun, new element is the addition of the golf cart category to the Ponte Vedra Auto Show competition. Since the venue is located in a “golf cart community,” the Auto Show presents the inaugural “Spirit

of Nocatee” Golf Cart Award. Golf carts decked out in “Spirit of Nocatee” fashion will vie for the top spot.

“We do have a golf cart class this year because it’s in Nocatee,” said Ken Perry, one of two head judges for the Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

Preregistration closed Wednesday, but day-of-show registration will be open Sunday from 7:30 to 9 a.m., first-come, first-served. The fee is \$35.

After all, it has four wheels and a motor, so why not?

TROPHY MOBILE

A significant change in the competition is the awards ceremony, or lack thereof. Instead of waiting until the final moments of the show to hand out trophies, Grant and Perry will be cruising around in the

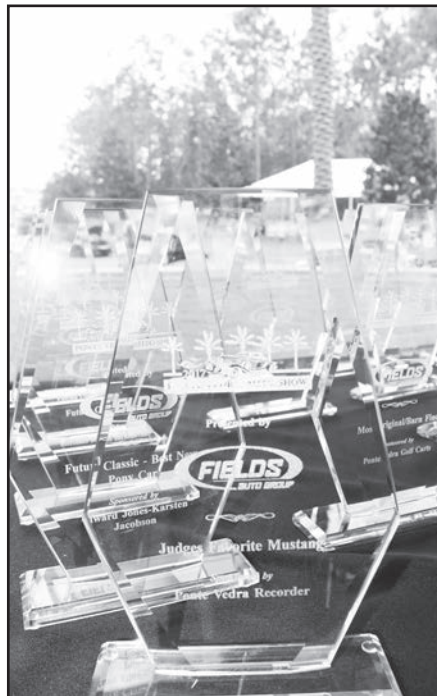
“pimped out” Trophy Mobile, handing out the awards throughout the day. The Trophy Mobile is a modified golf cart.

“We will begin as soon as 11:30 a.m. with the category awards, wrapping up a little after 3 p.m.,” Perry explained, mentioning that both he and Grant adopted the idea from experiences judging the Festivals of Speed around Florida.

“We found that most people would rather display their trophies during the day, which looks awesome on top of their cars.”

The head judges, emcee Brad Raney, trophy sponsors and a photographer will be rolling around the site in the Trophy Mobile, according to Perry, hoping to raise the level of suspense and excitement.

“In short, we will be bringing the show to the lucky winners!” he said, sounding ready for the show to begin.



Recorder file photos

Several important anniversaries on tap for Auto Show

By Chris H. Hoyt

It's been said that good things come in three's and this year's edition of the Ponte Vedra Auto Show, set for Sunday, Sept. 15 at the Nocatee Event Field, takes that saying to a new level. To most car aficionados, the venerable Porsche 914, the British MINI and the rugged Land Rover Discovery would be an unlikely trio to have in one setting, but that's what makes this auto show unique — combining the cool and the quirky.

PORSCHE MARKS 50TH

Porsche is no stranger to celebrating its models and this year marks the 50th anniversary for the 914, a mid-engine, entry-level model that was at first viewed as “not a true Porsche” because the engine wasn't in the rear and it was sold through a cooperative marketing agreement with VW. Now it is highly sought after for its

balance and superior handling abilities — especially on the track. It was manufactured and marketed collaboratively by Volkswagen and Porsche from 1969 to 1976, and was offered as a targa-topped, two-seat roadster powered by either an air-cooled flat-4 or flat-6 engine. The 6-cylinder power plant, or the 914-6, is especially prized by collectors today. Over 100,000 were produced and one even managed to finish in the top 10 at the world's greatest endurance race, the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

MINI CELEBRATES 60TH

When it comes to the cars of the United Kingdom, none have a more loyal following than the MINI or MINI Cooper. Who can forget these cars zipping around London in the 60s with the “Union Jack” boldly painted on the roof? Celebrating its 60th this year, the origins of the Mini Cooper can be traced to the development of the original MINI by British Motor

Corporation and designer Sir Alex Issigonis in the 1950s. The vehicle was launched as the MINI Cooper and the MINI Cooper S in 1961 and 1963, respectively. These cars featured 848cc engines for the Cooper, and 1071cc for the S type. It met a challenge that still resonates for today's automotive industry: design and build a small, fuel-efficient car capable of carrying four adults, within economic reach of just about everyone, and the MINI did just that. Tabbed as “the giant killer” by the motoring press in Europe, it also had an impressive racing career chalking up many victories — especially in European rally competition. The original MINI remains a cultural icon today, and has made a comeback after being purchased by German manufacturer BMW. It has gone through a thorough redesign incorporating many of the technological advances made by BMW and remains a strong seller internationally.

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY TURNS 30

The Land Rover Discovery is one tough vehicle, and it's fitting that we're celebrating its 30th birthday at this year's show. The Discovery made its debut in Europe at the 1989 Frankfurt Auto Show. It is a mid-size luxury SUV, produced under the Land Rover marque, from the British manufacturer Land Rover, which became Jaguar Land Rover in 2013. The U.S. market first got the vehicle in 1994 and has been in love with it ever since for its classic styling, muscular design, spaciousness and power. All North American specification models were fitted with the 3.9-litre V8 from the Range Rover SE models, and later models saw a change to the 4.0-litre version of the engine. Just over 350,000 have been built since 1989. If you are the kind of person who likes to play in the dirt or haul around lots of stuff, you'll find that the Discovery is equally adept at either.



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Janet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL "Blood, Breath & Tears" annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson has been awarded the AV preeminent rating™ from Martindale-Hubbell® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America™, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys. She also appears as a legal commentator on CNN and HLN.

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Thinking outside the (gear) box

New head judges provide fresh take on Ponte Vedra Auto Show

By Daniela Toporek

With the passing of Ponte Vedra Auto Show chairman and head judge, Larry Weisman, earlier this year, car connoisseurs, Ken Perry and Bob Grant, were chosen as head judges for the 2019 show. As they honor their old friend by filling his position, they're also excited to take on new perspectives for judging the show scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 15 at Nocatee Event Field.

"I've been a judge at the event before," said Grant, who judges Florida's Festivals of Speed shows alongside Perry. "But Larry was a judge for 15 years."

"These are big shoes to fill because Larry built something that had its own culture, its own brand," Perry added.

According to Perry, the head judges are responsible for planning the judging process from inviting judges to participate to developing the "approach" for scoring and winner selections.

"A smooth and well-run judging team is vital to the execution and success of the show," stated Sandy Kavanaugh, Ponte Vedra Auto Show manager.

Perry mentioned that although the Ponte Vedra Auto Show has always had lots of cars compete, they're always similar, without very few markets or brands represented.

Grant and Perry worked together to "freshen up" the execution by offering a



Photo courtesy of Ken Perry

Ken Perry (left) and Bob Grant are head judges for the 2019 Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

wider variety of categories to the competition so more unique cars can be featured and given a chance to win.

"There's a stigma that you have to have a certain type of car," Grant said, "but that's not really the case. We're trying to be more inclusive with what cars are invited to the shows. We personally walk up and invite people now. We found that we can be car enthusiasts and appreciate different cars."

"We've revamped the trophies to solidify that," Perry explained. "The trophies used to be about this Mustang or that Ferrari. Now, they're not brand-specific. We've got awards like 'Best of the Autobahn' or the 'Fast and Furious' award, so it's been fun."

When Grant and Perry say they've been having fun, they mean it, and they want both the competitors and spectators at the

show to feel the same.

"Sometimes people think of this as a concours, but we're really trying to make it a more entertaining automobile event for everyone," Grant said.

The judges conjured a Willy-Wonka-inspired idea — they will hand out five golden tickets to the Auto Show to five lucky car enthusiasts at the upcoming Cars and Coffee event, Saturday, Sept. 15 at 7 a.m. at the Avenues Mall.

"It's funny. When you do this, you find most people were interested in cars when they were teens and they just never grew out of that phase," said Grant, looking back at his own childhood memories. "From growing up, they've always had an interest in them."

When he was younger, Grant's neighbors

were car collectors and he would help them work on the cars they had. He particularly remembers a 1972 Ferrari Daytona.

Perry vividly remembers the moment he fell in love with cars, particularly the Porsche, on a chilly President's Day in Massachusetts, comparing it to a Porsche commercial he had coincidentally seen a few years earlier in which a kid wandered into a Porsche dealership.

"The Pontiac dealership was across from the Porsche dealership, so I would always beg my parents to take me to get dropped off at Porsche while my dad would go look at Pontiacs," he recalled. "I remember doing the same thing as the kid in the commercial, jumping all over the Porsches, peeking my head in them. And then the same thing happened to me. A salesman comes up and starts talking to me like I'm a customer. When my father joined, the salesman asked, 'Do you mind if I take this young man out for a ride?' We went for about 10 minutes and oh my God."

Perry laughed as if he'd just got out of the Porsche he rode with the salesman just minutes ago.

"Yeah, that leaves an impression," he said.

It's safe to say, these two judges share the same passion, know what they're doing and they're looking forward to at Sunday's Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

Whether young or old, aftermarket or stock, European touring or Japanese domestic market (be on the lookout for an original 1980s Corolla, they hinted), the judges expect a great turn-out with new faces and fresh builds.

"We'll just hope for good weather," Perry said.

2019 AUTO SHOW JUDGES

Even though their day jobs vary widely, the 2019 Ponte Vedra Auto Show panel of judges have one common bond — a passion for automobiles. Whether classic, muscle, racing or exotic, the judges have the knowledge and experience to determine winners in more than 30 categories.

Ken Perry (Head Judge)

Perry holds an MBA from Jacksonville University, is employed as an IT project manager and is a member of the Porsche Club. He is also the head judge for the Festivals of Speed and a former Silent Auction and Retail Sales chair for the Amelia Island Concours. Perry's current collection includes two Land Rovers, a Porsche and an Audi. Perry, a self-described car nut, is grateful that his wife is also into the hobby.

Bob Grant (Head Judge)

Grant is a former manager of CSX Truck Administration Division and co-owner of Design Time ISD Group. He has been a co-judge with Perry for the Festivals of Speed for four years and has used his administrative and analytical skills along with his

deep knowledge of the car hobby to bring a new level of maturity to the back-office functions of this event and others. Grant holds a B.A. in Finance and Management from Merrimack College.

Steve Boyle

Boyle participated in IMSA road racing series for eight years as crew chief and engine builder. He also worked as a supplier of competition racing engines for NASCAR's Winston Cup and Busch Racing series, under contract to General Motors to develop the next generation competition racing engines. During this time period, Boyle built and maintained numerous historic race cars. "I am still very active in restoring automobiles, maintaining historic race cars and building engines in the Jacksonville area," Boyle said.

Jimmy Britts

Supporting the Navy at NAS JAX is what Britts does when he is not "playing with cars." Britts is a past ARCA racecar driver, chassis builder and painter. Britts is the main racecar mover at the Amelia

Island Concours, and he has been judging with the Ponte Vedra Auto Show for four years.

Larry Brown

Also new to the show this year, Brown comes with four years judging experience from the Festivals of Speed and his car credentials are even more impressive. Brown, a veteran once stationed in Belgium, is currently employed as a quality engineer for Mercedes-Benz for the past several years. Brown has the ability to see inside a failed component on a new Mercedes and document what went wrong and how. As for his judging abilities, Brown can use that same vision to see not only the beauty of a car, but its inner qualities as well.

Dr. Andrew Cannestra

A Jacksonville physician with a 30-year history of collecting antique classic and exotic cars and motorcycles, Cannestra currently owns and shows several award-winning cars. "My vehicles have shown at Amelia Island, Festival of Speed, Bahamas Speed Week Revivals and the Celebration

exotic car show," he said. Dr. Cannestra is Fellowship trained in spine surgery and spinal cord injury, has a wide range of neurosurgical expertise and serves as Director of the Baptist Robotic Spine Surgery program. A founding member of the Society for Minimally Invasive Spinal Surgery, Dr. Cannestra is a Diplomate of the American Board of Neurologic Surgery, a member of the American Association of Neurologic Surgeons and the National Association of Spine Surgeons.

Mike Ferran

Ferran has been repairing, modifying and restoring vehicles professionally for more than 40 years. He is an advanced level Master Technician and has owned Ferran Automotive since 1991. On any given day, Ferran can service a 1959 Eldorado, a 2018 Bentley or a customer's daily driver. Although he currently owns a Ferrari Challenge Stradale, a Superformance GT40 and is about to receive a

Judges

Continued from 18

Ferrari Scuderia, Ferran says he loves all types of vehicles.

Tripp Ferrer

Ferrer's background is in mechanical engineering. He worked for Mercedes-Benz for the better part of a decade in its quality evaluation center. Ferrer has owned more than 20 vehicles ranging from an air-cooled 911 to a free Buick station wagon — that often had upwards of two working gears — to a fully customized V8 Morris Minor. Ferrer has been helping judge the Festivals of Speed for the last four years and is a repeat participant in the Grassroots Motorsports \$2,000 Challenge. Currently his biggest project is building his pit crew with two sons, ages 2 and 4.

Steve Giambra

It all started for Giambra when he bought his first car in high school — a 1956 Corvette. Fifty years later, after a long search, Giambra was able to relive the dream by purchasing another Corvette like the one he had in high school. Giambra collects American, American muscle and British sports cars, and has been a judge for the past five years.

Dwight Hanson

Hanson spent the last 27 years working as a training consultant and safety professional, working with and for clients like Los Alamos National Labs, Lockheed Martin and NASA. He is currently a corporate EHS training specialist for a local company involved in marine construction and dredging. When Hanson is not working, he's usually driving his Porsche at events sponsored by the Sports Car Club of America, Porsche Club of America or Chin Track Days. Hanson also participates in and/or judges a variety of car shows, including Porsche's annual Werks Reunion, The Festivals of Speed, and local cars shows such as the annual Concours at Porsche of Jacksonville or Cars & Coffee at the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance.

Bill Hatchett

Bill Hatchett, owner of A-Coin & Stamp Gallery Inc., is a rare coin and currency expert who has loyally served Jacksonville, Florida for nearly 40 years. Hatchett's initial interest in bank notes and coins was piqued in 1962 when, at the age of 10, he found a Jefferson nickel in his Coke change. With this single coin, he earned \$25. He maintains that, on that day, he learned the value of both earning money and collecting relics. Hatchett travels the country to discover and deal in unique valuables. "It's like a treasure hunt that highlights an important part of history. It's my quest to find these rare items and help owners reap the gain from their value." Hatchett is a 36-year member of the Antique Appraisal Association of America. He has also been a Life Member of the American Numismatic Association for over 40 years, Society of Paper



Photo by Matus Foris

Judges review score sheets to determine winners during a previous Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

Money Collectors Inc., California State Numismatic Association and Fun Florida United Numismatist. A-Coin & Stamp is a member of NAWCC, IWJG, CADA, Buffalo Bills Center of the West, PCGS, NGC and JBT listed. Hatchett has a curated collection of Bentleys, Porsches and a most awesome Cigarette Boat.

Karen Haynes

New to the judging team this year, Haynes brings a lifetime of passion for cars beginning when she was in high school where like the Beach Boys song "Fun, Fun Fun" ("til her daddy took her T-Bird away). Haynes grew up with a father who loved cars including a T-bucket, a Model T, John Deere tractors, several 1950s Cadillacs — convertible and hardtop. As a kid, Haynes traveled every two or three months to a car show to pick up a find, or a railroad show, or a mixture of those. "We also were at a number of car club meetings always," Haynes said. "I can fix nearly anything and work on my own car and frequently shock men with my knowledge level. It's quite fun." Haynes currently drives an Audi A6 and her husband has a Chevy Camaro. Joining Haynes as a junior judge will be her son, Cameron, 11, who loves all cars, especially exotics and sports cars.

Philip Mang

A first-time judge for Ponte Vedra Auto Show, Mang has been an executive judge with Festivals of Speed for the past three years. Prior to his retirement, Mang was the internet sales manager for Maserati and Alfa Romeo. Mang's passion is classic American muscle cars.

Michael Mangiaracino

Another first-time judge for Ponte Vedra Auto Show, Mangiaracino has been an executive judge with Festivals of Speed for the past four years. Mangiaracino's love for cars ignited in high school with track days at Gateway Raceway in St. Louis. Currently the proud owner of a 1964 1/2 Mustang convertible, Mangiaracino specializes in classic American muscle cars.

Hans-Dieter Mandt

Raised by the son of a former auto union test driver and Porsche Racing Shop

owner, Mandt is a second-generation car enthusiast. He served as a crew member of a Porsche racing team, which raced the IMSA Series and the 24 Hours of LeMans. Additionally, he has served as treasurer of the Porsche Club of America, Florida Crown Region, for over a decade, sits on the Porsche Club Board and is the club's dealer liaison. Mandt is active in Porsche Club driver education programs and club races and is the proud owner of various Porsches and classic Mercedes.

Dick Messer

For 12 years, until June 2010, Messer was executive director at the Petersen Automotive Museum. Located in Los Angeles, the museum is one of the world's largest and most prestigious automotive museums. Messer, a life-long car collector who is well connected in the collector car community, was the first to hold the museum director post.

Dan Scanlan

A 28-year resident of Jacksonville, Scanlan has worked in local television and radio, handled election campaign advertising accounts for a circuit court judge and a clerk of court race and opened a local comedy club before going to the Florida Times-Union 20 years ago. He is married with one son and is active in church and community activities. Scanlan is the main contributor to the Drive section of the Florida Times-Union.

Rob Sewell

Sewell is a retired planner and software engineer after 30 years at Lockheed (then Lockheed Martin), and has FAA airframe and powerplant mechanics certificates. Sewell developed his affinity for cars and car repair from watching his dad wrench on the family vehicles. He has a special love for German cars that he developed in high school. His German teacher, a retired Luftwaffe pilot of FW-190s during WWII, might have had something to do with that. Sewell has owned several German cars including a 1966 VW 1300 beetle, a newly purchased 1973 Porsche 914 2.0, a 1981 VW Jetta and a 1970s VW Dasher. Sewell currently owns a 1997 Porsche Carrera S that his mother insisted he purchase with

his inheritance money after her passing. Sewell is currently membership chairman and webmaster for the PCA Florida Crown Region. He helps and participates in all the local car activities he can.

Mark Steiger

Steiger, a recently retired physician assistant from Baptist Primary Care in Ponte Vedra, has owned so many cars he has lost count. They range from 3-cylinder, 2-stroke SAAB's to a V8 Ferrari. He spent many years driving a 1968 Porsche 911L at Florida Crown Region Porsche Club driving events and currently has a 1966 Ford Cortina GT, a 1967 VW Beetle and a rare turquoise 1997 BMW Z3. Steiger's wife calls him a "car magnet," and he is always on the lookout for the unusual project to keep him busy. This will be Steiger's first year serving as a Ponte Vedra Auto Show judge.

AJ Tasker

Tasker is an attorney at law specializing in criminal DUI. Tasker owns a 5.0 Mustang, the 11th Mustang he has owned. Tasker is a member of the First Coast Modified Mustang Club and has been judging with the Ponte Vedra Auto Show for the past six years.

Jake Weisman

Jake Weisman's passion for cars started at birth and has progressed into a fulltime career. Through his work as a regional territory manager for Hagerty Classic Cars, Weisman works closely with other automotive enthusiasts to help protect and properly value their vehicles, all while promoting the cultural value of collecting. Hagerty protects more than 1 million vehicles, 12,000 boats and 30,000 motorcycles worth a total of \$30 billion. As a company, Hagerty attends more than 2,000 classic car events each year, with Weisman managing events in the South Florida region. A Ponte Vedra native, Weisman has been attending the Ponte Vedra Auto Show with his father, previous Head Judge Larry Weisman, for more than 15 years.

Sam Yocca

New to this show, Yocca has previous experience with various shows here in North Florida, including the Concours D' Elegance and Festival of Speed from 2007 to current. "My love and appreciation for the automobile is a result of my own hobby of restorations of many classic American muscle cars," Yocca said. Yocca is most fond of the Chevrolet restorations of three Monte Carlos, a 69 Chevelle and a 69 Camaro. His current garage queen is a 1973 Hurst Oldsmobile Cutlass (gold on white) built in the third week of April and one of 647 built in 1973. After the weather cools, Yocca will begin his mechanical restoration on the Hurst Olds. "I am working to pass this same appreciation to my son Damian by keeping the originality of the 1973 H/O and get it road worthy in the next year," Yocca said. Damian was introduced as a junior judge at the Festival of Speed in 2018 and has continued his participation since.

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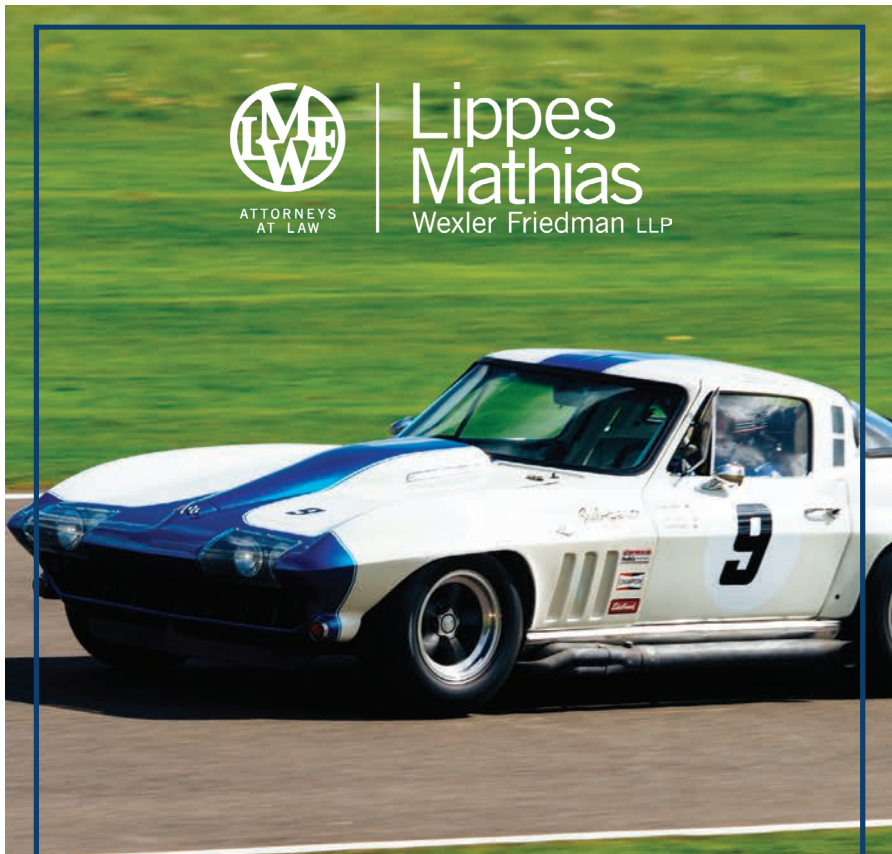
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Test drive a Porsche at Ponte Vedra Auto Show



2017 Porsche 718 Boxster
Photos courtesy of Porsche Jacksonville

By Daniela Toporek

The Ponte Vedra Auto Show is back at full speed and with it, is the Porsche dealership, offering test drives on a wide range of models for both Porsche enthusiasts and curious guests.

“People can sign up for test drives the day of the Auto Show at the Porsche tent,” said Porsche retail support specialist, Tierney Anderson.

Anderson also mentioned that test drives will be around Nocatee Parkway and its surrounding on and off ramps, but routes may change, depending on the instructors the day of the show.

“This is the third or fourth year they’ve done that with Porches,” said Auto Show head judge, Ken Perry. “Spectators get introduced to the brand and obviously, Porsche is doing very well. They’ve branched out from just sports cars to the SUVs and the sedans.”

Regardless of the course or model, General Manager of Porsche Jacksonville, Moe Ghanimah, guarantees this will be a test drive like no other.

“You’re going to experience one of the best handling vehicles on the road today,” he said. “Porsche handles like nothing else out there. People are always looking forward to it (the test drives) and we book drivers from start to finish.”

Ghanimah also mentioned that most of the cars available will have a Porsche Doppelkupplung, or PDK, which translates to Porsche double-clutch transmission.

The PDK is a 7-speed transmission that offers “extremely fast gear changes with no interruption in the flow of power,” according to Porsche’s official website.

“It’s just like driving an automatic car,” Ghanimah said. “It does everything automatically and with pinpoint accuracy.”

The Porsche Test Drive sign-up tent will be located near the Fields Auto Group tent at the Ponte Vedra Auto Show and drivers must be 21 or older to test drive the vehicles.

“It’s a fun event,” Ghanimah said. “It’s an exclusive car and an exclusive experience.”



2017 Porsche 911 Carrera 4S



2019 Porsche Macan

New year, new dealership for Porsche Jacksonville in 2020

By Daniela Toporek

What’s that new phrase millennials are saying? “New showroom, who’s this?” Close enough. With a new electric car expected to be released next year, Porsche Jacksonville is moving a couple miles east of its original location on Atlantic Boulevard and expecting to open sometime between July and August of 2020.

“The new facility will be able to handle the all-new electric car that should be released in the first quarter of 2020,” said Porsche Jacksonville’s general manager, Moe Ghanimah, who mentioned that with Porsche’s expansion, the new service department will be double in size.

“We’ll have a huge indoor showroom with every model represented, an exclusive delivery bay and also two new boutiques,” Ghanimah said. “One is for current model

Porsche vehicles and the other is a classic Porsche boutique, which is any Porsche chassis that’s been out of production for 10 years or more.”

Ghanimah also mentioned that the new dealership will have luxury amenities and services such as valet for service to one’s home, hand car washes, second deliveries to ensure customers are confident in operating their vehicle and even complimentary service on a Porsche owner’s first visit.

An indoor complimentary restaurant will also be open for guests so they can sit back, relax and watch multiple big-screen TVs at the lounge while their cars are being serviced on site.

“Porsche is getting bigger and bigger,” said Ghanimah. “We hope to show potential Porsche owners what it means to be a part of the Porsche brand by delivering a memorable and exciting Porsche experience.”



ABOVE: The new Fields Porsche dealership facility is set to open in late summer 2020.



LEFT: The dealership specifications call for 41,578 square feet, with two levels, two boutiques and a complimentary indoor restaurant for clients.

Renderings courtesy of Porsche Jacksonville

Larry Weisman loved cars

Past Ponte Vedra Auto Show chairman to be honored at this year's event

By Amber Lake

It's a fact that Larry Weisman loved cars. He was a 15-year veteran of the Ponte Vedra Auto Show. He owned an interest in an automotive performance and restoration shop in Jacksonville. He had three classic cars he showcased.

A set of facts leads to a simple truth — Weisman loved cars above all else. A look behind the facts, however, leads to a completely different conclusion, one that has nothing to do with makes, models or speed. Like a magic eye poster, if you really look, the image completely changes. Here are the facts:

According to his March 2019 obituary, "In 1985, Larry graduated from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. He went to work for McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach, California where at a 76 Station, in a fated meeting true to his love of cars, he met Stephanie Weisman, his wife of 33 years."

Weisman is survived by his wife, daughters, Lauren and Sarah, and his son,



Jake. His son, who is a manager at Hager-ty, said he and his father went on a road trip to Bowling Green, Kentucky, where Corvettes were originally produced. Jake, his dad and a family friend all drove their Corvettes, with Weisman driving his Grand Sport. They visited the factory where Corvettes were produced along with the National Corvette Museum.

Additionally, Jake Weisman said his father taught him for the first time how to drive with stick shift in the same Grand

Sport Corvette.

He took his son to car shows, the Daytona 500 and the Rolex 24. Along with the Corvette, he owned a 1986 Ford Mustang SVO and a 1980 Turbo Trans Am, all of which will be showcased at the Ponte Vedra Auto Show in his honor. The admiral blue Grand Sport was his favorite, however, telling his family "never to sell it."

The facts tell a story of a man who loved both the inside and outside of classic cars. Both a hobbyist and enthusiast,



Photos courtesy of Jake Weisman

Larry Weisman (above and left with son, Jake), who passed away at age 55 on March 16, will be honored at this year's Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

he was a person who devoted himself to be a wealth of knowledge in his passion. Between the facts, however, Larry Weisman was the type of person willing to teach a novice on one of his most prized possessions. He saw his wife as part of his fated passion with cars and shared the best parts of his hobby with his son.

"What I loved so much about my dad was that cars were special or important to

WEISMAN continues on Page 25

'Auto addiction' drives Malcolm Hogan's ventures



ABOVE: Malcolm Hogan (right) used his passion for exotic cars to help connect the car community in Northeast Florida.

RIGHT: Some of the cars owned by SAC Collective members will be on display at this year's Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

Photos courtesy of Malcolm Hogan



By Paris Moulden

Malcolm Hogan has loved cars since he was a kid. And since then, Hogan has turned his passion for luxury cars into almost a second career, really.

Around 12 years ago, Hogan co-founded Jacksonville's Cars & Coffee, which allows area "auto addicts" the chance to view, discuss and display all things automobile at monthly get-togethers. And recently, Hogan created SAC Collective, a "automotive and luxury lifestyle club" that allows luxury car owners to convene and share their passion for cars in a more private group setting.

"It's the first of its kind in our area," Hogan said about the SAC Collective club. "It's for those who like to get out on the weekend and have fun in their vehicles. That's pretty much the idea, to provide a private environment for these guys who may not like to go to public events."

The club currently boasts about 70 members as the core group, and SAC Collective puts on private events throughout the year for its members. While Hogan plans to keep the membership limited, there are still a few spots available for those interested in joining.

"It's something for folks who enjoy the private, casual environment with like-minded individuals," he said.

While the group features primarily private events, there are also chances for the public to see

some of these sleek supercars in action, including a Motorcoach Tailgate for the Florida-Georgia game and a Mansion Run in Ponte Vedra, where drivers will be visiting area homes that are for sale.

SAC Collective also aims to benefit charities in the area, as well, helping to raise money for the Fraternal Order of the Police, including helping co-sponsoring Highway to Help Heroes, which raised around \$100,000 for FOP's Fallen Officer and Welfare Relief Fund in March.

There's just something about those sleek, unique machines that Hogan can't resist, and he enjoys sharing his passion for cars with others. Aside from his involvement with the auto clubs, Hogan has also recently been named to the Board of Directors for the popular Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance.

SAC Collective also works closely with Ponte Vedra Auto Show's main sponsor Fields Auto Group.

"Fields Auto Group is a big partner of ours also," Hogan said. "They usually supply a lot of the vehicles for us at the events. They include test drives and we get to see some of the new products. Sometimes they bring out new cars that have never been released before to show to our members."

That's not Hogan's only connection with the

HOGAN continues on Page 24

SAC Collective holds events throughout the year that allows car enthusiasts to display and share their passion for luxury and exotic vehicles. Some of the vehicles will be on display at the Ponte Vedra Auto Show on Sunday, Sept. 15.

Photos courtesy of Malcolm Hogan



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Hogan

Continued from 23

Ponte Vedra Auto Show. He has been a show judge multiple times, and says the show is special event for attendees.

“It’s a casual environment, where families can come out and enjoy it,” Hogan said. “It’s more of a family-oriented event and not just for people with money. Anybody can just come out and enjoy themselves. It’s always been a very inviting environment.”

And for this year’s show, Hogan plans to display some of the vehicles owned by SAC Collective members, so attendees can get an insider’s peek at these amazing autos.

“We’re bringing a collective of super cars and a couple of exotic surprises that have never been seen in Jacksonville before,” he said.

For more information on SAC Collective, go to saccollective.com.

2019

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Weisman

Continued from 23

him, but it was never that Ferris Bueller moment where you had to sneak the cars out or anything like that,” Jake Weisman said. “My dad always trusted me, and he was incredibly cool about it. He wanted to share the cars with me and share the passion.”

Larry Weisman loved cars, it’s true. But rather than an obsession he saw it as more of an enrichment to an already fulfilled life with his family. He was generous with his passion, sharing it and recognizing it for what it was. The cars were one of the things he loved — but they weren’t what he loved most.

For many people, a large part of their

attachment to cars are the surrounding associations. A look at how the movie “Smokey and the Bandit” with Burt Reynolds increased the value of the Pontiac Firebird Trans Am says enough. Certain cars have collective associations and others have singular ones. A few might remember a road trip in a 1994 Pontiac Sunbird. Or listening to a favorite song with friends in a 1974 Ford Pinto. Maybe even learning to drive with dad.

Cars carry memories in them, strapped in bucket seats like drivers. Many times, they can be vehicles for remembering all the other lives we lived as well. The facts are, we spend a lot of time in a car. Sometimes we are driving to a destination, other times we are just driving.

Between those facts, however, is a very full life.

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IN THE REARVIEW: 2018 PONTE VEDRA AUTO SHOW



Giancarlo Fruzzetti's 1970 Fiat 124 Coupe took home the Wells Fargo Advisors Best in Show Classic award at the 2018 Ponte Vedra Auto Show. Shown here with Fruzzetti (left) is former Porsche Jacksonville General Manager Brandon Starks of Fields Auto Group and 2018 St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Director Toni Boudreaux.

1970 Fiat 124 Coupe wins top honors

More than 170 classic and collectable automobiles were showcased in last year's Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

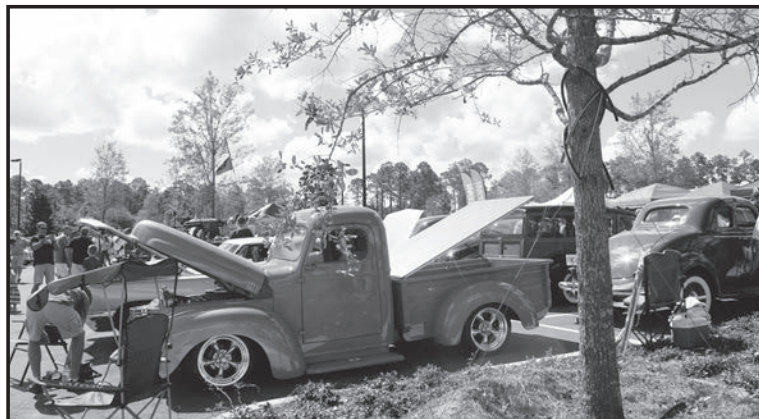
Presented by the Fields Auto Group and hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the annual event was overflowing with attendees, car enthusiasts and vendors, making it the largest auto show in the event's history. The Best in Show Classic winner was awarded to Giancarlo Fruzzetti for his 1970 Fiat 124 Coupe, earning a perfect score of 100 points. This award was sponsored by Wells Fargo Advisors.

The Best in Show 60th Anniversary of Austin-Healey, sponsored by Meehan's Irish Pub, was awarded to Bill Young, with his 1960 Austin-Healey Bugeye. Charles Cordes, with his 2012 Porsche B59, was awarded the Porsche Jacksonville "For the Spirit of It!" award, sponsored by Porsche of Jacksonville. Celebrity endurance race-car driver Hurley Haywood was also in attendance signing books and posing for photos with fans of all ages.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Racing legend Hurley Haywood signs copies of his book for fans during last year's Auto Show.



2018 PONTE VEDRA AUTO SHOW WINNERS

Best in Show Classic – Giancarlo Fruzzetti, 1970 Fiat 124 Coupe

Fields Lexus "Pursuit of Perfection" – Bill Burchette, 2017 Acura NSX

Best in Show 60th Anniversary of Austin-Healey – Bill Young, 1960 Austin-Healey Bugeye

Best in Show 70th Anniversary Porsche – Alan Winer, 1959 Porsche 356A T2

Best in Show Off-Road – Chris Railing, 1945 Willys MB

Porsche Jacksonville "For the Spirit of it!" – Charles Cordes, 2012 Porsche B59

Florida Crown Region Porsche Heritage Trophy – John Lovejoy, Jr., 1959 Porsche Conv. D

Pre-War Classic – Michael Sisco, 1936 Dodge D2 Business Coupe

Post War Classic Domestic – George Breslin, 1953 Lincoln Capri

Post War Classic Euro – Dennis DuBois, 1966 VW Beetle

Most Outstanding Pony Car – Brandon Cipko, 1965 Ford Mustang GT Fastback

Judges Favorite Pony Car – Chris Baldwin, 1969 Chevy Camaro 228

Most Outstanding American Muscle – Matt Jones, 1986 Grand National

Judges Favorite American Muscle – Andy Musil, 1968 Pontiac GTO

Best Exotic – Randy Lindsey, 2004 360 Challenge Stradale

Custom Car Award – Roberto Cruz, 1972 VW Bus

Race Car Award – Mike Ferran, 1966 GT 40 MKIIB

Most Outstanding Corvette – Michael Lucas, 1967 Chevrolet Corvette

Judges Favorite Corvette – Ronnie and Pam Edge, 1958 Chevrolet Corvette

Most Outstanding Mustang – Tom and Peggy Gilliland, 1967 Shelby Mustang GT 500

Judges Favorite Mustang – Jeffrey Lowcher, 1969 Ford Mustang, Mach 1

Most Original/Barn Find Award – Kerry Hunter, 1967 Corvette

Best Classic Off-Road – Jon P. Boyton, 1963 Meyers Manx Dune Buggy

Florida Crown Region Future Classic Porsche – Russell Stapleton, 1968 Porsche 944 Turbo

Future Classic Award Euro – Graziano Fruzzetti, 2003 Ferrari 360 Spyder

Future Classic-Best New Pony Car – David Grooms, 2017 Ford Shelby GT350R

Future Classic-Best New Muscle Car – Fernando Quintana, 2018 Dodge Hellcat

Future Classic – Best New Corvette – Sue Norton, 2018 Corvette Grand Sport

Future Classic-Best New Off-Road – Chuck Newman, 2003 Stewart Stevenson Light Military

Chambers Choice Award – Erik Olsen, 1963 Porsche 356B S-90



Photos by Susan Griffin



IN THE REARVIEW: 2016



Photos by Susan Griffin





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New sushi bistro coming to Nocatee Town Center in Spring 2020

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Photos by Susan Griffin

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted a ribbon cutting for the opening of John Manis Jr.'s Brazilian Jiu Jitsu school, Aug. 5.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu school opens in Ponte Vedra Beach

By Daniela Toporek

Self-defense instructor, John Manis Jr., recently opened a martial arts school for Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in Ponte Vedra. The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted a ribbon cutting Aug. 5, the first day of classes.

“I think it’s the most effective form of self defense,” he said. “I knew Ponte Vedra didn’t have jiu jitsu, I think we did a good job in finding the right area where there’s enough traffic.”

Manis started training in martial arts at the age of 4, when his mother enrolled him in classes for being so shy.

“That’s what sparked the passion and I haven’t stopped ever since,” he recalled.

Manis hopes to spark that same passion with his younger students and build their confidence, especially his two daughters, who he wants to prepare for the real world.

“As a father of two girls and as someone who’s done martial arts his whole life, it was a goal of mine to give



Jiu jitsu classes are available for all ages.

them that life skill of self defense, knowing how to protect themselves,” he explained.

Manis wants to build confidence, not only for his daughters, but for the youth in the Ponte Vedra community, who may just need time away from all the screens and technology or who might be insecure or bullied at school.

“I know a lot of kids need to get away from their computers and get a ‘digital detox,’ as I like to call it,” he joked. “But also, it’s a lot about making people better people. For example, if there’s someone new in school and they’re quiet or alone, as someone who does jiu jitsu, just go up to them, smile at them and ask them how they’re doing.”

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu classes are available for all ages.

For more information, visit www.pvbjj.com or call (917) 697-0932.

Business owners need a retirement plan



Karsten Jacobson
Columnist

As a business owner, you can’t afford to ignore your competition. You can’t afford to miss out on the trends affecting your industry. You can’t afford to alienate customers. And here’s one more item to add to the list: You can’t afford not to create a retirement plan for yourself.

Of course, you might think that, one day, you’ll simply sell your business and live off the proceeds. But selling a business isn’t always simple, and there’s no guarantee you’ll receive enough to pay for a comfortable retirement – which is why you should strongly consider creating a retirement plan now.

Here are some of the most widely used plans:

- **SEP-IRA:** You can contribute up to 25% of your compensation — as much as \$56,000 in 2019 — to a SEP-IRA. Your contributions are tax deductible and earnings grow tax-deferred until withdrawn. This plan offers significant flexibility in making contributions for yourself and your employees. Plus, as an employer, you can generally deduct, as business expenses, any contributions you make on behalf of your plan participants.

- **SIMPLE IRA:** In 2019, you can put in up to \$13,000 — or \$16,000 if you’re 50 or older — to a SIMPLE IRA. As is the case with the SEP-IRA, your earnings grow tax deferred. You can match your employees’ contributions dollar for dollar, up to 3% of compensation. If you’re self-employed, you can combine employee and employer contributions, so if you use the 3% matching rule, and earn enough to fully match employee contributions, you can put in up to \$26,000 per year (or \$32,000 if you’re 50 or older). Alternatively, you could contribute 2% of each eligible employee’s compensation each year, up to a maximum of \$5,600, regardless of whether the employee contributes. Contributions to employees are tax deductible.

- **“Owner-only” 401(k) plan:** If you have no employees other than your spouse, you can establish an “owner-only” 401(k) plan, which functions similarly to a 401(k) plan offered by a large employer. Between salary deferral and profit sharing, you can contribute up to \$56,000, in pre-tax dollars, to your owner-only 401(k), or \$62,000 if you’re 50 or older. Like a SEP-IRA and SIMPLE IRA, a 401(k) provides the potential to accumulate tax-deferred earnings. However, you could choose to open a Roth 401(k), which can be funded with after-tax dollars. With a Roth 401(k), your earnings can grow tax-free, provided you’ve had your account at least five years and you don’t start taking withdrawals until you’re at least 59½.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Skinny JAX owner, Alyson Cannady (far right), stands with Ro Gioia and Juliette Finley during July's Southern Tea event at Skinny JAX.

Weight loss and beauty boutique hosts monthly Southern Tea event

Jacksonville Beach's medical weight loss and beauty boutique, Skinny JAX, will host its Southern Tea event Sept. 16, showcasing various vendors and products.

On third Mondays, Skinny JAX hosts an event that features demonstrations, products and samples, along with giveaways (limited supply), discounts and a drawing during the final hour.

The September event, beginning at 4 p.m., will offer live demonstrations and facial procedures with a combination of its multiple lines and brands.

Colorscience products will be highlighted with a combination of Venus facial procedures and more.

Orth Molecular Products will also

attend, offering samples and a representative to answer questions about the medical-grade vitamins.

To keep both creative and hydrating juices flowing, literally, there will be a surprise local artist on site, a local jewelry artist showcasing unique pieces and freshly pressed juices by the catering team of Savour Sensations.

For the main feature and the inspiration behind the event name, Southern Tea will offer its signature hibiscus and mint julep teas.

Skinny JAX is located at 1492 Third Street South in Jacksonville Beach.

For more information, call Skinny JAX at (904) 999-0977 or visit www.SkinnyJAX.com

Pivot CPAs promotes 3 to partner

Pivot CPAs, a locally-owned independent CPA firm, recently promoted three of its staff to partner, announced Managing Partner, Peter Reynolds.

■ Pamela Bomba, tax partner, specializes in consulting and compliance for large, multi-state corporations, partnerships and their owners. She has experience with local, state and federal taxation and financial accounting. Bomba received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Accounting, and a Master of Accountancy from the University of North Florida. Pamela has been with the firm since 2005.

■ Darrell Clarkson, tax partner, works with local business owners and entrepreneurs on business, growth and tax strategies. He has experience working with clients in the government contract, real estate, professional services, and food services industries. Clarkson received his Bachelor of Science in Accounting from

the University of Florida and his Masters of Accountancy from the University of North Florida. He has been with the firm since 2008.

■ Sheryl Tschimpke, assurance partner, provides attestation, accounting and consulting services to both private and public companies. She specializes in the construction, transportation, logistics and distribution, manufacturing and financial services industries. A United States Navy veteran, Tschimpke received a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from the University of North Florida. She has been with Pivot since 2005.

"Reaching Partner is the ultimate goal of most people in this profession, and it is not something that happens to everyone simply because they've been with a firm for a while," Reynolds said. "Darrell, Pamela and Sheryl earned this every step of the way, and we look forward to their continued leadership."



Pamela Bomba



Darrell Clarkson



Sheryl Tschimpke

Jacobson

Continued from 29

Which plan is right for you? The answer depends on several factors, such as whether you have any employees and how much money you can contribute each year. But all the plans mentioned above are generally easy to establish, and the administrative costs are usually minimal. Most important, any one of them can help you build some of the resources needed to enjoy the retirement lifestyle envisioned. To select an appropriate plan, you may want to consult with your tax and financial advisors.

In any case, don't wait too long. Time goes by quickly, and when you reach that day when you're a "former" business owner, you'll want to be prepared.

Karsten L. Jacobson CFP, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones at 2208 Sawgrass Village Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 285-9898. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



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NOCATEE HAPPENINGS



Rendering courtesy of The PARC Group and www.Nocatee.com

Tanks Sushi Bistro opening spring 2020 at Nocatee

Skinner Bros. Realty recently announced Tanks Sushi Bistro is opening in the Nocatee Town Center in spring 2020.

Tanks Sushi Bistro will be located at 151 Pine Lake Drive, adjacent to CareSpot Urgent Care. Other new concepts opening east of Crosswater Parkway in the Nocatee Town Center include Clean Juice, First Watch and Greenwise Market.

Tanks Sushi Bistro is owned and

operated by chef Ge “Tank” Tang and his wife, Jennifer. At Tanks Sushi Bistro, there will be more than 30 sushi rolls on the menu to choose from, such as the Mango Manica roll served with spicy lump crab and mango.

For more information on homes, businesses and other events happening in Nocatee, visit www.Nocatee.com, stop by the Nocatee Welcome Center or call (904) 924-6863.

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Robert & Margaret Hill



'The Florida Travel Expo' brings top travel suppliers, vacation options to First Coast residents

The inaugural "The Florida Travel Expo" is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Renaissance World Golf Village.

The region's largest travel show affords travel enthusiasts the opportunity to meet face-to-face with travel experts from around the world who will be on hand to help attendees dream, personalize and book their next vacation. "The Florida Travel Expo" is a new event for the Jacksonville area and mirrors similar events held each year in New York, Boston, Chicago and other large cities across the U.S. The expo will include educational and culturally focused seminars covering topics such as multigenerational travel, solo travel, packing tips, accessible travel, river cruising and eco-tourism. There will also be fashion shows featuring resort wear, a pop-up boutique and raffle prizes.

"First coast-area residents have a natural appetite for travel and adventure," said Dorothy Flannery, president and founder of the Expo. "The Florida Travel Expo is a smart, cost-effective way for savvy travelers to find, plan and book their dream vacations."

One of the highlights of The Florida Travel Expo will be the opportunity to meet with representatives of leading cruise, tour and resort companies who will be showcasing their products. To date these include:

- American Cruise Lines
- American Queen Steamboat Company
- Allianz Travel Insurance

- Avalon Waterways
- Brendan Vacations
- Carnival Cruises
- Celebrity Cruises
- Celtic Tours
- Collette Tours
- Cosmos
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- Royal Caribbean International
- Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours
- SeaDream Yacht Club
- Star Clippers
- Thirty-One
- Trafalgar
- Uncruise Adventures
- Windstar Cruises

The Florida Travel Expo will be held in 14,000 square feet of space in the convention center of the Renaissance Hotel at World Golf Village on Sunday, Nov. 3, from noon to 5 p.m. The event is hosted by Cruise Planners – Top Sail Journeys of Ponte Vedra Beach and Cruise Planners – Cruising with Cindy of St. Johns. For more information and to reserve free tickets, go to www.TheFloridaTravelExpo.com.

The Ponte Vedra Recorder is one of the sponsors of the event.

When to take Social Security benefits

By Peter Laliberte
Liberty Advising

Let's discuss your Social Security pension. Do you think Social Security is a good deal for seniors? This is an income stream that is guaranteed for life, has inflation protection and it still fairly tax efficient. How many plans are there like that? This is not only a good deal, it is a great deal! But you better get it right or you could cost yourself a lot of income in retirement.

The SSA says that Social Security makes up approximately 38% of household income in retirement. I work in the retirement field and I will tell you with good authority that it is higher than that for most families. In many cases it is the only guaranteed income coming in at all. It is a vital program for our seniors especially since baby boomers generally no longer receive pensions.

The big question is "when do I take it?" There is no universal answer. Every

situation is unique, but there is a maximum strategy for most people. We have a process that all of our clients go through. When someone goes through our holistic income planning process the answer becomes evident. I recommend doing that prior to making a decision on when to start your benefit.

A couple of years ago there were several changes made to Social Security that eliminated some of the claiming options. These changes led to a lot of confusion among consumers and also a lot of fear that Social Security benefits were going to be reduced. That is not true. Here is the simple reality. You have 96 different amounts you can get for your benefit. From age 62 to 70 your benefit increases a little bit each month. The best time to take it will depend on your overall retirement plan.

Take some time to explore your options before deciding when to take Social Security.

The difference in income can be life changing in retirement.

THEME: AUTHORS' LAST NAMES

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1. Relating to blood
6. Yard patch
9. Mrs. in Köln
13. Swelling of human organs
14. Grazing field
15. Not jocks
16. Take puppy from a pound
17. ____ De Triomphe
18. Blast from the past
19. *Joanne "Kathleen"
21. *Susan Eloise
23. Big head
24. Pre-hurricane wind
25. Her special day was May 12, 2019
28. Kent State state
30. Genuflect in submission
35. Afghanistan's neighbor

37. Wood sorrels
39. Mr. Ed's remark
40. Kudrow or Presley
41. *Herbert George
43. Kosher establishment
44. Approaches
46. Eating protocol
47. Edible fat
48. Provoke
50. Water carrier
52. Prior to, prefix
53. Comes before riches
55. Homer Simpson's neighbor
57. *James Matthew
60. *Sidonie-Gabrielle
64. Mood disorder
65. Koko the gorilla, e.g.
67. More unfriendly
68. Marcia, Jan, Greg, Peter, Cindy, Bobby, e.g.
69. Singer-songwriter Stewart
70. "Peter, Peter Pumpkin ____"
71. Wet nurse
72. Get the picture
73. Dentist's request
9. Hat material
10. Make over
11. Similar
12. "____ it or lose it!"
15. Continued
20. "No way" partner
22. Type or kind
24. Puck-catchers
25. *Alan Alexander
26. Architectural projection
27. Kenyan warrior
29. Coffee choice
31. What one does at the altar
32. Secure with ropes
33. Spectator
34. *Elwyn Brooks
36. Narcotics agent, for short
38. A whole bunch
42. Dictation taker
45. Sir, in Shakespeare's play
49. Mai ____
51. FEMA help
54. Spirograph pieces
56. Kind of sticker
57. *Lyman Frank
58. Tolstoy's Karenina
59. *Poet Adrienne or essayist Frank
60. Surrender land
61. Mambo king Puente
62. Casual summer wear
63. Blunders
64. Sloan or Wharton degree
66. *Edgar Allan

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From L.A. Reality TV to First Coast Improvisation

Before moving to Ponte Vedra two years ago, Christopher Schiavo had an exciting career in the L.A. entertainment industry.

Originally from New Jersey, Schiavo began his career as an assistant sound effects editor on blockbuster action films such as “Armageddon,” “The Rock” and “Con Air.” After that, he transitioned into reality television as a story producer for shows such as MTV’s “Rob Dyrdek’s Fantasy Factory” and Bravo’s “Shahs of Sunset” and as story editor on Bravo’s “Vanderpump Rules.”

But after working in Hollywood for nearly 30 years, he knew it was time for a change.

“There were a number of reasons my wife and I decided to make the move to Northeast Florida. First, my wife is a native Floridian and loves it here,” Schiavo stated. “Second, we have two children. Los Angeles is an exciting place, but it can be a bit too fast-paced. We wanted our daughters to have a normal, stress-free, and fun childhood in a beautiful and safe place. I think we definitely found such a place here in the beautiful First Coast region.”

While working in L.A., Schiavo met his wife at an improvisational comedy class at the renowned Groundlings Comedy Theatre; a training ground to such comic greats as Will Ferrell, Melissa McCarthy and Kristen Wiig. After studying and performing there, Schiavo coached improv comedy groups at The Improv Olympic West Theatre where he also performed in a three-man improv group alongside Eric Stonestreet, star of TV’s “Modern Family.”

“Ten years of improv taught me so much as a writer, performer and person,” he said. “I played with such amazing talents and loved every minute of it. So when I moved here, I wanted to bring that love, knowledge and experience with improv to people here.”

And what exactly can you learn by doing improv?

“Improv can help people from all walks of life, not just performers,” Schiavo said.

Schiavo is teaching his first improv class on the First Coast this month. “Intro to Improv Comedy” starts Monday, Sept. 16 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at First Coast Technical College. The class is a six-week course and is open to the community, not just FCTC students. To register, visit fctc.edu/community/enrichment. Schiavo will teach a similar class at the University of North Florida in January.



Christopher Schiavo



Photo courtesy of Amy West
Amy West poses with her First Coast Dancing with the Stars partner Chris Thomas.

First Coast Dancing with the Stars contestant prepares for competition

By Daniela Toporek

The Beaches Fine Arts Series’ First Coast Dancing with the Stars competition and fundraiser is only two days away, but that isn’t stopping any contestant from continuing to raise money and awareness for the cause and for their chance to win. Social media influencer and CEO of the Hive Society, Amy West, is one of these contestants and she hopes that her hard work and White Party fundraiser will be enough to take her to the top.

West has always dreamed of making it on TV, particularly on ABC’s Dancing with the Stars. When her friend and business partner, Chris Thomas, invited her to be his dance partner for BFAS’ First Coast DWTS competition, she was more than thrilled.

“I was already dancing with him for a social media collaboration promoting his ballroom studio,” West said. “Within a month or so, he said, ‘Hey, we have First Coast Dancing with the Stars coming up. Do you want to be a part of this?’ I was like ‘Wow, dreams really do come true.’ I was having a moment.”

The moment was brief, but necessary to ignite the persistence for constant rehearsal. West feared that her height would get in the way of her dancing, but what really challenged her was the balance and coordination needed for the Bolero-style dance her and Thomas will perform.

DANCING continues on Page 34

Boardwalk Talk at Beaches Museum to explore slave history on the First Coast

Craig Buettinger will present a talk titled “The Inspector and Fumigator at Mayport: Florida Lawmakers’ Effort to Stop Stowaway Slave Escapes on the St. Johns River in the 1850s” at 6 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Beaches Museum.

In 1855, the Florida legislature created the office of Inspector and Fumigator at Mayport in an effort to stem the rising number of escapes by enslaved men



Craig Buettinger

in Jacksonville, tell what can be uncov-

ered about the escapes (which were by nature hidden and secretive) and delve into the work of the official charged with preventing them.

This event is free to Beaches Museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for nonmembers. The Beaches Museum is located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 241-5657.

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Author to offer secrets to writing thriller novels

Today's thriller novels plunge the reader into an adrenaline-fueled world of nonstop action and intense conflict. Writing the thriller requires an understanding of the basic conventions of the genre necessary to keep readers on the edge of their seats. Award-winning author Vic DiGenti, also known as Parker Francis, reveals *Seven Secrets to Writing the Thriller* at the meeting of the Florida Writers Association Ponte Vedra Writers at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

"There's a reason the thriller has found its way into popular culture, and onto the bestseller lists," DiGenti said. "Readers love the vicarious thrills of a heroic figure caught up in high stakes and life and death action."



Vic DiGenti

During the one-hour presentation, DiGenti will discuss the seven essential elements of a thriller, identify the differences between mysteries and thrillers, and illustrate the best ways to add tension and conflict. After a career in broadcasting and special events as the producer of the Jacksonville Jazz Festival, Vic DiGenti turned to his first love — writing. He followed his three "Windrusher" adventure/fantasy novels with the Quint Mitchell Mystery series using the pen name Parker Francis. The series includes the thriller "Hurricane

Island." He has also penned biographies for two WWII veterans, and written four other personal biographies. As a working author and publisher (Windrusher Hall Press), Vic has taught writing classes at the University of North Florida and workshops at numerous writers' conferences throughout Florida and other states.

The Ponte Vedra Writers group is part of the Florida Writers Association, a statewide, nonprofit organization with nearly 1,500 members dedicated to the support of both aspiring and published writers in any genre.

The Sept. 14 meeting is free and open to FWA members and nonmembers alike. For information about FWA, visit www.floridawriters.net.

Dancing

Continued from 33

"Ballroom is counter intuitive," West said in regards to practice. "The movements you would expect to happen naturally, you intentionally have to do differently in order to hold a pose or create the momentum or motion for the dance. There's been a major learning curve, but I love it. It doesn't feel like work to me. It's fun."

But unlike ABC's competition, FC DWTS isn't just about the physical labor of consistent dance practices. It involves 50% talent, 50% promotion and market-

ing, as the judges also tally up how much money contestants can raise for the Beaches Fine Arts Series, a nonprofit that provides free concerts and free educational outreach programs in North Florida.

"You could have the best dance skills, but if you didn't raise equal or enough money compared to someone that didn't dance too well, they might win," explained West.

Thankfully, West knows her way around social media. With her travel blog, www.AmyWestTravel.com (named one of the top luxury travel bloggers to follow" by Trip Advisor's FlipKey website), and her networking organization for content creators, The Hive Society, her online

presence is well, blatantly present, and has helped her promote both the Beaches Fine Arts Series and her fundraiser for them, The Hive Society's White Party that was held Aug. 26, at Jacksonville Beach's Casa Marina.

"Honestly, it went as well as you could hope it would go," West recalled about the night, excited to look back on the fundraising event. "People said we totally transformed Casa Marina into something they've never seen before, which was great because that's what we were trying to do. We had such a small budget for that. Our florist did a great job of envisioning a different look. I haven't heard one person say anything negative."

Diamond Direct attended the event, raffling off two \$1,000 pieces of jewelry to two lucky guests, while artist, Maggie Stevenson, painted live and auctioned off her work to help with the fundraiser.

"It was exciting. With throwing the party and doing all the promotion for it, we generated 1 million impressions for them (Beaches Fine Arts Series). That's a lot of people, a lot of eyeballs that were able to learn and become aware of their brand. I wish we could have raised more money, but we did raise \$5,000 with the event."

The White Party featured a SaltAer fire performer and a decorative photo booth by Pompy's Portraits. West's DWTS dance partner is also a musician, and The Chris Thomas Band performed for guests throughout the evening — because being a professional dancer isn't already impressive enough.

"Chris is such an amazing performer and a ton of the people there were his followers," West bragged about her partner. "A lot of people don't know about his dancing, though. Monarch Ballroom is his studio. He's been in ballroom for over 30 years. He's an amazing professional dancer and has competed all over the world."

So with Thomas's professional grooves and West's knowledge in the digital world, it's safe to say these contestants have what it takes to take the 2019 Mirror Ball trophy this Saturday night.

"I would encourage people to definitely vote for us and support a great cause," West said. "Voting is open all the way until Sept. 14. The minimum is \$5 and every little bit counts."

For more information on Amy West and the Beaches Fine Art Series' First Coast Dancing with the Stars, visit www.firstcoastdwts.org/amy-west.

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Former Eagles guitarist Don Felder to perform at PV Concert Hall

Four-time Grammy-Award winning guitarist Don Felder will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Monday, Sept. 16.

Felder is renowned as a former lead guitarist of The Eagles, one of the most popular and influential rock groups of our time. The band's record-setting compilation "Their Greatest Hits (1971-1975)" sold more than 29 million copies in the U.S. alone and was awarded by the RIAA the top-selling album of the 20th century. Felder and the Eagles have sold more than 83.5 million albums to date. A member of The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame since 1998, Felder served as a member of The Eagles for 27 years. Felder originated the music and co-wrote The Eagles' biggest hit — the iconic, Grammy-studded smash "Hotel California" — along with fan favorites like "Victim of Love" and "Those Shoes." He became immediately celebrated for his lyrical, signature guitar work on songs like "Hotel California," "One of These Nights" and "New Kid in Town." "Hotel California" was recently voted the No. 1 best 12-string guitar song in the world by Guitar World magazine.

After leaving the group in 2001, Felder also became a New York Times bestselling author when his riveting confessional memoir "Heaven and Hell: My Life in



Photo courtesy of Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

Renowned guitarist Don Felder will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Sept. 16.

The Eagles' proved a commercial triumph upon publication in 2008 and went on to become a New York Times best-seller.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and The Amp St. Augustine box offices or ticketmaster.com. Ticket prices range from \$63 to \$133. For more information, visit www.pvconcerthall.com.



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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Local artist captures spirit of Jaguars fans



Photo by Daniela Toporek

It took nine days for Nicole "Nico" Holderbaum and her assistant to complete the new Jacksonville Jaguars mural for the 2019 season.

By Daniela Toporek

The bizarre Jacksonville Jaguars 2019 season opener resulted in a brutal 40-26 loss against the Kansas City Chiefs, leaving ejected linebacker Myles Jack on the bench and injured star quarterback Nick Foles on the field.

Luckily, Jags fans are resilient.

While exiting TIAA Bank Field, some fans ducked down in distress, but others held their heads high, ready to move forward. And while their heads were up, they may have noticed a giant set of golden eyes peeking at them through a colorful wilderness. It's Nicole "Nico" Holderbaum's mural giving fans not just a silent, strong staredown, but a proud communal masterpiece.

"I mean, it's a huge deal," Nico said about being commissioned by TIAA Bank Field. "It's the Jacksonville Jaguars, so I was very excited and honored."

Jaguars fan and home opener attendee, Will Clancey, noticed the mural immediately.

"It's really nice work," Clancey said. "It's bold for sure, really draws your eyes up."

A bold mural for the Bold City, Nico wanted to create something iconic without sacrificing personal style. She's always enjoyed painting big cats and tropical plants. Just add a dash of signature pink here, some cool blues and purples there to contrast with the warm eyes and, voilà. She makes it sound simple.

"It took nine days and it was pretty intense," said Nico. "I had an assistant who I've been teaching help me. For him, it was like boot camp because was so detailed. Using spray paint takes a while to learn. I learn every day, every time I use it."

MURAL continues on Page 38

Nease, Ponte Vedra football return to action Friday night

Nease and Ponte Vedra High School football teams return to the gridiron Friday, Sept. 13, after having their games canceled last week because of Hurricane Dorian.

The Panthers (0-2) are back in action Friday after suffering a dramatic 58-51 loss to rival Creekside in its home opener on Friday, Aug. 30. Nease led for most of the game before the Knights rallied to tie the score 36-36 following a touchdown and a 2-point conversion in the fourth quarter. Creekside scored again midway through the fourth to lead 44-36, but the Panthers pulled even with a touchdown with 1:51 left in the game. Creekside scored again with 1:38 left, and Nease responded with a TD at the 1:05 mark to tie the game 51-51. With 17 seconds left, the Knights scored a TD to take the lead, and Nease's final pass in the closing seconds fell incomplete giving Creekside the win.



Also on Aug. 30, Ponte Vedra (2-0) won its matchup against host Zephyrhills 40-7. The Sharks' defense held Zephyrhills scoreless for three quarters, mounting a 40-0 lead heading into the fourth, and also lim-



Photos by Chris Norton

ABOVE: Nease's Joe Bradshaw runs for a long touchdown run against Creekside on Aug. 30.

LEFT: Nease wide receiver Grant Stephens makes a catch during the game against Creekside.

ited the Bulldogs to just 32 passing yards.

Neither Nease or Ponte Vedra played games last week. The Panthers' home game against University Orange City and the Sharks' home game against Gainesville

Buchholz scheduled for Friday, Sept. 6, were canceled because of the storm.

On Friday, Sept. 13, Nease will host Sandalwood at 7 p.m. and Ponte Vedra will play at Palatka at 7 p.m.

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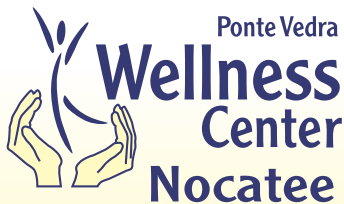
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Mural

Continued from 36

She explained that regardless of how long anyone been in the arts, there's always something to learn. Nico's work can be found throughout Jacksonville, particularly downtown in schools, parks and the recently opened Boys & Girls Club Citi Teen Center in Springfield.

"I just painted a huge mural in the gym," she said. "The Boys & Girls Club is also putting forward money to pay a group of local artists to come in and paint murals there, too."

Nico is active in not only the Jaguars community, but throughout Jacksonville, and she hopes to use her platform to create opportunities for struggling, young and local artists.

"Teenagers are exactly who I want to work with and mentor," she said. "They're at an age where they're aware of what goes on in the world, but that's also when you're so full of doubts and insecurities. Having one person show you that you can do it can be life changing."

Nico hopes to open doors for young artists in impoverished areas when Jacksonville yearns for its next splashes of color, striving to be "the glue that connects everybody together," she said.

"I would love to see more murals around town, especially places outside of downtown," Clancey answered after he



Photo by Allan Pimenta

Nico poses in front of her masterpiece in all-Jags attire after its completion in August.

saw Nico's Jaguars mural. "A great place to me would be the flyover at Kernan and Beach. Seems like it would be a great canvas for someone."

Maybe Nico can recommend someone.

To follow Nico's work, visit www.nico-suaveart.com or follow her Instagram accounts, @nicosuavalicious, @kidsmural-project, @werisemvmt and #duvalgems.

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