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PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

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PonteVedraRecorder.com



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for right whale  
watching

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featuring  
Dollars & Sense

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## CAR OF THE WEEK

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## Send us your news

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

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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](mailto: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.

Two readers correctly identified last week's photo as the sign for Ponte Vedra Animal Hospital. The winner of the random draw was **Anette Saalman**. Congratulations, Anette — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



### ADOPT A PET

#### CAT OF THE WEEK

Gem was picked up and brought to the Pet Center as a stray. She is a 6-month-old, spayed, domestic shorthair tabby. She is very shy at first, but then warms right up and cuddles. She is petite, young and playful — waiting for her new furrrever family. Come see Gem at the Pet Center today. #52640



#### DOG OF THE WEEK

Barney was brought to the Pet Center an owner release. He is a beautiful hound/lab mix with blue/brown eyes, who loves to smile. He would be a great family friend to older kids. He is housetrained, very sweet and good with cats and other dogs. Come see Barney at the Pet Center today. #52944



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

M	A	N	S	E	A	L	A	C	O	D	A		
A	V	O	W	S	P	A	L	O	I	L	E	R	
G	E	N	I	C	S	O	L	L	A	D	L	E	
I	R	O	N	A	G	E	O	S	M	O	S	I	S
E	R	A	T	Y	K	E							
S	P	A	P	U	R	R	I	C	E	C	A	P	
U	R	G	E	S	O	A	P	S	M	E	L	L	
M	O	L	T	S	M	I	L	E	I	D	E	A	
E	V	E	N	S	E	L	A	N	R	A	P	T	
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R	E	A	R	O	A	T							
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T	S	A	R	E	N	E	E	T	H	O	S		

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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# North Florida Land Trust, environmental groups urge lawmakers to fully fund Florida Forever

NFLT, 1,000 Friends of Florida and Matanzas Riverkeeper were joined by local government officials for the Florida Forever Days of Action event

North Florida Land Trust recently joined 1,000 Friends of Florida, the Matanzas Riverkeeper and St. Augustine government officials to urge Florida's legislature to fully fund the Florida Forever program. The event was one of seven held in the state over a two-day period in December as part of the Florida Forever Days of Action. More than 120 organizations and businesses also recently sent a letter to Governor Ron DeSantis and budget leaders to demand action to save the real Florida.

Florida Forever funding was historically at the \$300-million level but in recent years the funding levels have been much lower, allowing some preservation priority properties to be lost to development. One

piece of land that was preserved using Florida Forever funding served as the backdrop for the event. NFLT served as a facilitator to acquire Fish Island, a 57-acre property located on the Intracoastal Waterway immediately adjacent to the 312 bridge onto Anastasia Island. In partnership with the State of Florida, NFLT negotiated to purchase the property from the owners for a price of \$6.5 million. It was a project important to the City of St. Augustine and the many citizens who supported preservation. The State of Florida now owns the property and the City will manage it.

**FLORIDA FOREVER** continues on **Page 5**



Photo provided by North Florida Land Trust

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## THE LUXURY LEADERS TEAM RECOGNIZED AS FINALISTS FOR LUXURY PROPERTY VIDEO AWARD

**Ponte Vedra Beach, FL** - The Luxury Leaders Team was recognized as a finalist for the Luxury Property Video Award by The Institute for Luxury Home Marketing. The four finalists were presented during The Institute's annual Leaders in Luxury event on October 27-29, 2019 in the Four Seasons Resort in Palm Beach, FL.

Jim Zeller and Linda Ostoski, REALTORS® and Team Leaders of The Luxury Leaders Team, attended Leaders in Luxury to present their luxury property video. The video showcased their listing at 5395 Commissioners Drive in Pablo Creek Reserve, which sold for \$1,750,000 in April 2019. The video for this property can be viewed on The Luxury Leaders Team's YouTube Channel.

Read more at [WatsonRealtyCorp.com/Announcements](http://WatsonRealtyCorp.com/Announcements).

Pictured to the right: Linda Ostoski, Jim Zeller, Institute for Luxury Home Marketing President Diane Hartley

**THE LUXURY LEADERS TEAM**

Jim Zeller | 904.772.5592 | [JimZeller@WatsonRealtyCorp.com](mailto:JimZeller@WatsonRealtyCorp.com)  
 Linda Ostoski | 904.422.1098 | [LindaOstoski@WatsonRealtyCorp.com](mailto:LindaOstoski@WatsonRealtyCorp.com)

Best wishes to all in the new year!



# Wolfson Children's Hospital opens new children's emergency center at Baptist Medical Center South

By Maggie FitzRoy

Children and families in southern Duval and northern St. Johns Counties now have access to top-ranked emergency pediatric care, with the Dec. 30 opening of the new Wolfson Children's Emergency Center at Baptist Medical Center South.

The 8,100-square-foot, full-service center at 14550 Old Saint Augustine Road, Jacksonville, is located beside the existing adult emergency room at Baptist South. Staffed by a team of double-board-certified pediatric emergency physicians, pediatric emergency nurses, pediatric respiratory therapists and pediatric-trained radiologic technologists, the team is connected 24/7 with a larger team of pediatric emergency and pediatric specialty physicians at the main Wolfson Children's Hospital campus in downtown Jacksonville.

"We know this segment of the community is the fastest growing," Baptist South Hospital President Nicole Thomas said Dec. 27 as workers put the finishing touches on the new addition. In southern Duval and northern St. Johns Counties, she said they expect 265,000 new people to move into the area in the next 10 years. "Today, Baptist South is the busiest labor and delivery unit, delivering over 2,700 babies a year," she said. "We want to continue to provide care for the entire family at this campus of Baptist South." She said they expect to serve 10,000 pediatric patients in the first year.

Wolfson Children's Hospital consistently ranks among U.S. News & World Report's Best Children's Hospitals, and it was recently named one of the top 10 children's hospitals in the country by Leapfrog Group, a quality assessment organization.

The new pediatric emergency room at Baptist South is the sixth Wolfson Children's Emergency Center in Northeast Florida.

"It's important to us as a community-owned health system to provide care close to the community where people live," Thomas said. Speaking to residents in the area, she said Baptist South discovered that parents seeking emergency

medical service for their children were driving past the hospital as they looked for a Wolfson emergency room. "So, we created that dedicated experience for families right here at Baptist South, close to home," she said.

Baptist Health is an umbrella organization comprised of five hospitals, four adult and Wolfson Children's Hospital in downtown Jacksonville. Wolfson is a regional provider, with patients coming from as far as Georgia.

The main Wolfson downtown campus saw 5,000 patients in December in the emergency room there, Thomas said, so the new facility "will serve as another convenient portal and that should reduce wait times across the area."

The Wolfson ER at Baptist South is fully equipped for a wide variety of needs, from accidents of all kinds, to asthma to broken bones, and any illness, serving newborns to age 17.

The facility was designed to be kid-friendly in every aspect possible, with an ocean-theme design throughout featuring beautiful, colorful sea animals in a serene and soothing underwater setting.

In the entrance waiting area, a colorful mural covers one wall and each of the 12 exam rooms features a picture of a pretty sea creature. "The underwater fish-theme is designed to be a distraction, to reduce anxiety as we deliver emergency care for children," Thomas said.

There are also wagons on hand to transport children rather than in wheelchairs, when feasible, and each exam room is equipped with iPads for patients and their siblings to use when they are in there. Even the restrooms are family friendly, with large and small toilets side by side, with children's needs in mind.

The facility is also staffed with child life-specialists during peak hours, master's-prepared professionals who have been trained in ways to distract children who are going through unfamiliar and scary procedures, which is unique to Wolfson, Thomas said.

"It goes to show the level of detail involved in making the experience an excellent one during a trying time."



The entrance waiting area is designed with an underwater ocean theme, repeated throughout the facility.



A large shared work space for use by all the pediatric specialists in the emergency area is ringed by 12 exam rooms.



The main triage area in the new Wolfson Children's Emergency Center at Baptist South

**Workers ready the exterior of the new Wolfson Children's Emergency Center at Baptist Medical Center South, which opened Dec. 30.**

Photos by Maggie FitzRoy





# Be a citizen scientist: Learn to spot right whales

By Christine Rodenbaugh

If spotting a whale is still on your “bucket list,” First Coast residents have the opportunity to cross that one off, even if they don’t own a boat. While spotters need to learn what to look for, the 50-foot-long, 30- to 60-ton mammals come close enough to shore to be visible. From December through March, female right whales travel along the coast from the Cape Cod area to reach calving grounds off Georgia, and then continue south to Cape Canaveral.

Right whales were hunted to near distinction in the early 1900s. As the name indicates, they were the “right” whale to harvest because they are slow moving, float when killed and yield high amounts of oil and blubber to benefit whalers. Protections put in place in the 1930s have helped the North Atlantic right whale population increase from a low of 100 to about 400, but that number is still alarming. Other than man, great white sharks are the whales’ only predator.

Even though hunting is no longer practiced in Eastern Seaboard waters, man is the greatest threat to right whales. Ship strikes account for the most deaths followed by entanglements from commercial fishing gear. Air surveillance by plane or drone plus reported sightings by “citizen scientists” allows government agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard to notify ships greater than 65 feet that a whale is in their path. This real-time reporting gives captains time to alter course and avoid a strike.

Anyone who lives on or near the beach, or spends time near the ocean, can report a right whale sighting. Right whales usually swim with 90% of their body below water. Spotting the dark gray to black curve of the whale’s broad back is easiest in calm waters. Right whales have no dorsal fin, but may travel with a pod of dolphins. Black, paddle-shaped flippers and a black tail with a deep “V” notch in the center are identifying characteristics of right whales.

Using binoculars from an upper story of a beachfront condominium or home, spotters might notice white



Photo provided by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, taken under NOAA research permit 15488

**In January 2015, beachgoers in New Smyrna Beach reported sighting a juvenile right whale cruising the coastline just a few hundred yards offshore.**

blotches on the top and sides of the adult whale’s head called “callosities.” Like human fingerprints, the pattern of callosities is unique to each whale and used for identification.

To learn more about how to spot a right whale, plan to attend a volunteer training class from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Ponte Vedra Branch Library. The class, titled “Right Whales on the Brink: What Can You Do?” is free and open to the public, and registration is not required. Julie Albert, coordinator of the North Atlantic Right Whale Conservation Program for the nonprofit Marine Resources Council, will present the class.

To report a right whale sighting, call (888) 979-4253 and have as much of the following information as possible:

- Location of whale(s) – Latitude/longitude or nearby landmark

- Number of whales (adults and calves)

- Direction of travel

- Your name and a call-back number

Always remain 500 yards or more from right whales.

For those who can volunteer at least 4 hours a week for 10 weeks beginning Jan. 6, the Marineland Right Whale Survey Project provides the training, coordination and equipment needed to be a volunteer citizen scientist. The mandatory Survey Training Class to participate in the Marineland Survey Project is scheduled from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4 at Whitney Laboratory, 9505 Ocean Shore Blvd. in Marineland. The survey extends from the St. Augustine Pier, south to Ormond by the Sea, and volunteers can choose a segment of the coastline to survey. For information about the Marineland Survey Project, call (904) 461-4058 or email [marinelandrightwhale@gmail.com](mailto:marinelandrightwhale@gmail.com).

## Florida Forever

Continued from 3

“One of the tricks to what we do is to try and find the funding and the only funding available for the purchase of Fish Island was Florida Forever,” said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. “It was a very different kind of purchase and an expensive proposition. We made all the arguments for preservation and Fish Island stands now. It is an example of what the people can do when they come out and really express their viewpoints. Thank you also to Senator Bradley and Representative Cummings, whose offices are a stone’s throw away from Fish Island, for their support and leadership in acquiring this particular property. They too helped make this happen.”

The two lawmakers were instrumental in making sure Florida Forever was funded in 2019, but environmental groups are asking for Florida lawmakers to go a step further and fully fund Florida Forever at the \$300-million level. In 2014, 75% of Florida voters approved the Florida Water and Land Acquisition Amendment, which mandated funding for land conservation programs. The groups are now urging law-



Photo provided by North Florida Land Trust

makers to allocate money to save Florida’s natural spaces.

“The only way we are going to save Florida is if we buy land,” said Jane West, policy and planning director for 1000 Friends of Florida. “It is the sure-fire way to get it done but we have got to have money to do it and it is expensive and those prices keep going up. So it is really important that we get back to some of the historic funding levels for Florida Forever.”

Matanzas Riverkeeper Jen Lomberk

added, “Right here in our backyard, we have over 30,000 acres both on the banks of the St. Johns River and the Matanzas River that are undeveloped and have already been identified as priority areas under the Florida Forever program. But without funding that program, they are still very much on the chopping block for development.”

Lomberk said Floridian’s health, economy and quality of life depend on clean water and the best way to protect it is to protect the land. She said that is why

the Florida Forever program needs to be funded to at least the historic level of \$300 million. Lomberk, McCarthy and West are all urging citizens to contact their legislators and ask them to fully support Florida Forever.

“We need action now to protect our lands because we are falling behind,” said McCarthy. “Projections show Duval County will be built out in 2030 or 2040. St. Johns County is also a rapidly growing community and Flagler County is now catching up on the other side. If we don’t act soon, the property is going to become more and more expensive and could be lost.”

The preservation of Fish Island using Florida Forever funding is considered a huge win by all involved, including NFLT, the City of St. Augustine, Matanzas Riverkeeper and the community group Save Fish Island. On Saturday, Jan. 11, the Matanzas Riverkeeper in coordination with the City will be hosting a volunteer event to clean up the property. Those interested in helping are asked to sign up at [matanzasriverkeeper.org](http://matanzasriverkeeper.org). The cleanup will be followed by a public closing celebration expected to be held at the end of January 2020.



*A resident of Ponte Vedra, Karen Everett is Director of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Ponte Vedra Beach Division. Her office is located at 200 Solana Road, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach.*

## Karen Everett

As told to Maggie FitzRoy

### How does the Ponte Vedra Beach Division fit into the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce?

We are one chamber with two offices: St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra Beach. We cover the entire county, with seven councils and one division, the Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

### What are the seven councils?

Two new ones since I've been involved are the Women with Vision Council, which meets for lunch in Palencia every month and the North Business Council, which meets at Westminster Woods in Julington Creek. The other five are the Agricultural and Environmental Council, the Historic St. Augustine Area Council, the Small Business Council, the South Beaches Council and the Tourism and Hospitality Council. The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce is unique in that if you are a member of the Chamber of Commerce, you are a member of all the councils and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division. Some chamber members who live in St. Augustine come to the Ponte Vedra Beach area for events.

### What is the chamber all about?

We are all about helping our chamber members use networking to increase their business. There is also another group called the Economic Development Council. All chamber members are invited to join the EDC as a higher membership. The EDC hosts four quarterly breakfasts, usually at World Golf Village.

### How many members does the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce have?

A total of 1,100 members. Most of our members are Entrepreneur level. The next level up, Business Builder Membership, includes membership in the Economic Development Council.

### Tell us about your background. Where did you grow up?

My father was in the Navy, so I moved around a lot, all over the country. I went to junior high school in Bermuda and senior high school in Iceland, in Department of Defense schools.

### What did you do after high school?

I went to the University of Florida and majored in journalism, public relations. Got my masters at California State University after marrying my Naval officer husband, Win.



Photo by Maggie FitzRoy

### So, you grew up in the Navy and married someone in the Navy?

It's been an adventure. Definitely a coincidence. But moving around growing up and moving a lot as an adult, I've learned to be flexible and resilient. My husband, who was a Navy pilot, retired from the Navy in 2010, so we're not moving again. We love it here.

### What companies have you worked for?

Prudential Insurance, Barnett Bank in Jacksonville, ATT. In California, the Navy and Coldwell Banker Real Estate. In Maryland, the Navy, for county government and a defense contractor. Then back in Florida in 2014, I freelanced and then started working for the chamber in 2017 and became Economic Development Manager before my present position, which I started Oct. 1, 2019.

### As Director of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division, what does your job entail?

I work closely with all the county

commissioners. The Ponte Vedra Beach Division also holds three regular events a month: A Before Hours networking event, held at a sponsoring business; an After Hours, also held at a sponsoring business for networking and to showcase it; and a networking luncheon at a local venue, usually with a guest speaker. Four times a year, we join forces with the Jacksonville Chamber Beaches Division.

### Do you also have ribbon cuttings for members?

Yes, our ambassadors come with scissors and ribbon and take pictures. Ambassadors are business leaders who apply for the position to represent the chamber and their business. They visit new chamber members and help with ribbon cuttings. They also do a lot of outreach in the community on behalf of the chamber.

### What is your favorite part of your job?

Meeting all the great people and new businesses. Welcoming new businesses to

the community. I have been very welcomed by the community and am eager to fulfill the chamber's mission throughout the county, especially in the fast-growing Ponte Vedra Beach, Ponte Vedra, Nocatee and Beachwalk areas. I encourage your readers to consider becoming a member of the chamber, attend a chamber event.

### When you're not working, do you have hobbies?

I like to be outdoors. We have a small motorboat that we take out on the Intracoastal Waterway and we also go kayaking there. Also take lots of walks on the beach.

### Do you do any traveling?

Right now, we travel to Baltimore, Maryland a lot because that's where our grandson is. We have two sons, Alex — who is married to Elizabeth — and their son, Andrew, was born in February 2019. Our other son, Jesse, is an engineer in Melbourne, Florida.



# Cultural Center invites community to explore 'Treasures of Greece'

By Daniela Toporek

Private tours, live concerts and “undiscovered” sites — these are all promised for an upcoming trip to Greece with the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, in partnership with New York-based luxe travel company, Thalassa Journeys.

The Center hosted a luncheon Dec. 19 to discuss the trip with potential travelers, featuring as a special guest, Thalassa Journeys Sales Manager Lacy Marx.

To sample a little of Greece at home, a table of Greek delights, including stuffed grape leaves, hummus with pita and spanakopita, were served.

“The food there is unlike anything I’ve ever tasted,” Marx said before her presentation. “The tomatoes were ripe and juicy and had this distinctive flavor. It felt like when biting into it, it would just explode into my mouth.”

Marx said she took her first trip to Greece last year, and admired the unique variety of the land that Greece has to offer.

“It’s very diverse,” she said of the popular tourist destination. “It’s very mountainous in places. They do have the islands that are volcanic, but they also have islands filled with vegetation. It’s very rich and absolutely beautiful.”

The 12-day trip, to take place in the fall of this year, is open to the public. Planned for Sept. 29 through Oct. 12, it will feature multiple cities that are normally off the beaten-tourist map, including Thessaloniki, Larissa, Volos, Skiathos and more.

The trip will include historical insights, museums, archaeological masterpieces, natural beauty and music. Internationally accomplished chamber musicians will be accompanying the group and play intimate shows in private, historical sites.

To top it off, Helen Events, curator of Byzantine Art from the Metropolitan Art Museum in New York, will be the expert guest lecturer on the trip.

“She’s well known, respected and won the Friendship Award from the president of Armenia for her work and presenting Armenians in such a wonderful light, helping develop Armenian and American relations,” Marx said.



Guests of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach eat some Greek snacks before the trip presentation begins.



Photos by Daniela Toporek

Lacy Marx poses after reminiscing on her trip to Greece before her presentation.

“We went to Italy for our first trip,” Jennifer Jordan, Community Connections Director of the Cultural Center, said of a previous tour the cultural center hosted. “It was a small group, but after, we heard so many of our guests say, ‘If we only had known sooner...,’ so now we’re trying to get them informed.”



A guest reads through the “Treasures of Greece” brochure during the presentation at the Cultural Center.

Donna Guzzo, the Center’s executive director, said that trips with her guarantee a little spontaneity, but a great time.

“Some of us ended up at (luxe shoe designer) Salvatore Ferragamo’s home,” she said, recalling their Italian escapades. “Some of us dined and toured at the (Ferragamo) restaurant. They closed it off for

the public. It was just us. They weren’t really planned on the trip, so you never know when you’re traveling with Donna!”

For more information on the “Treasures of Greece” trip and the Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach, visit [www.ccpbb.org](http://www.ccpbb.org). For more on Thalassa Journeys, visit [www.thalassajourneys.com](http://www.thalassajourneys.com).

# More than 18,000 birds counted in 1 day in St. Augustine area

Fifty-three determined St. Augustine area birders counted 18,121 individual birds while participating in the National Audubon Society’s 120th annual Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 15.

The Christmas Bird Count is the oldest “citizen science” project for bird counts in the world. The first count was held on Christmas Day in 1900, when ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an officer in the early Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition, counting birds rather than hunting them. Twenty-five counts were held that day with 27 volunteers.

Since then, the Christmas Bird Count

has grown tremendously and is now international, although the bulk of the counting is done in the U.S. Last year’s count included nearly 80,000 volunteers counting in 2,615 areas or 15-mile radius “circles.” More than 48.5 million birds were counted worldwide.

Data derived from counts over the past century allow researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies and others to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America and the world. The data is accessible to anyone who needs it.

In St. Augustine, Leader Compiler

Linda Burek, reported that the record number of birders, who ranged in age from 12 to over 70 years old, found 145 species within the 15-mile radius St. Augustine Circle.

“To capture this count, 19 teams walked over 37 miles, drove over 311 miles, and boated the Intracoastal Waterway over 22 miles,” Burek said.

The St. Augustine Circle count had two sponsors, the St. Johns County Audubon Society and the Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM NERR), local organizations that provided resources, participants, and in

the case of the GTM NERR, one of the boats used in the count.

This year’s count was a bit lower than many prior years for several of the species that residents of St. Johns County generally see. However, some of the high counts included 2,221 yellow-rumped warblers, 322 robins, 616 red-winged blackbirds and 549 tree swallows.

Shorebird numbers for the St. Augustine CBC are always of great interest and this year was no different. The birders found 919 semipalmated plovers, 1,384 white ibis, 498 brown pelicans and 422 white pelicans.





The Beaches Go Green display, which was awarded Best of Show Display for the 2019 Deck the Chairs exhibit in Jacksonville Beach.

RIGHT: Blue ribbon winner Beach House Assisted Living

Photos provided by Deck the Chairs



The K9s for Warriors display, which was awarded Best of Show Chair.



Yellow ribbon winner Atlantic Beach Country Club



Red ribbon winner St. Paul's Catholic School

## Deck the Chairs announces winners

Organizers of the 2019 Jacksonville Beach “Deck the Chairs” exhibit collected more than 630 Chair Decorating Award Ballots and tabulated more than 1,500 individual chair votes to finalize the list of this year’s chair decorating award winners.

The exhibit boasted 32 eligible entries and visitors were unanimous in their appreciation of a more creative and interactive decorated lifeguard chair display and experience. Business and organizations

sponsor chairs and decorate them in themes related to the holiday season or promote interactivity and creative thinking.

The winners:

**Best of Show Chair:** K9s for Warriors

**Best of Show Display:** Beaches Go Green

**Blue Ribbon:** Beach House Assisted Living

DECK THE CHAIRS continues on Page 11

## We Made the List...Again!

We are beaming with pride that we made The Knot’s “Best of Weddings” 2020 list. Thanks to the amazing Oceanside team members who provide top-notch bridal services, we are honored to be named among the best.



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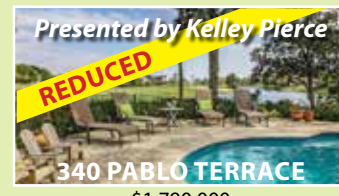


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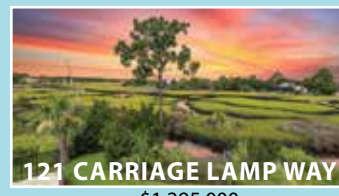
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# Restored St. Augustine landmark celebrates 20 years

By Christine Rodenbaugh

Richard Kessler visited St. Augustine in the mid-1990s on a trip with his college-age daughter, Laura. They stayed in a bed and breakfast inn and took in the sights. Kessler, CEO of The Kessler Enterprise Inc., had just finished the Grand Bohemian Hotel in downtown Orlando, and wondered if a luxury hotel had a place in the Nation's Oldest City.

He walked to the city offices in the Lightner building and asked to see the city manager.

"I asked him if there was any property available for a hotel," Kessler said. "He walked to his window and pointed across the street to the courthouse. 'You can buy that,' he told me."

Arthur Andersen had done a feasibility study for a hotel in St. Augustine's downtown advising it should have no more than 80 rooms, no more than three stars, and would take a long time to be successful.

"I didn't believe that," Kessler said. "I talked with Laura and we decided St. Augustine needed a luxury hotel."

The historic Casa Monica Hotel opened its doors on Dec. 10, 1999.

"It was profitable in the first year," Kessler said.

To celebrate the property's 20th anniversary, Kessler and staff threw a party Dec. 11. There was an open bar with beer, wine and champagne, and hors d'oeuvres and cake were served. Kimberly Wilson, general manager, recognized employees Luis Estes and Gillen Durling who have worked at the hotel for 20 years.

Flagler College President Joe Joyner said, "This is a very special place for me." The school has a partnership with the hotel to host forum speakers. "Hospitality is the fastest growing major at Flagler," Joiner said. And many of those students intern or work at the Casa Monica.

Admission was free, but guests were asked to bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Gary Maguire was on site to collect the toys. "I only have a pickup," he said. "I'm calling for a bigger truck."



The Casa Monica Hotel celebrates its 20th anniversary in downtown St. Augustine with a community party Dec. 11. Richard Kessler (from left), CEO of The Kessler Enterprise, recognizes two 20-year employees, Luis Estes and Gillen Durling with General Manager Kimberly Wilson.



Gail Nankervis (from left), Lisa Peterson, Carla Dams and Jenny Jones celebrate the holidays at the Casa Monica Hotel's 20th Anniversary celebration Dec. 11.



Gary Maguire was on site to collect unwrapped toy donations for Toys for Tots.

Photos by Christine Rodenbaugh

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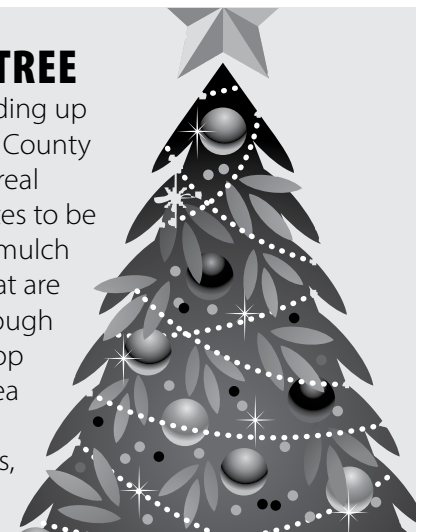
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To help reduce the amount of waste ending up in landfills during the holidays, St. Johns County residents are encouraged to bring their real Christmas trees to designated county sites to be recycled. Recycled trees will be used as mulch in county parks. Only clean, real trees that are free of decorations will be accepted through Jan. 5 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The drop off location in the Ponte Vedra Beach area is Davis Park at 210 Davis Park Road. For more information and for other locations, call (904) 209-0323.







**Most Inventive winner, The Mini Bar & Southern Swells**



**Honorable mention, City of Jacksonville Beach**



**Honorable mention, First Coast Urogynocology**



**Honorable mention, American Legion**



Photos provided by Deck the Chairs  
**Honorable mention, Fur Sisters**



**Honorable mention, Marand Builders**

## Deck the Chairs

Continued from 9

- Yellow Ribbon:** Atlantic Beach Country Club
- Red Ribbon:** St. Paul's Catholic School
- Most Inventive:** The Mini Bar & Southern Swells
- Honorable Mention:** City of Jacksonville Beach
- Honorable Mention:** Fur Sisters
- Honorable Mention:** First Coast Urogynocology
- Honorable Mention:** American Legion
- Honorable Mention:** Marand Builders



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Thursday, Jan. 2	Friday, Jan. 3	Saturday, Jan. 4	Sunday, Jan. 5
<p><b>TaxSlayer Gator Bowl</b> The 75th Annual TaxSlayer Gator Bowl is coming to downtown Jacksonville at 7 p.m., Jan 2., at TIAA Bank Field. The Tennessee Volunteers, of the SEC, are the home team, and will be seated on the West side of the stadium. The Indiana Hoosiers, of the Big Ten, will be on the East side. Children ages 3 and older must have a valid game ticket to enter. For tickets, visit <a href="http://www.Tickmaster.com">www.Tickmaster.com</a>. TIAA Bank Field is located at 1 TIAA Bank Field Drive in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Harry Potter trivia at Burrito Gallery</b> Burrito Gallery in Jacksonville Beach is hosting a Harry Potter trivia night with Trivia Nation. Come hungry and thirsty as trivia players eat, drink and compete to see who really knows their stuff to become the Harry Potter Trivia Winners. \$300 will be awarded to first-prize winners, along with other cash prizes and more. To compete or for more information, call Burrito Gallery at (904) 246-6521. Burrito Gallery is located at 300 Beach Blvd., #1, in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Nights of Lights boat cruise</b> The Nights of Lights boat cruises are back, now through Feb. 2, 2020, for a tour of the lights along the water in downtown St. Augustine. Boats will launch out of Beaches of Vilano and run between two to three trips per night, every day of the week. For more information, call Night of Lights Cruise at (904) 248-4424. Beaches of Vilano is located at 254 Vilano Road, in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Torah &amp; Tea</b> Join with fellow Jewish women for camaraderie and refreshments as they meet for "Torah &amp; Tea," Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. This weekly study group finds relevant messages from issues discussed in the Weekly Torah portion. Reservations can be made by contacting Leah Kurinsky at <a href="mailto:lkurinsky@gmail.com">lkurinsky@gmail.com</a> or (904) 543-9301. Torah and Tea meets at Chabad at the Beaches, located at 521 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p><b>First Friday Art Walk in St. Augustine</b> Whether a browser or serious art collector, join downtown St. Augustine for the First Friday Art Walk. Over 25 galleries open their doors to the public from 5 to 9 p.m. Hop aboard the free Art Walk trains and trolleys that run throughout downtown to explore the galleries or go explore by foot. The Plaza de la Constitución divides the galleries into four convenient art districts: North of the Plaza, South of the Plaza, West of the Plaza, and East of Downtown. This self-guided tour is free. Parking is also free after 5 p.m. at many locations. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.oldcity.com">www.oldcity.com</a>. The Plaza de la Constitución is located at 170 St George St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>First Friday Cosmic Concert</b> The Bryan-Gooding Planetarium at the Museum of Science and History rocks the first Friday of every month with a total-sensory experience as laser lights, high-def images and digital sound collide to create a "cosmic concert!" Choose from four different sets, at 7, 8, 9 or 10 p.m., each with a different theme and set list. Each show is \$10 for nonmembers, \$5 for museum member and \$1 for laser glasses. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.themosh.org/explore/planetarium">www.themosh.org/explore/planetarium</a>. Planetarium shows, laser shows and light effects may cause seizures in certain individuals. The Museum of Science and History is located at 1025 Museum Cir. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>GTM Reserve volunteer orientation</b> On the first Friday of most months, from 10-11:30 a.m., the GTM Research Reserve offers an introduction to the volunteer program where attendees will learn about the background and history of the reserve, volunteer opportunities available, expectations and benefits and a tour the Visitor Center. For more information, call (904) 823-4500 or email volunteer coordinator, Shannon Rininger, at <a href="mailto:shannon.rininger@dep.state.fl.us">shannon.rininger@dep.state.fl.us</a>. The GTM Research Reserve is located at 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p><b>Rescue Junkie adoption event</b> Join Rescue Junkie at EarthWise Pet Jax Beach at 10 a.m., Jan. 4, during a special adoption event to find the new pet of the house while getting an exclusive deal on nutritious food and pet supplies. Rescue Junkie and EarthWise will post pictures of adoptees the week prior to the event each month. To fill out an adoption form early head over to: <a href="http://www.rescuejunkie.org">www.rescuejunkie.org</a>. EarthWise Pet Jax Beach is located at 3846 Third St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Farmers Market at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre</b> Shop fresh foods, artisan goods and local art as shoppers enjoy local music and flavorful eats, Saturdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Pets are not allowed in the market. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.facebook.com/staugampmarket">www.facebook.com/staugampmarket</a>. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Free ukelele lesson at George's Music Jax Beach</b> Visit George's Music Jax Beach from 2 to 3 p.m., Jan. 4, for an interactive and educational workshop on the ukelele. Whether a beginner uke enthusiast, a professional player or a guitar player looking for something different, this class is free for all. Bring a ukelele. Don't own one? George's Music will provide one for you. This free lesson will cover basic ukelele overview, beginning chords, strumming techniques and a shot at learning some tunes. For more information, call (904) 270-2220. George's Music Jax Beach is located at 912 Third St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Donna the Buffalo at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall</b> The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall welcomes the return of distinctive, groove-heavy American roots music group, Donna the Buffalo, at 8 p.m., Jan 4. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8. For tickets and more information, visit <a href="http://www.pvconcerthall.com">www.pvconcerthall.com</a>. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p><b>GTM Reserve's Guided Exploration Hike</b> From 9 to 11 a.m., the first Saturday of the month, visitors can learn about the cultural history of the Guana Peninsula, along with its natural biodiversity, during a guided hike. Find out about the peninsula's 5,000 years of human history, how native people used estuarine resources, what European plantation life was like and current efforts to learn about and save these resources. Meet at the GTM Research Reserve's Trailhead Pavilion, located west of the Guana Dam. There is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. The event is free, but online registration is required. The GTM Research Reserve is located at 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Sundays at Surfer the Bar</b> Join Big Fish Power Yoga on Sundays for a free "music &amp; flow" class at Surfer the Bar. The class is held upstairs and runs from 10 to 11 a.m. Bring friends and family and enjoy brunch and mimosas after class. Register under classes at <a href="http://www.bigfishpoweryoga.com">www.bigfishpoweryoga.com</a>. Surfer the Bar is located at 200 First St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Open house at Class Axe Throwing</b> Classe Axe Throwing in Jacksonville is throwing an open house for free axe throwing lessons for those 12 years and older. The open house will take place from 3 to 6 p.m., Jan. 4, and will also be a night of celebrating the kick-off for the 2020 Winter Axe League season that starts Jan. 12. Jacksonville's 2019 WATL World Championship competitors will also be on site for exhibition matches and trick shot demos. For more information, call Class Axe at (904) 479-9720. Class Axe Throwing is located at 9230 Arlington Expy., B, in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Bird Walk for Beginners</b> All levels of birders are welcome to join Duval Audubon for the monthly walks for novice birders at the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, at 10 a.m., Jan 5. Fort Caroline is a migration hot spot and part of the National Park Service's Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, which has some of the last untouched coastal habitat in northeast Florida. Attendees will meet at the Visitors Center at Fort Caroline. Bring binoculars or notify a ranger if you need to borrow a pair. This event is free and open to the public. The Visitor's Center is located at 12713 Fort Caroline Road in Jacksonville.</p>

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Monday, Jan. 6	Tuesday, Jan. 7	Wednesday, Jan. 8	Thursday, Jan. 9
<p><b>All Abilities Social at iFLY Jacksonville</b> iFLY Jacksonville is kicking 2020 off with an All Abilities Social at 5 p.m., Jan. 6. iFLY's All Abilities is a night for guests with any physical or cognitive special needs to make new friends, have fun, and perhaps even experience flight. Cost to attend the social is free and all guests can enjoy some sweet treats during their visit. Those guests who are interested in flying during the social will receive complimentary food and beverage, along with the flight experience. For questions or to reserve a spot, call iFLY at (904) 712-3388. iFly is located at 10579 Brightman Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Nights of Lights boat cruise</b> The Nights of Lights boat cruises are back, now through Feb. 2, 2020, for a tour of the lights along the water in downtown St. Augustine. Boats will launch out of Beaches of Vilano and run between two to three trips per night, every day of the week. For more information, call Night of Lights Cruise at (904) 248-4424. Beaches of Vilano is located at 254 Vilano Road, in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Monday trivia at Mellow Mushroom</b> Join Mellow Mushroom every Monday night at 7 p.m. for trivia with Trivia Nation. This event is free to play and there are prizes for the winners. Mellow Mushroom is located at 1018-2 Third St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Run Club at Southern Swells</b> Join Jax Beach Runners Monday nights at Southern Swells Brewing Co. for an evening run at 7 p.m. It is a 4.2-mile route, but runners can run as much or as little as they'd like. After the run, hang out and enjoy \$1 Southern Swells beers for all who ran. For more information about Jax Beach Runners and their events, visit their meetup page at <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Jax-Beach-Runners/">www.meetup.com/Jax-Beach-Runners/</a>. Southern Swells Brewing Co. is located at 1312 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p><b>Discovery Marsh Walk at Anastasia State Park</b> Explore the Anastasia Marsh Trail from 11 a.m. to noon, Jan. 7, and learn about the importance of estuarine systems that surround the inshore sides of barrier islands. Hikers will travel through the maritime hammock and tidal salt marsh while discovering the plant and animal life found in these natural communities. Suggested items to bring are binoculars, comfortable walking shoes, a camera, drinking water, bug spray, and sunscreen. Meet by the Anastasia Watersports parking lot. This event is weather permitting and subject to cancellation. For more information, email <a href="mailto:chanell.guillaume@floridadep.gov">chanell.guillaume@floridadep.gov</a>. Anastasia State Park is located at 300 Anastasia Park Road in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>First Coast Newcomers Card Playing Club playing date</b> The First Coast Newcomers Card Playing Club will host its next playing date at a clubhouse restaurant in St. Augustine at 3:30 p.m., Jan. 7. The event is free to attend with walk-ins and guests welcome. Contact the club organizer at (904) 829-0643 to RSVP, the location and/or for more information.</p> <p><b>Men's Over 40 Basketball</b> This active recreational group meets at the Palms Presbyterian Church gym (Fellowship Hall), Tuesdays at 6 p.m., for exercise and fellowship. The group is open to all who want to play some ball. For more information, call Paul Short at (904) 626-5305. Palms Presbyterian Church is located at 3410 Third St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Karaoke at theLOFT</b> Liven up a Tuesday evening and visit theLOFT for its weekly karaoke party. Dj. Keith Wilson will provide the tunes, with a wide range of up-to-date songs and lyrics projected on a massive screen on theLOFT's wall. The first five participants get a free shot of Fireball and bragging rights. This event is free and open to those over 21 years of age. For more information, call theLOFT at (904) 551-1350. theLOFT is located 925 King St. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>Celine Dion: Courage World Tour</b> World-famous Canadian singer, Celine Dion, will be performing at the Vystar Veterans Memorial Arena in downtown Jacksonville at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 8. For tickets, visit <a href="http://www.ticketmaster.com">www.ticketmaster.com</a>. For more information, call (904) 630-3900. The Vystar Veterans Memorial Arena is located at 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Caregiver support group</b> A caregiver support group will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Palms Presbyterian Church library, Jan. 8. The group encourages caregivers to maintain their own personal, physical and emotional health while they care for the person with dementia. In addition, the group may provide a much-needed break from caregiving responsibilities. Lunch will also be served. Registration is required and space is limited. Call the help line at 1 (800) 272-3900 to register or for more information. Palms Presbyterian Church is located at 3410 Third St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>\$1 slices at Trasca &amp; Co. Eatery</b> From Monday to Friday, 2 to 5 p.m., Trasca &amp; Co. Eatery will be serving \$1 pizza slices for dine-in guests. Choose from cheese or pepperoni pizza. For more specials and information, call Trasca &amp; Co. Eatery at (904) 395-3983. Trasca &amp; Co. Eatery are located at 155 Tourside Drive, #1500, in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Science on Tap at Aardwolf Brewery</b> Join for this month's topic in this series of community science conversation. The series occurs the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Aardwolf Brewery in Jacksonville. January's topic is "Redefining 'You': Tales from the World of Microbes" featuring guest speaker, Dr. Andy Ouellette, from Jacksonville University. The event is free and all are welcome to attend. Aardwolf Brewery is located at 1461 Hendricks Ave. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>Om in the Dome</b> Join regional teacher Melissa Hirschman, at the Museum of Science and History, along with master handpan musician, John Guinta, for a hypnotic evening of yoga and live music under the stary scenscape inside the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium. Om in the Dome starts at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 9. Entry is \$20 and no yoga experience is necessary. Light refreshments will be provided after the yoga practice. The MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Cir. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Realtor Sales and Marketing Power luncheon</b> Lisa Harris of America's Choice Title Company and Chad Ethier of Bank of England, are hosting a Realtor Power Lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1p.m., Jan. 9 at V Pizza in Palm Valley. This lunch will be a networking session where to share information on marketing ideas for Realtors in the marketplace. Bring copies of latest listings while enjoying snacks and drinks. There will also be a drawing for a door prize, so bring business cards. To RSVP or for Non Realtors who are interested in the event, email Harris at <a href="mailto:lisa@achoicetitle.com">lisa@achoicetitle.com</a>. V Pizza in Palm Valley is located at 154 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Thirsty Thursdays at Al's Pizza</b> 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><b>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to <a href="mailto:Daniela@opcfia.com">Daniela@opcfia.com</a> or call (904) 686-3939.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Compiled by Daniela Toporek</p>

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# We Can Be Heroes Foundation holds Pearl Harbor Day event

The We Can Be Heroes Foundation held a Pearl Harbor Day Breakfast with Our Heroes Dec. 7, honoring World War II veterans and Gold Star Families. Retired U.S. Navy Captain Ryman Shoaf gave a speech, presenting the captivating story of a Pearl Harbor Lead Aviator and his eventual conversion to Christianity and evangelism with the renowned Billy Graham. A valuable record of the major events of the time made the presentation come alive for attendees.

World War II Veterans, Gold Star Families, veterans representing the Clara White Mission, the Ponte Vedra High School

Sharks for Heroes Club and the Atlantic Coast Young Marines joined the event.

Speaking for the World War II Veterans at his table, 101-year-old Veteran Sollie Mitchell said, "We are very pleased – everything is beautiful. The Speaker did a super job and was very informative." Mitchell served in the office of General Douglas MacArthur in the Philippines during World War II.

Nonperishable food and winter clothing were collected at the event for homeless veterans in re-employment programs with the Clara White Mission.

**Members of the Sharks for Heroes club participated in the Pearl Harbor Day event. Seated (from left): Emmerly Harrington and Melissa Marino. Back row (from left): Sharks for Heroes Vice President Jake Simone, Matthew Adrian, Cody Nelson and President Mason Romero. Front (standing) are two members of Atlantic Coast Young Marines.**



Photos provided by the We Can Be Heroes Foundation



Seated (from left): World War II veterans Bob Hall and Sollie Mitchell. Standing (from left): Sharks for Heroes President Mason Romero and Vice President Jake Simone

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**Ponte Vedra Campus**  
January 10, 9-11 a.m.

**Whitehurst Campus**  
January 14, 9-11 a.m.

**Bartram Campus**  
January 16, 9-11 a.m.

**San Jose Campus**  
January 17, 8:30 a.m.



## KIDS SAY

In this new feature of the Ponte Vedra Recorder, "Kids Say," area children offer their answers for some pressing questions. This week, first-graders at OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY were asked ...

# WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE ANIMAL?



"I like birds. They're nice and really peaceful."

Tinsley



"Dogs because they're fun to play with!"

Duke



"A bald eagle because they can dive down over 100 mph."

Knox



"Can we choose two? I like lizards and fish!"

Eli



"Well then my favorites are horses and unicorns!"

Ellie

Sponsorship opportunities for this special feature are available. Call Susan Griffin at (904) 285-8831, ext. 3938 or email [susan@opcfla.com](mailto:susan@opcfla.com) for more information.

## School Choice Showcase to provide information to students and parents

St. Johns County middle and high school students and their parents are encouraged to attend the Program of Choice Showcase from 3:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9 at the World Golf Village Convention Center. Programs of Choice are offered to support a student's interests, career plans or advanced academic needs. A student who enrolls in a Program of Choice participates in theme-related classes over a multi-year time period.

More than 40% of high school students in St. Johns County are enrolled in various Programs of Choice, which include Junior ROTC, St. Johns County Center for the Arts, International Baccalaureate and Advanced International Certificate of Education, as well as 20 Career Academy options.

Students and staff from each high school will be on hand to provide information and answer questions about the Programs of Choice offered at their schools. Information about program requirements and registration will also be available. Any student who meets an

individual program's requirements and who can provide their own transportation may be approved to attend any high school, on a "space available" basis.

For additional information about SJCS D Programs of Choice, call the Career and Technical Education Office at (904) 547-4870.

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## Hundreds join St. Johns Jewish Community Hanukkah Celebration held at Nocatee Splash Water Park

The St. Johns Jewish community gathered for a community-wide Hanukkah celebration at the Nocatee Splash Water Park on Monday, Dec. 23, the second night of the eight-day holiday.

The gathering, organized by Chabad of St. Johns County, featured a Hanukkah-themed light show as well as a glowing menorah lighting ceremony and a helicopter “gelt” drop in which thousands of chocolate Hanukkah coins, known in Yiddish as “gelt,” rained down from a helicopter hovering over the water park, along with parachuting menorahs and dreidels, taking the festivities to new heights.

Participants sang and danced to Hanukkah-themed music and also enjoyed traditional Hanukkah foods, including latkes and sufganiyot.

The distribution of gelt is a more than 2,000-year-old custom, designed to reward children for exemplary behavior as well as educate them to give charity. A more contemporary version of giving gelt evolved into chocolate coins in foil wrapping.

“We were looking for a way to bring the well-known Jewish holiday of Hanukkah

to a whole new level and get the entire family involved,” said Dini Sharfstein, co-director, Chabad of St. Johns County. “The St. Johns community Hanukkah celebration at Nocatee Splash Water Park is a fun and entertaining family-oriented event where everyone can come and celebrate Hanukkah.”

The menorah lighting and Hanukkah festivities were part of the worldwide Hanukkah campaign, an annual initiative launched by the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, in 1973. The campaign highlights and encourages the central theme of the holiday—publicizing the story of the Hanukkah miracle.

“The message of Hanukkah is the message of light; a small amount of light dispels a lot of darkness,” said Rabbi Mendel Sharfstein, co-director of Chabad of St. Johns County. “With the terrible anti-Semitic incidents in Pittsburgh, Poway and most recently in Jersey City still on our minds, we need the message of Hanukkah now more than ever. We must all add in our spreading of light by doing more good deeds and acts of kindness.”



Photos provided by Chabad of St. Johns County





Local fashion designs were showcased at this year's Jacksonville Beach Pier Dance



ABOVE: Local favorite band, BayStreet, started the annual tradition of the Pier Dance.

# Traditional Jacksonville Beach party with James Bond theme helps local families in need

By Amber Lake

The annual Jacksonville Pier Dance teamed up yet again with the Casa Marina Hotel to help raise money for B.E.A.M (Beaches Area Assisted Ministry) and celebrate the birthday of the hotel's beloved Maître d, Sterling Joyce, on Wednesday, Dec. 18.

The party has become a Jacksonville tradition that brings holiday cheer while benefiting local families in need. Now in its 21st year, the Pier Dance features live music from BayStreet band and a locally sourced fashion show — all in a sleek James Bond themed event.

In 1998, the original bassist of the BayStreet band, John Miller, founded the Pier Dance, making the admission one unwrapped child's toy and non-perishable food item. Originally held on the Jacksonville Pier, the following year brought Hurricane Floyd, which destroyed the

original event's location. It was eventually decided to hold the Jacksonville Pier Dance at the Casa Marina Hotel, where it has been for the past twenty years. Sterling Joyce, who had been celebrating his birthday in a charity-styled event, decided to combine both parties into one iconic Jacksonville Beach tradition.

PIER DANCE continues on Page 19



LEFT: Hundreds of toys and non-perishable food items were collected for B.E.A.M

Photos by Amber Lake

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**OBITUARIES**

**Maryann Lind Haas**

Maryann Lind Haas passed away Monday, December 23, 2019, at the age of 83. She was born in New Jersey in 1936.

She received her B.S. Degree in education from Immaculata University in Pennsylvania and did post-graduate studies in education at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Haas was certified in education in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She taught public elementary school full-time in those two states, and part-time in Oklahoma while her husband was in Officers' Basic Training at Fort Sill.

She was a landscape art photographer for many years and won juried shows. As part of this, she has built a collection of museum-quality, vintage photographic art by many of the world's greatest photographers.



Maryann Lind Haas

She was heavily involved in volunteer work all her life. Since relocating to Jacksonville, Florida, she has been a Board Member for six years and Membership Chairperson for FOCUS Cummer, a

Docent for the Cummer Museum, a member of the Art Exhibition Committee of Ponte Vedra Cultural Center, Vice President of Questers of Ponte Vedra Beach, and a member of the Plantation Country Club Membership Committee.

Before relocating with her husband to Ponte Vedra Beach from Malibu, California, in 1994, she was a Docent for the Malibu Lagoon Museum. Mrs. Haas had been a Co-Chairperson of the Art Committee of the Philadelphia Country Club, Co-Chairperson of the Social Committee

of the Hudson Country Club of Ohio, Co-Chairperson of the Shipley School Annual Christmas Shop in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, President of the Women's Club of Hudson, Ohio, President of Questers of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, Vice President and Treasurer of the Southern New Jersey chapter of the American Association of University Women, and member of the Cooper Hospital Board Junior Committee, New Jersey.

She also was a committee member for the Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, Philadelphia Drama Guild, Hospitality Philadelphia Style, Philadelphia Heart Ball, and the Cleveland Orchestra. She was also a member of the Republican Women's Committee of Hudson, Ohio and Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Haas is a past member of the Country Club of Hudson, Ohio, the Cotillion Society of Cleveland, the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce Club, the Cleveland Athletic Club, the Philadelphia

Country Club, the Union League Club of Philadelphia, and the Plantation Country Club and the Sawgrass Tournament Players Club both of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Mrs. Haas is survived by her husband, Edward, of 61 years; son, Dr. Eric Haas of Atlantic Beach, Florida; daughter, Gretchen Theodore and son-in-law, Mark Theodore; and grandchildren, Alexander and Helena, all of Los Angeles California.

Services will be held privately in California.

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



Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre  
3600 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250  
Phone: 904.248.1100 Fax: 904.241.7554

OBITUARIES continues on Page 19

**THROWBACK THURSDAY**

*Now We're Here Year Round - Happy 1981!*

1980 saw Ponte Vedra's first political forum - sponsored by the Ponte Vedra Recorder

**Ponte Vedra**  
**We've Come a Long Way...**

Community and development is nothing new to Ponte Vedra. For twenty years, it's been developing from a strip of seaside vacation homes to a vital, year-round community. But the past year has seen more development than ever before and, perhaps more important, has seen the community take stock of its growth and take a larger hand in its own future.

We at the Ponte Vedra Recorder are proud of the way our newspaper has reflected this community's awareness with increased news reportage, special sections on political information, increased photographic coverage of community events and other special features. We hope you noticed the full-color sections on fashion in May and on St. Augustine in July.

At election time, we made sure you knew the candidates with our special charter had been completed. In April the PVCA board unanimously approved a sixth revision of the charter and authorized McClure to begin negotiations with County Attorney, James Sisco. The Recorder printed the text of the charter on August 23 with the notice of a public hearing on October 2.

(Go On Page 5)

**Henry R. Johnston Predicts For 1981**

Every January for 11 years I have made predictions for the coming 12 months and sometimes for the years beyond. This year I faced a dilemma because I did not want to discontinue the custom, and yet I did not want to say anything bearish that would seem

my opinion, time is running short on this willingness. Month by month the \$ has been losing purchasing power, and while American merchants may continue to sell us food and other necessities for no-things I fear the day is rapidly approaching when foreigners will not call for our metals and

ment is paying over 14% for short term money, and I think it is reasonable to assume that the long term interest on the debt averages at least six %. Even at this low figure the U.S. Treasury is paying out over \$131 million every day in interest. This cannot go on much

RECORDER  
Friday, January 3, 1981

**TPC SAWGRASS** HOME OF THE PLAYERS *January 2013*

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*Adobe Road Wine Dinner*  
Tuesday, January 22nd - 6:30-9:00 - \$100+-. Join Kevin Buckler, owner of Adobe Road Winery in the Champions dining Room for a special wine dinner.

For complete information on our dining and social events, visit our website at <http://www.tpc.com/sawgrass-dining>.  
To make a reservation in Nineteen for Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner please call 904.273.3238. For more information or to make a reservation for a Social Event, contact Danielle Davis 904.543.5105 or [danielledavis@pgatourtpc.com](mailto:danielledavis@pgatourtpc.com).

**1980 Debutante Charity Ball**

The 1980 Debutante Charity Ball was held Saturday December 27, 1980 at the Seaboard Coastline Building in Jacksonville. It was really two parties in one. Friends and guests of the debutantes' parents were invited from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. and at 9 p.m. the debutantes' friends arrived for another party.

The Charity Ball has become an annual tradition for most of the Coterie. This year the party was hosted by 29 of the debutantes' parents. Each hosting family contributes \$1,000 and after expenses the proceeds are given to a charity chosen by the debutantes. The recipient this year will be the Jacksonville Marine Institute, a project that rehabilitates young drug users and deals with other youth related problems.

The debutantes and their parents formed a receiving line that circled the lobby as an orchestra played. A more contemporary band performed during the party for the younger group.

Rebecca Adams and Cathy Blanton  
Isabelle Sears and Jack McCormack

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The Ponte Vedra Recorder will run "Throwback Thursday" items throughout the year to celebrate the Recorder's 50th anniversary. This week, a look at some New Year's content, including the cover celebrating 1981. a TPC Sawgrass ad highlighting January 2013 events, a 1980 Debutante Charity Ball and a New Year's Eve party ad for Raintree Restaurant. If you have any old clippings of articles, stories or ads that you would like to share from the past 50 years of the Recorder, send them to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com).





Photo by Amber Lake

The annual Jacksonville Pier Dance teamed with Casa Marina to help raise money for B.E.A.M and celebrate the hotel's beloved Maitre d's birthday, Sterling Joyce.

## Pier Dance

Continued from 17

The highlight of this year's event was the glamorous runway fashion show, which featured styles from local boutiques and clothing stores. Participants included Fashion Group Intl of Northeast Florida featuring Venus, Dillard's, Scout & Molly's and Sweet Repeats. Additionally,

the show included local designers Joseph Lago, Zula, JtVinson and Gie Designs.

Proceeds went to B.E.A.M, Jacksonville's community charity devoted to serving low income Beaches-area residents. Attendees donated 735 pounds of food, equivalent to more than 600 meals to families in need. Additionally, the event provided half a truckload of toys to St. Vincent De Paul's for their Adopt a Family Program.

## Obituaries

Continued from 18

### Aline M. Traylor

Aline M. Traylor, 98, died Dec. 20, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home, Jacksonville Beach, FL.

(904) 249-1100, www.quinn-shalz.com.

### Leonard Wimbush

Leonard Wimbush, 79, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Dec. 18, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home. (904) 249-1100, www.quinn-shalz.com.

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*Dr. Erika Hamer*

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# Business Weekly

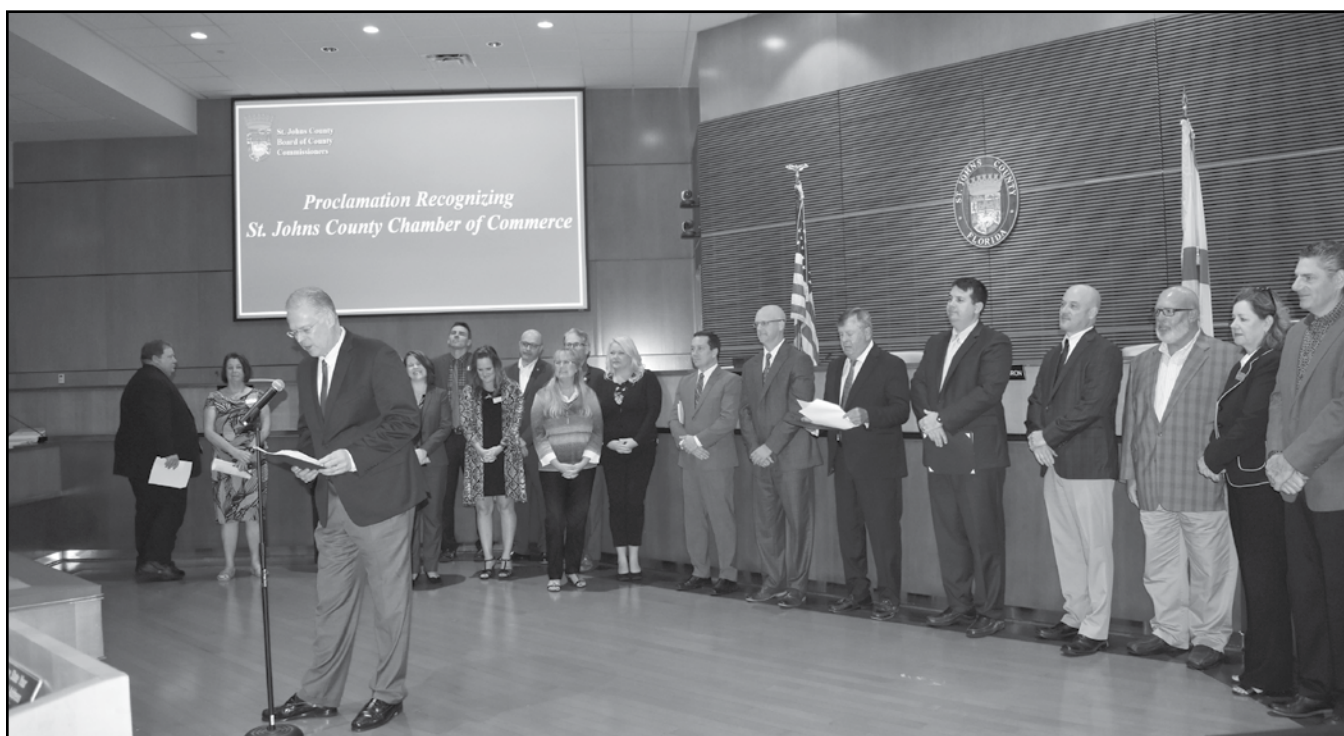
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Column: The best investments are in those you care about

Page 33



Mark Nighbor accepts the St. Johns Chamber of Commerce proclamation from St. Johns County Board of Commissioners.

## Board of County Commissioners honors SJC Chamber of Commerce with proclamation for community service

Isabelle Renault, president and CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, recently announced that the organization was bestowed the honor of receiving a proclamation for local service from the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners. County Commissioner Paul M. Waldron presented the proclamation at the Commission's Dec. 17 meeting in recognition of the Chamber's contributions to the business community and the entire St. Johns County community.

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce offers numerous programs and services to its members including a myriad of resources for business startups and for companies look-

ing at expanding market share and wanting to advance their professional influence.

"The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce is a leading business organization in Northeast Florida with more than 1,100 members representing many industries. Our unified influence allows us to be a strong voice for the business community," Renault said. "We are honored to receive the proclamation and grow our existing companies while attracting new businesses that find it desirable to locate in St. Johns County."

For more information about the SJC Chamber of Commerce, visit [www.sjchamber.com](http://www.sjchamber.com) or call (904) 829-5681.

## Pop the bubbly!



Harry Pappas  
Columnist

As I sit at my desk this Christmas Eve, penning the final version of this narrative, we stand just one week from the end of a decade that witnessed a remarkable advance of the stock market.

What I find most noteworthy is how

easy it was to be cowardly, or perhaps a kinder word would be cautious, about investing in stocks given the plethora of negative news. Nevertheless, contrary to the nattering nabobs of negativism, the stock market, measured by the Dow Jones Industrial Average (excluding dividends), has advanced 22.24, as of this writing.

We are once again sitting within just 93 points of yet another all-time high. How sweet it is! Pop the bubbly! Put on the rally caps and let's celebrate!

Whoa, not so fast eager beaver!

Do you remember our motto about the three best times to keep our mouth shut are when we are swimming, when we are angry, and when we are right. So, let us remain humble, especially when excitement is in the air, as euphoria can evaporate in a New York second. Therefore, at the risk of raining on our gala, I encourage you and me not to toss Dow's recent success into the faces of our dear friends, the pouting pundits of pessimism.

As a humbling reminder, and to psychologically prepare us for the

PAPPAS continues on Page 24



Maurice "Mo" Rudolph

## PARC Group community development director to share plans for growth at Chamber EDC Breakfast on Jan. 31

Maurice "Mo" Rudolph, PARC Group Community Development Director, will discuss plans for PARC Group at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council Quarterly Breakfast on Friday, Jan. 31, at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort from 8-9:30 a.m.

To register for the EDC Quarterly Breakfast, visit [www.sjchamber.com](http://www.sjchamber.com) and go to the calendar of events. Admission cost is \$45 for St. Johns County Chamber members at an Economic Development Council level of membership and \$65 for non-Economic Development Council members. Non-chamber members may call the

Chamber Office at (904) 829-5681 in order to register.

To find out more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce or to become a member visit [www.sjchamber.com](http://www.sjchamber.com), call (904) 829-5681, or find them on facebook at [www.facebook.com/sjchamber](http://www.facebook.com/sjchamber).



# Financial Focus: Financial moves for life's 'inflection points'



**Karsten Jacobson**  
Columnist

You've probably heard or read about inflection points. The term has a specific definition in mathematics, but it's also used widely to describe historical or technological events, such as the Industrial Revolution or the creation of the internet — events that changed human existence in some important way.

However, you have personal inflection points, too — and when they occur, you'll need to make the right financial moves.

Here are four of the most important of these inflection points, along with suggestions on dealing with them:

■ **Marriage:** When you get married, you and your spouse will need to discuss a variety of financial issues: What assets and liabilities do you each bring to the marriage? Should you combine your finances or continue with separate accounts? Is one of you a "saver" while the other is a "spender"? Do you share similar invest-



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

ment philosophies, or is one of you much more aggressive than the other? You don't necessarily have to agree on everything, but you should at least try to gain enough knowledge so you can avoid unpleasant surprises, such as hidden debts, and find enough common ground so your household can advance toward your common financial goals.

■ **New child:** When you welcome a new child into your family, you'll need to make sure you have adequate life insurance.

You'll also want to review the beneficiary designations on any existing insurance policies, as well as on your IRA and 401(k). And if you can afford it, you may want to start contributing to a college fund, possibly using a 529 savings plan, which can provide you with tax advantages as you put money away for your child's higher education.

■ **Divorce:** It's unfortunate, but true: Divorce is still pretty common, and it's neither pleasant nor cheap. You might not be able to avoid some of the costs, such as lawyers' bills, but if you and your ex-spouse can work together amicably, you both may be able to avoid serious financial disruptions. You'll need to work out how to divide your financial assets, paying attention to beneficiary designations, which you may well need to change. Also, as a newly single individual, you may need to review and revise your long-term investment strategy to accommodate changes in your goals and your retirement income.

■ **Retirement:** By the time you retire, you will have hopefully been investing in your IRA and 401(k) or other retirement plan for several decades. But once you

do retire, you'll need to determine how much you can afford to withdraw each year from your various retirement accounts. Your withdrawal rate will depend on your age, your asset level and your retirement lifestyle. And you'll also want to consider other issues: Are you prepared to deal with health care costs? Even with Medicare, these costs may be higher than they were when you were working. And how about your estate plans? Are they up to date? Have you protected your family from the possibility of your estate going through the time-consuming, expensive and public process of probate? You may need to work with your financial, tax and legal advisors to develop an effective estate strategy.

By making smart decisions following your own inflection points, you can ease the transitions in your life — wherever life takes you.

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

## North Avenue Capital closes \$5 million USDA Rural Development loan to Planet Swim

North Avenue Capital, a specialized commercial lender headquartered in Northeast Florida, recently announced the closing of a \$5 million USDA Rural Development loan to Planet Swim, LLC, a swim school for all ages that plans to build a state-of-the-art aquatic and tennis facility in Nocatee.

Planet Swim offers year-round swim lessons and swim team options and will soon add a range of tennis capabilities, along with a certified training staff that includes Olympic, USPTA and NCAA athletes.

NAC's loan will be used to construct

Planet Swim's primary location, which will include a 50-meter Olympic-size outdoor pool, an indoor teaching pool, seven clay tennis courts, spectator seating, locker room accommodations and more. Only minutes away from area schools Ponte Vedra High School, Nease High School, Valley Ridge Academy and Palm Valley Academy, the new site will allow Planet Swim to expand upon its mission of offering the life skill of swimming and water safety to children and adults in the community, as well as attract world-class events to St. Johns County.

Owner and NCAA All-American swimmer Gus Calado launched Planet Swim in 2009 and has established a strong customer base and an ever-expanding waiting list of families excited for the additional capacity accompanying the Ponte Vedra facility. For years, Calado has dreamed of bringing a best-in-class experience to as many students as possible.

"The recent growth in northeast Florida has increased demand for sports and recreation outlets accessible to those living outside of country clubs," he said.

NAC Commercial Lender, Jason Hoerr,

introduced Calado to the USDA Rural Development Program, paving the way for a public-private partnership that promises immediate impact on the local economy.

Ben Chatraw, NAC Chief Executive, said, "This loan is a great example of how NAC is partnering with entrepreneurs and the USDA to finance projects that bring meaningful economic development and job-creation to communities across the country, including those right here in our backyard."

Learn more about Planet Swim at [www.planetswim.org](http://www.planetswim.org).

## Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR's Linda Lindenmoyer named JAXUSA Partnership Business Development Committee chair

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently announced Vice President of Relocation Services Linda Lindenmoyer has been named Chair of the 2020-2021 JAXUSA Partnership Business Development Committee.

"Linda embodies professionalism, integrity and the highest commitment to our clients, helping them thrive in a new location and feel at home in our community," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty president and CEO Christy Budnick. "I am thrilled she has this opportunity to share her leadership, insight and enthusiasm to benefit economic development in Jacksonville."



**Linda Lindenmoyer**

An industry leader with more than 20 years of experience in relocation services, Lindenmoyer supports corporations in successfully managing their relocation programs and assisting transferees with a smooth transition to and from any city in the United States. In addition to the sale of the departure home and the purchase of a new home in the destination city, Lindenmoyer's relocation team assists with corporate group moves, temporary housing needs and the ship-

ment of the household goods and vehicles.

Lindenmoyer is a member of the Worldwide Employee Relocation Council, Southeast Regional Relocation Council, and the Relocation Director's Council. She has earned and maintains Certified Relocation Professional, Global Mobility Specialist and Certified International Property Specialist designations.

Lindenmoyer serves on the JAX Chamber Board of Governors. She is a member of Leadership Jacksonville's Class of 2018 and serves on its board of directors. Lindenmoyer is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and management.





Rendering provided by Harbor Lights Jacksonville

## Plans underway for Harbor Lights Jacksonville

Cadenza Partners LLC recently submitted plans for Harbor Lights Jacksonville, located on Beach Boulevard just west of the Intracoastal Waterway. Harbor Lights Jacksonville is a planned mixed-use community on the site of a former marina, combining upscale waterfront residential living with retail and commercial space.

The community, adjacent to the Palm Cove Marina, will also be the home of a relocated Marker 32 restaurant, which has offered waterfront fine dining in Jacksonville since 1992.

“We are designing Harbor Lights Jacksonville to provide an outstanding quality of life for residents and to continue serving as one of the premier waterfront dining destinations

in the city,” said Cadenza Partners Principal Nick Sartori. “We envision a residential lifestyle that thoughtfully blends into convenient dining, shopping and entertainment options, and we are very pleased to be partnering with Marker 32 to provide a new upgraded restaurant space.”

Harbor Lights Jacksonville will include up to 215 residential units, with approximately 21,000 square feet of commercial space and 115 boat slips. The development team includes ELM as land planner and architect and Sodl and Ingram as land use attorney.

For more information about Harbor Lights Jacksonville, visit [www.harborlightsjacksonville.com](http://www.harborlightsjacksonville.com).

## Interviewing and interview tips for job hunters

People looking for a job will learn essential interviewing tips and have an opportunity to participate in mock interviews Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020 at a Savvy Job Hunters workshop at Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Buddy Webster of LEADERS Professional Recruiting will offer pointers on how to prepare for an interview, teach you about “your quiver of arrows” and present 20 possible interview questions and more. He will conduct mock interviews during the interactive workshop, which can also be used as a networking opportunity.

In addition, Dave Dougherty, recruiter with the U.S. Census Bureau, will present job opportunities and application procedures.

Also, Margaret MacNaughton, expert on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Assessment, will offer free, individual MBTI assessments following the workshop. The MBTI helps job seekers recognize their strengths and identify careers that are good matches for their personality type.

The workshop will run from 9 a.m. to noon, with sign-in beginning at 8:30 a.m. The church is located at 400 San Juan Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach. To RSVP, email Pam Ottesen at [pottesen66@gmail.com](mailto:pottesen66@gmail.com).



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# Ponte Vedra Beach Resorts names Craig Schoninger as director of sales and marketing

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and The Lodge & Club Ponte Vedra Beach, which comprise the luxury oceanfront experience known as Ponte Vedra Beach Resorts, recently announced the promotion of Craig Schoninger to Director of Sales & Marketing. In his role, Schoninger will be responsible for generating maximum revenue through developing and executing marketing strategies that will drive sales for each unique property.

“Craig’s 20-plus years of experience in luxury resort sales and marketing makes him uniquely suited for this new role,” said Michael Gordon, general manager of Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. “We look forward to seeing his continued success.”

Schoninger brings over two decades of experience in hospitality, sales and marketing to Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and The Lodge & Club. Since beginning his career, he has generated nearly \$400 million in revenue for luxury hotel brands in the



**Craig Schoninger**

Caribbean and U.S., including Ritz-Carlton, Montage, Omni and Marriott, while developing and managing high-performing teams.

“I feel honored to be given this incredible opportunity and am excited to step into this new role for Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and The Lodge & Club,” Schoninger said.

“I look forward to working closely with the sales team to ensure our guests have memorable experiences, meetings and events with us.”

The historic AAA Five Diamond Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, and the boutique AAA Four Diamond Lodge & Club Ponte Vedra Beach, are landmark luxury icons in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit [www.pontevedra.com](http://www.pontevedra.com).



Photo credit

## Calling all food and wine lovers

904 Happy Hour plans to take Northeast Florida food and wine lovers on an ultimate culinary journey in February in historic Riverside at the Inaugural Jacksonville Food & Wine Festival. The special event, slated for Feb. 9, will feature over 80 wines and more than 20 of Jacksonville’s top restaurants. The event will be complemented by 40-plus local vendors, live art installations, five of the region’s hottest bands and more.

The event will take place from noon to 8 p.m., and attendees will be able to purchase a VIP ticket and enjoy one complimentary sample from each

participating restaurant as well as wine tastings. Admission to the general public will be free and guests will be able to purchase food and beverage directly from restaurants.

Proceeds from the festival will benefit the Wagoner Foundation, a local nonprofit which supports the initiatives of The Salvation Army, Vets 4 Vets, Fur Sisters, Vets on Tap, The Jacksonville Jaycees, The Women’s Army Corps Veterans Association, as well other First Coast groups.

Visit [JaxFoodWineFest.com](http://JaxFoodWineFest.com) for more information.

## Selfies on the moon



**Scott Grant**  
Guest Columnist

Before this century is half over, people will go to destination weddings on the moon. The phenomenon will give a whole new meaning to the term honeymooning. Selfies on the moon will become the new social media rage. Forget the Pyramids, the Eiffel Tower, and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. If you really want to make your friends jealous, you’ll post a picture of yourself holding the Earth in your hand.

In 1776, the same year that Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence, Adam Smith invented modern economics with a simple concept: humankind’s wants, he argued, were “unlimited.” No matter how much we have, we always want more. This human desire for more has seen us advance over the millennia from the wheel to the electric car. It has also caused mass depression. Wanting can be good. Wanting can also be bad. As individuals we walk through life imagining that if we had a bigger house, a better car, more money or a trip to Bali we could finally be happy.

Super rich people come in two flavors, those who set out to get rich and those who came to wealth as a by-product of other passions. People in the first group do not spend. The money is a goal unto itself. It is how they keep score. People in the second group include individuals like Bill Gates and Steve Jobs. Gates and Jobs set out with a fierce hatred of IBM and a desire to revolutionize the computer industry. They succeeded. The money was just a bonus. They say Steve Jobs was never truly happy. If \$10.2 billion can’t buy happiness, then it just isn’t for sale.

The same year that Scottish philosopher Adam Smith invented modern economics, Thomas Jefferson sat hunkered over a writing desk in Philadelphia contemplating the meaning of life and trying to express the inalienable rights of man in a single sentence. He borrowed heavily from another Scottish philosopher, John Locke, who suggested that the essential duty of government was the protection of “life, liberty, and property.” Jefferson had a problem. Property had a very specific connotation in Colonial America. It meant slaves. He needed something else. His good friend, Benjamin Franklin had a thought. He suggested the immortal phrase, “the pursuit of happiness.”

Franklin got it right. Happiness is not a destination; it is a journey. Happiness is to be found in the passionate pursuit of a worthy goal. Suppose you spent your life in the pursuit, only to reach your goal. Would the achievement of the goal make you happy? Or would it leave you lost and wondering what to do next? It is said that at the age of 31, Alexander the Great wept “for there were no more worlds to conquer.”

The modern generation disdains material things in favor of experiences. They staunchly believe that they will find happiness in the accumulation of adventures. But experiences are still wants. Instead of wanting—be thankful for what you have: food, shelter, and especially friends.

Friendship matters. If you still want that selfie on the moon, I can tell you how to get it. I estimate that it will cost about \$245,684.22 to make that trip in 30 years. If you can make 8% on your investments, you can save the money for the trip of a lifetime by putting away \$164.85 a month for the next 30 years. If you want to take a friend, you will need to save twice that much.

When you go, remember me when you look at Buzz Aldrin’s footprint and make sure to check out the universe’s smallest and only known extra-terrestrial museum. It is roughly the size of a sim card and attached to the leg of the lunar lander from Apollo 12. It contains the work of six artists including Andy Warhol and Claes Oldenburg. Might even be worth taking a selfie.

**Scott A. Grant is a local historian and author and a frequent contributor to the Recorder. By day, Grant is President of Standfast Asset Management.**



# Pappas

Continued from 20

potential of another significant decline, allow me to guide us on a brief stroll down memory lane. Do you remember what it was like on October 9, 2007?

That is when the Dow reached its record high.

The economic climate was flourishing, people had jobs, home prices were soaring, and most folks felt good about our economic future. Nonetheless, just a few months later, calamity hit and we entered into one of the deepest recessions and stock market declines that our country had witnessed since The Great Depression. The crash took us back to levels not seen in 12 years. How is that for a humbling experience? It was not until March 5, 2013 that we got back to the previous high, which was 1,974 days.

Is there anything that we can learn from the Great Recession fiasco and the subsequent rise of the Dow to record levels?

You bet there is.

It is the same lessons that we should have learned from the 1987 crash, the 1990-1991 recession, the 2001 World Trade Center attack and subsequent

meltdown in the market and the 40 percent decline in 2008. The lesson is the same, stock and bond market declines are normal and expected, so why fret about the potential gut wrenching drops assuming that you have allocated your money properly between stocks, bonds, and cash. Thanks to our friends from the American Funds who remind us of the inevitable:

- A 10% correction historically occurs once a year and lasts on average about 114 days

- A 15% correction historically occurs once every two years and has an average length of 215 days

- A 20% correction historically occurs once every 3.5 years and can last up to 338 days on average

Arguably, the best lesson that we should have learned from the past corrections is that if one would have stayed the course, albeit with a side dish of panic, one should have weathered the storm nicely, as the market resumed its upward trend. To be strong enough to stay the course we need to know deep in our gut that market declines and panic selling will happen, and they will likely scare the snot out of us. They will hurt. They will be frustrating, but if we do not panic, history tells us they will not matter.

Every year-end for the past 35 years, I dust off my trusted vintage crystal ball and ask my faithful friend to predict the direction of the stock market for the upcoming year. Not to my surprise, the message is pretty much the same, "Harry, every day, heavily credentialed experts are predicting a market crash. At the same time, equally credentialed experts are predicting a boom. Who is right? I have no idea and the good news is that no one else does either, as we are all just guessing...an educated guess perhaps, but still just a guess! Always remember that far more money is lost preparing for corrections, or trying to anticipate corrections. In other words, market timing is an un-winnable game over time. Harry, I suggest that you heed the words of wisdom from baseball's hall of famer, Casey Stengel, who said, "Never make predictions, especially about the future."

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# Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall donate \$42,000 for new lighting system

As the 2020 concert season kicks off, the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will welcome music fans to a building transformed, due to a generous \$42,000 investment made by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

On December 7, the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall approved a \$42,000 donation to the hall for the purchase and installation of a state-of-the-art interior lighting system. The \$42,000 upgrade includes the installation of fixtures that take full advantage of LED technology to provide unparalleled ability to replicate almost every color and set any mood while emitting less heat and utilizing less energy.

The installation will begin the first week of January, and the new house lighting will be unveiled during the January 15 Ottmar Liebert with Luna Negra performance.

“The investment made by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will change the entire atmosphere of the Concert Hall,” said Ponte Vedra Concert Hall manager

Gabriel Pellicer. “Upgrading the interior lights has been a goal for a very long time. With the new lighting system, we will add dimension and versatility to the hall in ways we’ve always envisioned. We are very grateful for the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall for making this enhancement a reality.”

Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall President Steven Gard said that the group is pleased to finance the acquisition and installation of a new lighting system and software.

“This will really enhance visitors’ experience of attending an event at the Concert Hall,” he said. This is the second major improvement to the Concert Hall financed by the Friends group. In 2017, the Friends group financed the addition of an outdoor deck to the Concert Hall. “The Friends group is on a roll this year,” he said. “We opened our membership to corporate sponsors and obtained our first two corporate sponsors — Island Girl Cigar Bar



Recorder file photo

**The Zombies perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall in 2016.**

and the Hilton Garden Inn, both located in Ponte Vedra Beach. Our regular membership has also increased more than 70% since December 2018.”

# Children’s Chorus Mardi Gras Party to be held at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will provide the venue for the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus’ 25th anniversary Mardi Gras Party fundraiser, slated for Saturday, Feb. 15. Tickets are now available for purchase.

Jacksonville Children’s Chorus (JCC) partners with local businesses and music

groups to host a Mardi Gras Party to benefit the JCC. The Mardi Gras Party will include a DJ, dancing, photo booth, prizes, Cajun-inspired food, desserts and beverages. Silent and live auctions will also be held.

Guests will be treated to performances by an aerialist and entertainment from Bittersweet Studios, Jacksonville’s premier

adult vocal ensemble, Voices of Jacksonville and The Chorus’ top performance group, the Touring Choir.

Darren Dailey, President and Executive Director of the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus said, “The success of last year’s event was beyond expectations. I am excited to bring this fun and eclectic

party back to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall to celebrate our 25th Anniversary season. This event is not only on its way to becoming the area’s largest Mardi Gras party, but it goes to support the hundreds of local children that benefit from our

**CHORUS** continues on **Page 28**

# Players by the Sea to hold auditions for August Wilson drama

Players by the Sea community theater in Jacksonville Beach encourages local African American talent to audition for August Wilson’s “Two Trains Running,” a play that will appear in the Studio Theatre in March.

Auditions will start promptly at 1 p.m., Aug. 12, with registration beginning at

noon. The auditions will be held at the theater at 106 6th St. North.

“We are looking for a cast who is willing to challenge themselves physically and emotionally and work in an ensemble fashion to create meaningful moments,” Director Brian Niece said.

Actors are asked to prepare a 1-minute

monologue. They should be prepared to read cold-readings from the script. Actors should wear something they are comfortable in as there will be a short movement session. Headshots and resumes are not required but highly recommended. Actors should provide a list of conflicts from Jan. 13 through March 29.

Full rehearsals will begin on Feb. 3 and run Monday through Thursday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

All roles are to be played by African American actors. Visit [playersbythesea.org/](http://playersbythesea.org/) auditions to learn more about the characters in the show, which paints a picture of history unfolding around everyday lives against the backdrop of the civil rights movement.

The plot: Long-time regulars gather at the local diner in Pittsburgh’s Hill District to gossip, flirt and play the numbers. The owner must decide whether to let the city take over his building or sell it to a shrewd, local businessman—in a portrait of ordinary people in the midst of transformation.

“I have a rare opportunity to help tell this powerful story; a truthful black story; an American story that looks for beauty in brokenness. It is humbling to be able to serve August Wilson’s vision as a storyteller,” Niece said.

“Two Trains Running” will begin its run on March 13 and close on March 29. Shows will take place Friday and Saturday of opening weekend and continue on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the following two weeks. Thursday through Saturday night shows start at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2 p.m.

Visit [playersbythesea.org](http://playersbythesea.org/) for more information.

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# Cathedral Arts Project announces Stephanie and Tim Cost as 2020 Guardians of the Arts

The Cathedral Arts Project recently announced that Stephanie and Tim Cost of Ponte Vedra Beach have been named the 2020 Guardians of the Arts for their efforts to safeguard and advance the arts along the First Coast. The Costs will be recognized at the 16th annual Spring for the Arts on Friday, April 17, 2020 at The River Club. Spring for the Arts is the signature fundraising event for the Cathedral Arts Project and is the most visible event supporting arts education for children in Duval County.

Stephanie and Tim came to Jacksonville in 2013 when Tim became Jacksonville University's 12th president. Though they have lived in the area for a short time, the Costs have made an important impact on the arts in the community, specifically through their work at Jacksonville University. In seven years, they have worked together with faculty, staff and administration to grow the University's fine arts program by:

- Renovating Terry Concert Hall in 2016, making it one of the finest facilities of its size in Jacksonville
- Creating a new position, Head of STEAM Initiatives, to infuse the arts into technical programs across campus
- Securing a multi-year, multi-million-dollar gift to name the Linda Berry Stein College of Fine Arts, one of the largest investments in the university's 84-year history
- Launching a low-residency Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts
- Establishing a fine arts reception series, inviting donors and community members to join the President & First Lady at fine arts performances and exhibitions throughout the year



Stephanie and Tim Cost

- Securing international artist Shan Shan Sheng to create a large-scale art installation in a new roundabout planned for the University's entrance at Merrill Road
- Refurbishing the Phillips Fine Arts Building, home to a recital hall, recording studio and digital piano/computer laboratory, as well as the Alexander Brest Museum and Gallery
- Commissioning the University's iconic campus dolphin statues, created by Art in Public Spaces students, which are now the preferred photo backdrop for student and family pictures at matriculation, graduation and most student campus photos
- Establishing the Cost scholars program, through the ASPIRE campaign,

which provides opportunities for scholars to create meaningful relationships with their donors during their college experience, including undergraduate students in

the Linda Berry Stein College of Fine Arts

■ Funding Creative Current, a 2,500-piece glass work displayed in the entrance of Terry Concert Hall, that was a collaboration of student, faculty and community talent resulting in a 56-foot-long masterpiece

■ Commissioning student art in glass, ceramics, photography and the performing arts to showcase their talent and educate them on the process of creating art for a living

"Tim and Stephanie are a dynamic duo and have become such a valued asset to our community in the short time they have been here," said Linda Berry Stein, Jacksonville University alumna and previous Guardian of the Arts Award Winner. "Tim's expert leadership as the President of Jacksonville University has energized our campus and elevated the University to great heights. Both Tim and Stephanie work tirelessly through their involvement in such important organizations such as CAP. They are laser focused on how they can better our community. We are indeed fortunate to have in our community such passionate, giving and caring people."

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Photo provided by Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The "Winter Blackout Tour" featuring The Expendables with guests Artikal Sound System and Of Good Nature will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on March 19.

# The Expendables to bring 10th annual 'Winter Blackout Tour' to Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, in partnership with JaxLive Presents, will welcome the "Winter Blackout Tour" featuring The Expendables with guests Artikal Sound System and Of Good Nature on Thursday, March 19, 2020. Tickets went on sale Dec. 20.

The Expendables enjoyed a laid-back lifestyle growing up in Santa Cruz, California; surfing, skating, partying and playing music were commonplace. Since 1997, The Expendables have staked its claim in the California surf/rock genre by headlining venues from coast to coast. Blending Reggae, Punk Rock and 80s style dueling guitar solos, The Expendables have made heads turn and floors shake for years.

The band consists of four longtime friends: Geoff Weers (guitar and vocals), Adam Patterson (drums and vocals), Raul Bianchi (lead guitar) and Ryan DeMars (bass). The first seven years of the band's career were fueled with three full-length, completely independent releases. No Time To Worry (2000), Open Container (2001) and Gettin' Filthy (2004), would bring in a combined total of over 40,000 units sold with no physical distribution

and no record label.

Artikal Sound System is a reggae band from Delray Beach. Blending roots and modern sounds under smooth female vocals, they put their efforts towards bringing love, good vibes and a dancing mood wherever they go. The band features Logan Rex, Fabian Acuña, Chris Montague, Adam Kampf and Chris Cope.

Based in Charlotte, N.C., Of Good Nature, has received quick attention to its newly released, chart topping music. Rock, groove, alternative and reggae are more popular descriptions of OGN's fusion-friendly approach to today's music, but this group of prolific songwriters explore a range of styles that have led to a highly accessible sound. Recent full length album Timeless debuted at No. 1 on iTunes and No. 3 on Billboard (Reggae Albums Chart) in March 2019 and single "Take Me Anywhere" premiered on Sirius XM's The Pulse.

Tickets for The Expendables "Winter Blackout Tour" with guests Artikal Sound System and Of Good Nature are available for purchase at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices and Ticketmaster.com.

## Chorus

Continued from 26

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- Tiny river
- Fires
- Weather \_\_\_\_\_
- \*"How to Make an American Quilt" author
- Distinguishing feature
- \*Master of legal thriller
- "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay" singer
- Keyboard key
- G, in solfa
- \*Master of Western fiction
- Flavorful rice dish, pl.
- Former name of Tokyo
- Broadcasting devices
- Whiskey without water
- Dried fruit and spices, in a pie

- Member of Shoshonean people
- Discombobulate
- Drawn to light
- Young traveler's inn
- "\_\_\_\_ it or lose it!"
- Hindu spiritual retreat, pl.
- Chase away
- Philosophical system
- Single-cell protozoan
- Home on a limb
- \*James Bond creator
- Cafe option
- Site of Taj Mahal
- First queen of Carthage
- Goes up or down
- Jiffs
- What accomplices do
- 2 aspirin, e.g.
- Old college one
- Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday
- Is, in Paris
- Podium
- Counter seat
- Habituate
- Female sib
- Helping theorem
- Bye, in Castile
- Calendar unit of time
- \*William Shakespeare or Dr. Seuss
- Sick and tired
- Wrong answer adjective
- \*Her every novel was a best-seller
- Abbott and Costello, Rocky and Bullwinkle, etc.
- "\_\_\_\_ all fun and games..."
- \*Master of detective novel
- "My wife can vouch for me," e.g.
- Expression of doubt
- Swellings
- Daisy-like bloom
- Summer shoe
- \*Master of the dime novel
- Bryan Stevenson's "Just \_\_\_\_\_"
- Brussels' org.
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# Sports



THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020 · PAGE 30

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## JAGA announces 2019 award winners

Longtime ladies golf leader Emily Brown and four others were recently selected to receive the 2019 Jacksonville Area Golf Association awards.

Brown will receive the Earl and Eleanor Kelly Longtime Service Award, presented annually to someone who has made an overall impact on the golf community. A member at Eagle Harbor Golf Club, she has been a leader in the Jacksonville Women's Golf Association for over 50 years and is also active with the Florida State Golf Association and the United States Golf Association.

Others who will be honored:

**Community Service Award:** Bill Hughes, PGA TOUR. Hughes retired as general manager of TPC Sawgrass in 2017 after 12 years and was instrumental in the growth of the PLAYERS and the JUNIOR PLAYERS championships. He is a PGA Master Professional and remains active in golf and club management.

**JAGA Director of the Year:** Thomas Bozzuto, Hyde Park Golf Club. He served as the association's Vice President/Tournaments in 2019. His work resulted in capacity fields for most events, including the First Coast Amateur and the Jacksonville Amateur. He also serves as executive director of the Jacksonville Beach Golf Association.

**Professional of the Year:** Clint Avret, Timuquana

Country Club. A strong supporter of JAGA, Avret has been at the club for 14 years and has been the North Florida PGA champion and its tournament director.

**Club Executive of the Year:** Bruce Mohler, Jacksonville Beach Golf Club. The former head pro at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, Mohler took over the Jacksonville Beach operation during the course renovation and guided its renaissance to record play.

"It is a privilege to spotlight these five individuals who have made many valuable contributions to JAGA and golf in North Florida over the last 12 months," said JAGA president Randy Nader. "Collectively, they have helped make 2019 a year of growth and progress for our organization. We thank them for all they've done and look forward to publicly honoring them at the TPC Sawgrass banquet in February."

The awards will be presented Feb. 5 at the Celebration of Golf banquet at the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse where John Tucker will receive the Deane Beman Award. Tucker was the driving force locally in bringing the PGA Tour back to Northeast Florida in 1965 and luring the PGA Tour to move its headquarters here in the 1970s. Former TOUR commissioner Beman will be on hand to present the award to Tucker. Banquet tickets may be purchased at [www.jaxareagolf.org](http://www.jaxareagolf.org).

## Sawgrass CC welcomes Stefan Brunt as director of golf

Sawgrass Country Club recently welcomed Stefan Brunt as new director of golf. Brunt, a graduate of the University of Florida, is a PGA professional with 18 years experience in the golf industry.



Stefan Brunt

Brunt was welcomed home by Sawgrass members, as he formerly held the head golf professional position from 2007- 2015. He then broadened his experience by accepting a position as director of golf at Mizner Country Club in Delray Beach, which was recognized as a five-star Platinum Club of America during his tenure.

With a desire to raise his family in St. Johns County, Brunt returned to the Ponte Vedra Beach area in 2018 as head golf professional at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. When the director of golf position at Sawgrass Country Club became available, he knew his journey had come full circle.

"Stefan has a strong passion for professional service, teaching, catering to all levels of golfers and staff development," C.W. Cook, the club's general manager/COO, said. "We're lucky to have him come home."

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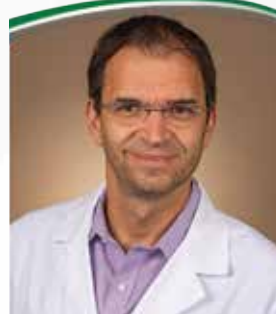
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