Your Community Voice for 50 Years

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PonteVedraRecorder.com

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Before & After issue

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Valentine's Day

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In the Arts Pages 39-41



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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is? Email answer to pvrecorder@opcfla.com by Monday at 5 p.m.

All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

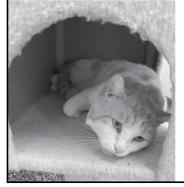
Six readers correctly identified last week's photo as the sign for Fiddler's Marsh. The winner of the random draw was **Debra Braschel**. Congratulations, Debra — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



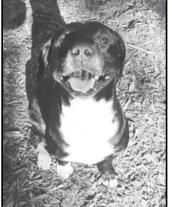
ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Mongo was found and brought to the Pet Center as a stray. He is a 4-year-old neutered male domestic



short hair. He is extremely chill and relaxed, loves to take naps and to be cuddled. Come see Mongo at the Pet Center today. #53190



THE WEEK Moose was brought to the

DOG OF

Pet Center as a stray. He is a 5-year-old male terrier/basset hound mix. Moose is extremely friendly and happy, and loves to

play and go for walks. Come see Moose at the Pet Center today. #53216

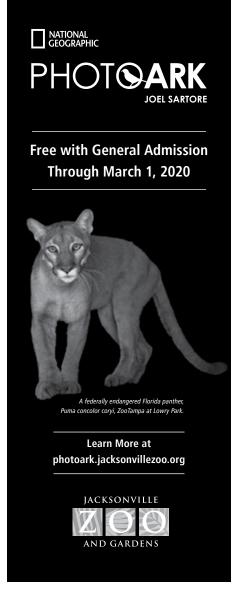
Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to its new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training, and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

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.









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Ponte Vedra Beach Coalition meeting hosts Jacquelyn Smith, Commissioner Blocker

Key issues developing in the area addressed

By Amber Lake

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition hosted two guest speakers, Jacquelyn Smith, director of special operations for U.S. Congressman John Rutherford and St. Johns County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker of District 4.

Smith has worked in the 4th Congressional District for over 18 years, both with U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw and currently, U.S. Rep. John Rutherford. Smith is the liaison between the Washington D.C. office and the district, where she strives to push

COALITION continues on **Page 4**





COLLECTION



SAWGRASS CC \$459,000

Fully renovated 2-bedroom, 2.5-bath condo with spectacular golf course views & private deeded beach access. This move-in ready unit features a new kitchen, bathrooms, paint, light fixtures, water softener & purification system, upstairs A/C, electrical panel, shiplap, & plantation shutters. MLS 1032464

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Move-in ready waterfront home on quiet cul-de-sac. Built in 2016 with 5 large bedrooms, 5.5 baths, oversized game room/office, huge mudroom, 3-car garage, rich hardwood floors, an open kitchen with granite counters & stainless steel appliances, & living space with gas fireplace overlooking the Intracoastal waterway. MLS 1019240

Marsha Bergen | 904.525.7037 MBergen@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



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PGA TOUR, its tournaments surpass \$3 billion in all-time charitable giving

PGA TOUR officials have announced the PGA TOUR and its tournaments have surpassed \$3 billion in all-time charitable giving, just six years after surpassing \$2 billion in 2014. This total includes a record \$204.3 million generated in 2019, bringing the all-time total to \$3.05 billion.

THE PLAYERS Championship, as the PGA TOUR's flagship event, is a leader in charitable giving and impact, having generated more than \$100 million for over 300 Northeast Florida charities since the tournament's inception in 1974, including a record \$9.25 million from the 2019 tournament alone.

"THE PLAYERS' charitable impact is made possible because of the collective efforts and commitment from our Proud Partners — Morgan Stanley, Grant Thornton, Optum — volunteers, sponsors, vendors, business and civic leaders, media and fans," said THE PLAYERS Executive Director Jared Rice. "While we are immensely proud of the contributions we are able to generate for charities, we measure our success by the impact our charities, non-profit organizations and Community Champions make on lives and communities in the five-county area."

One of these Community Champions is Dreams Come

True, a non-profit organization dedicated to granting the dreams of children with life-threatening illnesses. Many may not realize that a dream fulfilled at THE PLAYERS more than 35 years ago helped start this organization, which has now fulfilled the dreams of more than 4,000 children

"The ability to dream can be a very powerful motivator in the lives of the children we serve as they battle to overcome life-threatening illnesses," said Sheri Criswell, Dreams Come True Executive Director. "Our ability to provide dreams to each of our community's qualified recipients is only possible through the support of amazing community partners, like THE PLAYERS. Their gift is especially meaningful to us since they were the birthplace of Dreams Come True 35 years ago."

Last year marked Dreams Come True's 35th birthday, and in honor of this special milestone, THE PLAYERS surprised Dreams Come True with a \$60,000 donation to fund "A Year of Dreams." Twelve Northeast Florida children will have their dreams granted — and Atlantic Coast High School student and Bolles swimmer Rian Covington was the first

Coalition

Continued from 3

top agenda issues. She spoke to the coalition concerning the office's affairs and services offered.

Smith noted that one of the office's top priorities is attending to the population influx of St. Johns County and Florida. According to Smith, Florida is the 17th largest economy in the world and is estimated to grow to the 10th by 2030

"Our (district) will grow by 16.8% by 2030 and be home to 1.81 million," Smith said. "They're coming in about 60 new people every day. St. Johns is the 8th fastest growing county in the country. Nassau is right behind. I say the good news is we in St. Johns County have excellent schools but that's also the reason why people who work in Duval County come and live in St. Johns because the schools draw them. We do have some taxation that goes in for our schools. Duval did not do that. They are in dire straits right now."

With population growth, Smith said the congressman is working toward maintaining environmental initiatives, including addressing sea level rise. Additionally, the office introduced legislation to create a 10-year moratorium on oil and gas exploration of the coast.

Smith also spoke towards Rutherford's craft beer relief tax and better data collection concerning reef fish, including Red Snapper, which he feels are inadequately represented.

"A lot of data has been collected that fishermen will tell you is just not true," Smith said. "If you're a fisherman you probably know that if you throw a line out there and you catch 15 Snappers,



Photo by Amber Lake

Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker of District 4 speaks to the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition concerning recent county developments.

you have to put them all back."

Additionally, Smith spoke toward creating a national heritage area for the First Coast, which Smith says would, "greatly enhance our ability to get federal resources to remote historic preservation and national resource conservation."

Commissioner Blocker presented during the second agenda item of the meeting, where he addressed some recent decisions and issues the commission had voted toward.

Blocker spoke toward the board securing funding for Ponte Vedra Beach and Vilano Beach renourishment projects, the creation of a grant coordinator position and the joining of a Fire Watch Initiative, which is a regional initiative that works to assist with veteran suicide.

"We are one of the highest veteran populations in the state of Florida, is St. Johns County," Blocker said. "We lose more men and women to suicide then we do to combat."

Additionally, the county has instated

designated veteran parking on county buildings.

Commissioner Blocker also announced the board's decision to hire Hunter Conrad as county administrator. Previously, Conrad was holding the position as interim, however, on a Jan. 21 meeting, the board elected to offer him a permanent position.

"Even though a nationwide search sounds great, most (other counties) end up hiring someone from their county," Blocker said. "(This ends up being) a prudent leader within their community. This is because it's important to understand the landscape and be connected to the community with a proven track record."

Blocker also addressed some upcoming projects, including the creation of a fine arts campus in Ponte Vedra and the possible implementation of a cell phone tower architectural committee, which he said would be able to address residents' health concerns regarding cell tower emissions.

BRIEFS

Important notice to voters regarding March 17 Presidential Preference Primary

The Presidential Preference Primary Election is open ONLY to registered Republican and Democratic voters to choose their party nominees for U.S. President.

There are four candidates on the Republican ballot and 16 on the Democratic ballot.

Florida is a closed primary state. Voters who are registered as NPA — No Party Affiliation — or a minor political party are not eligible to vote in the upcoming March 17 election.

Visit www.votesjc.com and use My Voter Status to check your registration. You can register to vote or change your party up to 29 days prior to any election. The deadline is Feb. 18 for the upcoming March election.

Online voter registration is available at www. registertovoteflorida.gov. Use the link to also make updates to your voter record or to request a new voter information card. Voter registration is also available at your local public library, Tax Collectors offices during regular business hours and the elections office.

For more information, call (904) 823-2238 or visit www.votesjc.com.

New emergency notification system for St. Johns County residents

St. Johns County is launching a new emergency notification system to provide residents with critical information during emergency situations.

Beginning Feb. 1, the new Alert St. Johns system will enable St. Johns County, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the City of St. Augustine and the City of St. Augustine Beach to quickly provide residents with critical information in a variety of situations, including severe weather, unexpected road closures, water advisories, missing persons, evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods and incidents that may threaten public safety.

To receive these time sensitive alerts, residents can sign up at member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725582#/login.

Those who sign up can choose to receive notifications via a phone call to their home, business, or mobile phone, by email, or text message.

The Alert St. Johns system will replace the Code Red notification system, so it is imperative that residents sign up for these critical notifications.

For more information about Alert St. Johns, call (904) 824-5550.

Living with snakes and gators

Join St. Johns County Parks Naturalist Kelly Ussia on Friday, Jan. 31, from 3-4 p.m. at Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library for a family-friendly presentation about the snakes and alligators found throughout the state of Florida and maybe even in your backyard.

Learn about the various species of snakes in our area, as well as how to live with the amazing "crocodilian" neighbors.

The program is free and open to all ages. No reservations required. Seating is first-come, first-served and live animals will be part of the presentation.

For more information, email Kelly Ussia at kussia@sjcfl.us. Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

NOCATEE HAPPENINGS

Latest construction plans for prime real estate in Nocatee

By Bob Wiltfong

Special to the Recorder

"I wonder what's going on there?" might be a familiar refrain going through people's minds as they drive around Nocatee these days. That's because everywhere they look it seems like workers are clearing a new piece of land or putting up a new building or both.

A prominent examples of this is at the southeast corner of Crosswater Parkway and Nocatee Parkway. There, on about 14 acres of prime real estate, construction workers have been hard at work during the past few weeks putting up several large buildings.

"We love developing in the Nocatee community and plan to continue providing new retail to the residents as long as there are opportunities and the demand is there," said Riley Skinner, vice president of Skinner Brothers Realty. Together with the PARC Group, Skinner Brothers is developing the land that will have the Greenwise organic grocery market as its centerpiece.

"As the developer, we attempt to understand what the holes are in the retail market, listen to what the residents want and then analyze whether those uses will be successful for the long-term in Nocatee," Skinner said. For this round of construction, that means businesses like Ben & Jerry's





ABOVE: Riley Skinner, vice president of Skinner Brothers Realty, stands at the property in Nocatee that his company is developing.

Photo by Bob Wiltfong

LEFT: An aerial photo shows construction at the Nocatee Town Center in December 2019.

Photo provided by Skinner Brothers

one. They do a fantastic job of gauging the pulse of the resident 'wants' through surveys and social media, which helps us collect the data we need to evaluate our new tenant prospects' Skinner said. "We've really enjoyed

NOCATEE continues on Page 10

NOCATEE BRIEFS

Today's military to be featured in upcoming library talk

Retired U.S Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Rick Tryon will give a talk titled: "Today's Military: The All Volunteer Force" Monday, Feb. 10 at Crosswater Hall, Nocatee Welcome Center, 245 Nocatee Center Way.

A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Tryon served in Operation Desert Storm with Special Operation Task Force in Iraq and Turkey. He graduated with a Master's degree in International Public Policy from John Hopkins University.

In 2004, he served as executive officer to the Supreme Allied Commander European Command and in 2009 was again deployed to Iraq.

He retired from the service in 2014 and joined the Wounded Warrior Project Advisory Council. A resident of Nocatee, he now serves on Wounded Warrior Project's board of directors

The library talk, sponsored by Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library Speakers Program, is free and open to the public.Doors open 6 p.m., with the program beginning at 6:30.

New Nocatee neighborhoods to hold grand opening celebration

The public is invited to a grand opening event Saturday, Feb. 8 for two new Nocatee neighborhoods—Pioneer Village at Crosswater and Freedom Landing at Crosswater.

The celebration will offer fun for the entire family, including the opportunity to tour 13 model homes, a classic car display, live music, life-size yard games, strolling magicians, stilt walkers, balloon animals, a St. Johns County fire truck, lunch featuring American classics and sweet treats.

The Pioneer Village Model Park is located at 100 Pioneer Village Drive in Ponte Vedra.

OBITUARIES

Walter Bishop Colvin

Walter Bishop Colvin passed away December 30, 2019. Born in Houston, Texas on Easter Sunday, April 21, 1946, he grew up in Houston where he lived, worked and studied until 1990.



Walter Bishop Colvin

Walt is survived by his loving wife, Jenny Lee Colvin, daughter, Rachel Kirkland Goode of Texas, son, Timothy Harper Colvin of California, and sister, Lisa Spotts of Missouri. He was

predeceased by his mother, Viress Clinton, father, Ray Colvin, and stepfather, Wendell Clinton.

Walt liked to say his working career began at age 11 when he had a paper route before school. At 16 he became a part-time salesman in a men's department. He earned an MBA degree at the University of Houston and was committed to learning throughout his life. He proudly served in the U.S. Marine Reserves for six years while working and raising a family.

Ice Cream, First Watch Daytime Café

and Really Good Beer Stop will be up

and running by sometime this summer

Makk Fashions, Sherwin Williams and

"Being in partnership with the PARC

in Nocatee. They'll join Clean Juice,

Ecowise Cleaners in the same phase.

Group has been seamless from day

In Houston, his insurance career began in 1970 at The Prudential Insurance Company, and in the early 1980s he moved to in American General where he became a vice president. In 1990, he moved to Integon Insurance in N.C. where he became president. When that company sold, he retired briefly and then returned to American General as vice president in Evansville, Indiana, and in Jacksonville, Florida, where he retired in 1997.

Walt's faith in God was unshakeable. At Palms Church, he served as Elder, Sunday school teacher and volunteered for many service projects. At home, he often meditated while looking at his garden and the birds he fed. He believed in regular exercise and enjoyed racket ball, sailing, scuba diving, gardening

and travel to beautiful gardens especially in N.C. and FL. He became quite the handyman; he once built a life-size wooden Santa for the front door and laid a long stone pathway around the backyard.

There will be a Celebration of Life service for Walt at Palms Presbyterian Church, 3410 3rd Street South, Jacksonville Beach, Friday, February 7, 2020 at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Palms Presbyterian Church, Smile Train, or BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry in Jacksonville Beach, FL). Please visit our online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre 600 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 3225 Phone: 904.249.1100 Fax: 904.241.7554

OBITUARIES continues on **Page 10**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alzheimer's disease is a health care crisis of epic proportions in Florida, across America and around the world. Patients suffer the indignity of having precious memories of their families and lives fade and eventually disappear. Families and caregivers helplessly watch this slow-moving inevitability overtake almost all aspects of their lives, and health care professionals have a limited set of options to treat this scourge but importantly do not have access to a cure.

Next week, on Feb. 4-5, I will be storming the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee for the Alzheimer's Association's annual "Rally in Tally" to provide a compelling case for our legislators to act, and act swiftly. Only as partners in our community can we tackle and conquer this terrible disease. #ENDALZ

Damian May

Alzheimer's Association Central and North Florida Chapter Board Chair 313 N. Sea Lake Lane,Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 Dmay2@me.com

Adam Levine is the George and Kathleen Gibbs Director and CEO of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. He lives in Atlantic Beach.

Adam Levine

As told to Maggie FitzRoy

What are your duties in your job as director and CEO of the Cummer Museum?

I am responsible for the entire operation of the museum. My primary responsibilities are to formulate with the team and the board the strategy of the museum and to oversee the implementation of that strategy. In November, the board approved a 3-year strategic plan that will carry us through 2022. The plan focuses on growing the organization, maximally engaging the community, upgrading the quality of our programming and in so doing, activating the full potential of the organization.

What can you tell us about those plans?

I believe the gardens are the greatest asset of the museum's collection. I don't see the art and gardens as separate. There are five strategic objectives, each of which have projects. The objectives are first, to build a platform for operational excellence. The Cummer is a gem that needs a little bit of polish. We don't just want a good enough museum, we want a museum that is regionally and nationally recognized for excellence in every direction. Quality, access and fun are the three pillars around which we build all of our programming. Second, the quality objective is to enhance collection access, the gardens included. The third access objective is: remove barriers to access holistically. Fourth, related to fun, is to create multi-sensory and multigenerational experiences. The fifth objective is to center the visitor experience so when we design a program, we think about every aspect of how the visitor interacts with the museum.

Tell us about your newest exhibition.

It's called "Striking Power: Iconoclasm in Ancient Egypt." This is an exhibition of 45 ancient Egyptian sculptures from the Brooklyn Museum of Art. It will be a stunning show. And of course, there's a fascination with Egypt that we expect will draw broadly. It opens officially on the 31st of January.

What are the oldest sculptures?

2,500 BC. Some are small, some are quite large. We have a sarcophagus lid that is over life-size. There are arts in the exhibit of the dynasty of King Tut, the 18th dynasty.

When did you move to Atlantic Beach?

I moved here last January 2019, from Toledo, Ohio, where I was deputy director curator of Ancient Art at the Toledo Museum of Art.

What is your educational background?

Undergraduate at Dartmouth, where I tripled majored in anthropology, art history and applied math. I have a masters and Ph.D. from Oxford. I was a Rhodes Scholar.

Where did you grow up and what triggered your interest in your field?

I grew up in New York City. I was very fortunate to have parents who took me to museums growing up. I was fascinated from a very young age.



Photo by Maggie FitzRoy

What other exhibits are coming up at the Cummer?

We have a very exciting schedule that is more or less planned out through 2024. It's a long list. The next exhibit is "Buddha and Shiva, Lotus and Dragon." It's a collection of Asian artworks from the John D. Rockefeller III collection at the Asia Society. Everything from 6th century BC to 19th century AD, tracing the diffusion of

ideas across Asia and Southeast Asia.

How do you like Florida?

I love living in Florida. It certainly helped moving here in winter and that we're having this conversation in January. And the Jacksonville community has been very warm and welcoming.



Nease NJROTC's drill team celebrates its seventh consecutive Terry Parker Drill championship.

Nease NJROTC victorious at Terry Parker Drill Meet

For the past seven years, Nease High School's NJROTC's 40-person drill team has competed at the 12-school Terry Parker Sanctioned Drill Meet in Jacksonville. And for the seventh straight year, the team has returned to Ponte Vedra holding the competition's top prize.

Along with seven consecutive Mandarin Drill Meet victories, Nease has dominated the northern Florida NJROTC drill landscape since 2013.

Nease will compete in March at the Area-12 Florida-Georgia State Championships, seeking its sixth consecutive title and will then make a trip to the Navy National Championships in April.

"Every JROTC program has a reputation," said Cadet Battalion Chief of Staff Yuan Tian. "And at Nease it's drill."

Drill is much more than a marching

NJROTC continues on **Page 11**



Featuring Loretta Swit, of M*A*S*H fame, actress, artist and animal advocate

Ticket Price Includes:

- One drink ticket*
- ♣One raffle ticket*
- \$100 in "Funny Money"*
- Heavy hors d'oeuvres, dessert bar, coffee and tea
- Silent auction and raffle
- Live music featuring Little Jake & The Soul Searchers
- Your opportunity to save the lives of rescue animals in Northeast Florida!

*Additional drink and raffle tickets as well as "Funny Money" may be purchased.

To order your tickets, visit www.aylasacres.org Or call (904) 325-3554



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Ponte Vedra Beach/ Sawgrass Island

Located in Sawgrass Island on an estate-sized lot this spacious single story home showcases spectacular water to golf views. With high ceilings, generous windows, and custom details throughout this home was built to accommodate all your needs

4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms \$1,575.000



Steps from the Ocean Ponte Vedra Beach/ The Carlyle Located in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach, the Carlyle is your opportunity to experience resort-style beach living. This immaculately maintained 2 bedroom and 2 bath condo is in one of Ponte Vedra's finest condo buildings.

Sarah Alexander, REALTOR® 904.334.3104 cell

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Ponte Vedra Beach/ The Plantation

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4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms \$1,595,000



The Perfect Beach Escape Las Mirandas / Oceanfront Condo

Located between The Lodge and the Cabana Beach Club, this second-story condo gives elevated views of the beach while maintaining the unit's privacy and security. Includes a large covered balcony and ground floor storage.

3 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms \$1,625,000

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Sunday, Feb. 2

Thursday, Jan. 30

Autobahn Indoor Speedway & Events grand re-opening

Visit the Autobahn in Jacksonville from 12:30 to 9 p.m., Jan. 30, as the speedy attraction celebrates its newest addition to the facility with a charity event to benefit Wounded Warrior Project. There will be an all-day food tasting from the Autobahn's new BBQ restaurant, Victory Lap Social. The ROAR of the Jaguars will also make a visit to join in on the food, fun and friendly competition: Finish the event with a car show from 6 to 9 p.m. For questions or more information, call the Autobahn at (904) 425-5005 or email jax@autobahn-speed.com. The Autobahn Indoor Speedway & Events is located at 6601 Executive Park Ct. N. in Jacksonville

MOSH After Dark: Bacardi - 'Do What Moves You'

Bacardi is taking over the Museum of Science and History for one night only. Guests will engage in different sensory activities hosted by the Bacardi Team while moving through the museum and the newest traveling exhibition, Genome. The event will also break down the DNA of Bacardi's famous spirit rum to learn the building blocks behind the perfect cocktail. Guests will get a chance to put their taste buds to the test and discover flavors that represent Bacardi best. Doors will open at 6 p.m., Jan. 30, where attendees are invited to mingle and grab light refreshments. The program will begin at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$40 for museum members and \$50 for non-members. Admission includes two complimentary drinks. This event is 21+ and spots are limited. Purchase by visiting www.bit. lv/2Ozl8xk. The MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Cir. in Jacksonville.

Thirsty Thursdays at Al's Pizza

What's a better combination than pizza and beer? Every Thursday from open to close, Al's Pizza serves \$1.50 Yuengling Lager and house wines. Al's Pizza is located at 635 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Friday, Jan. 31

Nights of Lights boat cruise

The Nights of Lights boat cruises's final weekend will be from Jan. 31 through Feb. 2. Enjoy the last weekend of touring 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 Saint Augustine.

Living with Snakes and Gators

Join Park Naturalist Kelly Ussia from 3 to 4 p.m., Jan. 31, at Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library for a family-friendly presentation about the snakes and alligators found throughout the State of Florida or even someone's backyard. Learn about the various species of snakes in the area, as well as how to live with crocodillian neighbors. This program is free and open to all ages. No reservations required. Seating is first-come, first-served. For more info, contact Kelly Ussia at kussia@sjcfl. us or (904) 209-0335. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Theatre for Tots

Theatre for Tots is a program for ages 18 months to 4 years old that utilizes age-appropriate theatre games and exercises to build confidence, compassion, while incorporating acting, music, movement and self-expression. Class starts at 4 p.m., Jan. 31, and is 30 minutes. Cost is free for monthly/yearly members. Regular daily admission applies for nonmembers. Space is limited so reserve a spot by registering at www.Eventbrite. com under the event, "Theatre for Tots." Sunshine Play + Learn is located at 455 S. Legacy Trail, #E102 in Saint Augustine.

Ponte Vedra Professional Networking Group meeting

The Ponte Vedra Professional Networking Group schedules weekly meetings, Fridays, inside Fidelity Bank, where members network with each other and guests. Each member/guest will introduce themselves and one member will present about the businesses he/she represents. The next meeting is Jan. 31 at 8:45 a.m. Fidelity Bank is located at 110 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Saturday, Feb. 1

Conquer the Trails 5K Run/Walk

Join TrailMark for its third annual Conquer the Trails 5K at 8:30 a.m., Feb. 1. TrailMark is partnering with JTF Racing, a professional, race-timing company, for the Conquer the Trails 5K. The 5K will start at 9 a.m. and finish near the Trail-Mark Welcome Center, winding through the community's paved trails along the way. The family-friendly event is open to the public. All registered runners, walkers and trailblazers will receive a T-shirt and grab bag. All proceeds will be donated to Fur Sisters – Furever Urs Rescue.

Cummer's first Saturday free-for-all

Visit www.ConquerTheTrails.org to register or

for more information. TrailMark is located at

805 TrailMark Drive in Saint Augustine.

The first Saturday of each month at the Cummer Museum is now free for all! Guests can enjoy free admission, as well as art-making activities for all ages in the Cummer Gardens, along with live music and a Docent-led tour at 2 p.m. For more information, call (904) 899-6038. The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.

Jax AquaFest 2020

Join Museum of Science and History, the City of Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board, the St. Johns Riverkeeper and Florida Fish & Wildlife as they explore ways to protect the waters, animals and plants that call the St. Johns River home. Guests will enjoy guest speakers, River Tours with the St. Johns Riverkeeper, tours of the JEA Hydrologic Exhibit and Hixon Native Courtyard, a museum-wide scavenger hunt, face painting and more. Jax Aquafest is free and open to the public. For more information, call the museum at (904) 396-6674. The MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville.

Farmers Market at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre

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 www. facebook.com/staugampmarket. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S. in St. Augustine.

Super Bowl Party at Island Girl

Island Girl Cigar Bar is throwing its fourth annual Super Bowl party at 6 p.m., Feb. 2. To keep up with tradition, Island Girl will have its signature complementary food buffet ready for guests at the back bar. Enjoy special discounts, raffles, friends, food, cocktails and of course, cigars, as the Kansas City Chiefs take on the San Francisco 49ers. For questions or more information, call Island Girl at (904) 834-2492. Island Girl Cigar Bar is located at 820 A1A N., #E18 in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Dolphin Walk at Anastasia Park

Join Marineland Dolphin Adventure at Anastasia State Park for a dolphin beach walk from 9 to 10 a.m., Feb. 2. Guests will learn how to increase their chances of seeing dolphins why dolphins are important in the local community and more. This walk is ideal for children and adults. Dolphin sightings cannot be guaranteed, but can. Dress for the weather and meet at the Island Beach Shop & Grill pavilion located at the end of the main park drive. Program is free with regular park admission fee. For more information. contact the park at (904) 461-2033. Anastasia State Park is located at 300 Anastasia Park Road in St. Augustine.

Super Bowl Sunday at Jax Beach Golf Club

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 2, Jax Beach Golf Club will host a "Super Bowl Sunday" tournament. Normal rates apply, plus a \$10 tournament fee. Fee includes one square in Super Bowl Pick-A-Square game, range balls and a golf shop credit for tournament winners. Shotgun is at 9 a.m. For questions and more information or to sign up, call the Jax Beach Golf Club Pro Shop at (904) 247-6184. Jax Beach Golf Club is located at 605 Penman Road S. in Jacksonville Beach.

Paint 'The Child' at Painting With a Twist

Join the Force (or the Dark Side) at Painting with a Twist's class for the popular and adored "child," Baby Yoda. Class is from 7 to 9 p.m., Feb. 2. Paint on canvas or a wooden pallet and select from various sizes online. Sign up at www.painting-withatwist.com/studio/ponte-vedra-beach. Painting With a Twist is located at 268 Solana Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.

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PV2-LV45852

Monday, Feb. 3

Run Club at Southern Swells

Join Jax Beach Runners on Monday nights at Southern Swells Brewing Co. for an evening run starting 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 www.meetup.com/ Jax-Beach-Runners/. Southern Swells Brewing Co. is located at 1312 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville

Wisdom's Table at Mavi Jax

Palms Presbyterian Church invites the community to Wisdom's Table, a monthly connection event with a view, hosted at Mavi Waterfront Bar & Grille the on first Mondays of the month. Network and share experiences of seeking wisdom over food and beverages as the meet focuses on a "wisdom quote" from a variety of sources. For a complete listing of all food and beverages, visit www.MaviJax.com. All are welcome. For questions or more information, email Holly Inglis at holly.inglis@palmschurch.org or call (904) 246.6427 ext. 103. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. and the conversation starts at 6:30 p.m. Mavi Waterfront Bar & Grill is located at . 2309 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.

Mario Kart Mondays at Brix Taphouse

Get fast and furious at the Brix Taphouse's Mario Kart Mondays from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Racers must sign up at 10 p.m. Winners will receive bragging rights for the wrrk and a bottle of Stoli Crushed. Spectators can enjoy happy hour from 10 to close. Must be 21 and older to attend. The Brix Taphouse is located at 300 Second St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.

Gnome workshop

Grab a pal, bring the kids or both, along with some hot chocolate and join Hammer & Stain from 6 to 8 p.m., Feb. 3, for a custom gnome workshop. Cost is \$50 and includes everything needed in the studio to make a customized gnome for the home. Seating is limited so r egister at www.hammerandstainbeaches.com to save a spot. Hammer & Stain is located at 469 Atlantic Blvd . #7 in Atlantic Beach

Tuesday, Feb. 4

Yonder Mountain String Band and The Travelin' Mccoury's at **Ponte Vedra Concert Hall**

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, in partnership with Flying Saucer Presents, announces the return of high-energy, progressive bluegrass icons Yonder Mountain String Band and The Travelin' McCourys as they co-headline Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Concert Hall. Yonder Mountain String Band has redefined bluegrass music, expanding the traditional acoustic genre beyond its previously established boundaries by steadily pushing the envelope into the realms of rock n' roll and improvisation. The Travelin' McCourys do not stand still. They are on the road - and online - entertaining audiences with live shows that include some of the best musicians and singers from all genres. Ticket cost is \$45 and doors open at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.pvconcerthall.com. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.

First Coast Newcomers Club card playing date

The First Coast Newcomers Club will host its next card playing date and Valentine celebration at the St. Augustine Main Library at 12:50 p.m., Feb. 4. The event is free to attend. Bring refreshments to share. For the exact location, to join or for more information, contact the club organizer at (904) 814-9612

Parents with Hope

Parents With Hope is a support group for parents who are suffering from the loss of an adult child. The goal is to provide a support system in an informal setting for parents who are facing each new day without their child. The group will be led by other parents in the community who have been forced to live with this unexpected. loss and now feel the desire to reach out and provide contact with other grieving parents. It is the mission of the group to provide a place of comfort and strength by sharing the stories, pain and laughter. Sessions are planned for once a month, on first Tuesdays at 6 p.m. No payment or registration is required. The group meets at Ponte Vedra Valley, located at 4750 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Caregiver support group

This support group encourages caregivers to maintain their own personal, physical and emotional health as well as optimally care for the person with dementia. In addition, the group may provide a needed break from caregiving responsibilities. The group meets the first Wednesday of the month at noon at The Palms at Ponte Vedra. Lunch will be served at the meeting. To RSVP, contact Cari Eyre at (904) 281-9077 or ceyre@alz.org. The Palms is located at 405 Solana Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.

'Seeing Animals' with Elizabeth DeCoux

Elizabeth DeCoux has taught animal rights law for more than 20 years. She currently serves on the adjunct faculty of the University of Florida College of Law and has spoken at national and international animal rights conferences. Her articles have appeared in several scholarly journals. DeCoux will be speaking at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library Branch at 6 p.m., Feb, 5, concerning the rights of animals. For more information, call Candace Rue at (904) 629-2959. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra

Family Bingo at Trasca & Co. Eatery

Join Trasca & Co. Eatery for a family-fun evening, Wednesdays, starting at 6 p.m. The restaurant will be hosting family bingo featuring pizza specials, craft beer specials and tons of fun. Bingo starts at 6 and runs until 8 p.m. Trasca & Co Eatery is located at 155 Tourside Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach.

First Wednesday Artwalk

First Wednesday Art Walk is a monthly event to bring people to the cultural and historical center of the Jacksonville and showcase the city's deep and energetic pool of creative talent. Open to visual and performing artists, Art Walk is on the first Wednesday of every month from 5 to 9 p.m., rain or shine in downtown Jacksonville, centering in Hemming Park. Explore Jacksonville's local art, talent, businesses and more on Feb. 4. For more information, contact Hemming Park at (904) 515-5098. Hemming Park is located at 135 W. Monroe St in Jacksonville.

Torah & Tea

Join fellow Jewish women for camaraderie and refreshments as they meet for "Torah & 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 lkurinsky@gmail.com or (904) 543-9301. Torah and Tea meets at Chabad at the Beaches, located at 521 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Thursday, Feb. 6

'The Queen' screening at MOCA Jax

Movies On The House is a program at the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville that screens films that contribute to important cultural discussions of the time. The films screen both on campus and at MOCA Jax and are free for the public to enjoy. At 7 p.m., Feb. 6, the MOCA Theatre will screen the documentary. "The Oueen," a behind-the-scenes of a national drag queen contest in New York City, including the rehearsals leading up to the contest, the conversations in the dressing room and the jealousies that emerge before and after the competition. The MOCA Cafe will be open for dinner for guests to snack while enjoying the movie. For more information, call MOCA Jax at (904) 366-6911. MOCA Jax is located at 333 N. Laura St. in Jacksonville.

Donuts and Doulas

Join Mini Bar Donuts for this free event, starting at 3 p.m., Feb. 6, to connect and learn the benefits of a birth doula. Doulas will be answering questions about pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding, postpartum and more. We want to bring awareness to expecting families about professionals that offer support during pregnancy, birth, and beyond. There will be free donuts while supplies last: Mini Bar Donuts is located at 1300 Beach Blvd in Jax Beach

Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to Daniela@opcfla.com or call (904) 686-3939.

Compiled by Daniela Toporek

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Nocatee

our involvement in the Nocatee Town Center, bringing retailers to the community and seeing it grow. We are excited to watch the

future phases come to life as we strive to bring a more walkable, communal feeling to the Nocatee Town Center."

Skinner said more businesses are lining up to help them achieve that goal, and that Skinner Brothers is already designing the next buildings for the property. "We still

have a ton of interest from additional retailers that, if the market stays attractive, we plan to continue our development as fast as we can," he said. "I think the residents will like it."

Although Skinner won't share who these additional retailers are at this time, he said

the priority is to put in businesses that are a good mix of national credit tenants and locally-owned and operated businesses like Clean Juice, Coastal Wine Market and Really Good Beer Stop which are all operated by Nocatee residents.

"We found that those businesses that are owned by people who actually live in or around this community are some that do the best, because they truly understand and engage the community in a successful way," he said.

Skinner added that the balance of nationally and locally-owned businesses is influenced by PARC Group surveys and resident feedback at the Nocatee Welcome Center. "It filters down to us, I promise you, in one way, shape or form."

Obituaries

Carleton G. Trot

Carleton G. Trot, 84, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Jan. 22, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

David Anthony Wilson

David Anthony Wilson, 98, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Jan. 23, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100

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KIDS SAY

In this new feature of the Ponte Vedra Recorder, "Kids Say," area children offer their answers for some pressing questions. This week, kids at the Nocatee Farmers Market were asked ...

Who is your favorite Disney Character?



"Belle because she's super nice and she reads a lot of books.

Ashley 6th grade, Mandarin Middle School



Mickey because I like his ears.

Keira 3 years old



Belle, because she's cute.

Ava Kindergarten, Palm Valley Academy



Rapunzel. I Like her long hair and how brave she is.

Mya 3rd grade, Palm Valley Academy



"I like Woody the best because I love the show and he's cool.

David 5th grade, Palm Valley Academy

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

Support kids at fun event

Looking for a fun night out while also supporting a great cause?

The 25th annual Tips for Kids Sake will provide an opportunity to enjoy a great dinner, be entertained and support a good cause, all at the same time.

This popular event places "celebrity waiters" at a local restaurant, where they wait on tables and collect BIG tips as donations to Big Brothers Big Sisters.

This year's event will take place at Bogey Grille from 5 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 4, with an "encore" event happening at Bogey Grille from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18.

Local celebrities will be recruiting their family, friends and colleagues to come and sit in their section during the dinner event. "Tips is always such a fun time," said Teresa Andrews, development director. "Folks coming to the event not only eat a great meal, they have a great time watching their celebrity waiter serve them and have fun giving them a hard time." Celebrity waiters are also encouraged to dress in a costume for this year's theme, "Favorite College Sports Team."

This year, the celebrity waiters at Bogey Grille will include:

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra

Beach, on Feb. 4 – Jessica Evans, Jack Parker, Bethany Mathewsom, Billy Wagner, Beverly Flanagan, and Michele McManamon

MasterCraft Builders Group on Feb. 18 – Dennis DeMott, Mark Wolfe, Amy Lingenfelser, Christina Heinz

"We are really thankful for the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach – they have enthusiastically supported Tips for many years," Andrews said.

"We are also appreciative to MasterCraft Builders Group for partnering with Tips for the third year. For many of our celebrity waiters, this is out of their comfort zone, yet they participate in order to help more kids in our community."

Reservations are strongly encouraged for those folks who would like to attend Tips for Kids Sake and be served by a celebrity waiter.

For more information, contact Bogey Grille at (904) 285-5524.

Tips for Kids Sake will also be taking place at 23 other restaurants around St. Johns County. For more information on other participating restaurants, or the available mentoring programs, call Big Brothers Big Sisters at (904) 829-9986 or visit www.bbbsstjohns.org.



Nease
NJROTC's
Unarmed
Basic Drill
winning
team led
by Cadet
Elkhan Bagirov performs
during the
Terry Parker
Drill Meet in
Jacksonville.

provided by Nease NJROT

NJROTC

Continued from 7

competition. Drill meet championships include a series of 10 individual events, including: unarmed and armed marching, color guard, personnel inspection, academics, pushups, sit-ups and running relays. Points awarded in each event are combined to determine the day's overall winner.

This year Nease won first place in Personnel Inspection, Academics, Athletics Overall, Sit-ups, Pushups, Overall Drill, Color Guard and Unarmed Basic Drill.

Thirteen cadets took home individual medals for top-5 finishes in academics or athletics. Leading the way with first place medals were Lindy Gostage – Female Pushups (89), Brogan Donnelly – Male Sit-ups (303) and Emmelie Neff – Female Sit-ups (318).

Nease is currently the number-one ranked NJROTC drill team in Area 12 (59 programs

covering northern Florida and the state of Georgia), having won the Area-12 Drill Championship each of the past five years. The team has won all three of its drill competitions this season and will seek to make it six state championships in a row March 7 in Douglas, Georgia where the best 16 schools in Area-12 will vie for top honors and the right to compete at the Navy National Drill Championships in April.

"This group of cadets has worked harder than any other team," said naval science instructor Master Chief Duane Spears. "The commitment, motivation, energy and enthusiasm is unlike any I've seen."

"Today gets us one step closer to the prize," said Cadet Battalion Cmdr. Elkhan Bagirov. "The road to the Navy National Championship only gets tougher with each competition."

Other top schools in the competition were Mandarin High Scholl, in second place and Middleburg High School, third place.

Jon Meacham entertains crowd at Florida Forum

By Maggie FitzRoy

When presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham visited Jacksonville Jan. 22, he came to speak at the Florida Forum at The Times-Union Center.

Slated to appear at 7 o'clock that evening, he spent time earlier that day visiting young patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital. The Florida Forum series is presented by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, and ticket proceeds from Meacham's event helped the board meet their goal of raising \$4 million for a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Visiting the children was "incredibly moving," Meacham told that evening's moderator, Tim Cost, president of Jacksonville University. Meacham said what he saw there was 'incredibly important work," and, "I salute the work you all are

The author's talk lasted about an hour and was presented in a relaxed setting, during which he and Cost faced each other and the audience in large arm chairs.

Meacham has a reputation for being an entertaining storyteller and he didn't disappoint that night. Author of biographies on Presidents George Herbert Walker Bush, Thomas Jefferson and Andrew



Photo by Maggie FitzRoy

Bestselling author and presidential historian Jon Meacham (left) speaks at the Florida Forum Jan. 22 with moderator Tim Cost, president of Jacksonville University.

Jackson, his latest New York Times bestseller, "The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels" examines present day politics in America by looking back at critical times in the nation's history. when hope overcame division and fear.

Meacham also recently co-authored a book, "Impeachment: An American History," which Cost pointed out was timely—as well as amazing timing on the part of the Women's Board, which booked Meacham's visit many months ago.

"The Women's Board invited the foremost expert on impeachment to speak on the first day of an impeachment trial," said Cost, who moderated the talk in question and answer format.

Cost then asked Meacham for his opinion about the impeachment trial of President Trump.

"It's going to be like O.J., Alan Dershowitz is there," Meacham answered, using humor, as he did throughout his talk, to lighten the conversation.

Then he turned serious. "I am not a Republican, not a Democrat, I've voted for both," Meacham said. "I think he committed illegal offenses. I think they are removable. But I'm not in the Senate. I don't get a vote."

Comparing today's events to those in the past, Meacham's talk was informative and well received with laughter and applause throughout. He even brought up the fact that Andrew Jackson, namesake for Jacksonville, "spent about twenty minutes here, literally."

Meacham acknowledged the country's divisions. But wrapping it up, he came back around to the children he had visited

"If there's anything we can agree on," he said, "it's that the work that Wolfson's Children's Hospital does is of vital importance."

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 | 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Florida Blue Conference Center



Kristi Aiello



Clanzenetta Brown



Charmaine Chiu



Tammy Daniel

BACARDÍ.



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Ponte Vedra Recorder · January 30, 2020 COMMUNITY NEWS 13

K9s For Warriors graduates 600th service dog team



ABOVE: K9s for Warriors CEO Rory Diamond speaks to the crowd during a recent graduation ceremony, which included nonprofit's 600th service dog team graduates.

RIGHT: K9s for Warriors founder/president Brett Simon presents a diploma to a graduating team.



Photos by Paris Mouldon

The graduating class, which included K9s for Warriors 600th graduate, gifted the nonprofit with a special keepsake.



By Paris Moulden

The Ponte Vedra Beach-based nonprofit, K9s for Warriors, recently celebrated a milestone 600th graduate from its training program.

The program, which pairs service dogs with post 9/11 veterans and service members suffering from of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and/or Military Sexual Trauma, has served over 600 warriors and rescued 1,100 dogs since it was founded in 2011.

"It's just a testament to our team working so hard and the community rallying around us," K9s for Warriors CEO Rory Diamond said. "We're incredibly excited about this milestone."

K9s for Warriors also celebrated with many of the donors who made the moment possible, including members of AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors, Troopers Helping Troops and American Legion Post 33.

"There's absolutely no way K9s for Warriors exists without the incredible generosity of our supporters and friends and community and volunteers," Diamond said. "It's incredibly exciting to see it come to fruition with this big number of 600. No one else has done anything like that in the country."

The most recent graduating class showed its appreciated for the program, gifting K9s for Warriors a keepsake memorial comprised of a helmet, a shield, a leash, lapel pins representing the U.S. military service branches, and, of course, dog tags.

"This is amazing. I'm blown away," Diamond said of the gift. "I've never seen anything like this from a class before. They put so much thought and effort into this and we're just excited that the warriors who come through our door in the future, who are struggling, will see this and I think draw strength."

Through donor and community support, K9s for Warriors is continuing to grow and recently broke ground on a new facility at its Nocatee location that will enable the nonprofit to serve more veterans and service animals in a variety of ways.

Diamond said while the nonprofit doesn't have a specific number they want to reach, the organization definitely has an ultimate goal.

"That every warrior who needs a service dog has one," he said.



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Rotary, Recorder seek nominations for 28th annual Local Heroes Awards

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and the Ponte Vedra Recorder are seeking nominations for the 28th annual Local Heroes Awards.

Presented each year, the Local Heroes Awards recognize individuals who give back to the community and reflect the spirit of the Rotary Club's motto, "Service Above Self." From volunteering with local charities to giving back through the arts, education, environmental protection activities and more, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and Recorder seek to

Nominee Information:

Name:

Address:

Email address:

recognize the "unsung heroes" who make Ponte Vedra such a special place to live, work and raise a family.

Residents who know of an individual they believe is deserving of recognition as a Local Hero are encouraged to complete the nomination form on this page and email it to Rotarian Ken Smith at lksmith59@yahoo.com.

Nomination forms may also be mailed to: Local Heroes Awards Committee, Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, P.O. Box 70, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004. To submit a nomination online, visit pvbrotary.org and click on the "Nominate a Local Hero" link on the home page.

The deadline for submission of nominations is Thursday, Feb. 20.

Award recipients will be recognized at the Local Heroes Awards reception to be held Thursday, April 2 at Christ Episcopal Church.

For more information, contact Rotarian Ken Smith at (904) 710-7702 or lksmith59@yahoo.com.



The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

in cooperation with The Ponte Vedra Recorder

2020 Local Heroes Awards Nomination Form

Nominate your friend, neighbor or colleague for the Local Heroes Awards recognizing individuals who give back to the community!

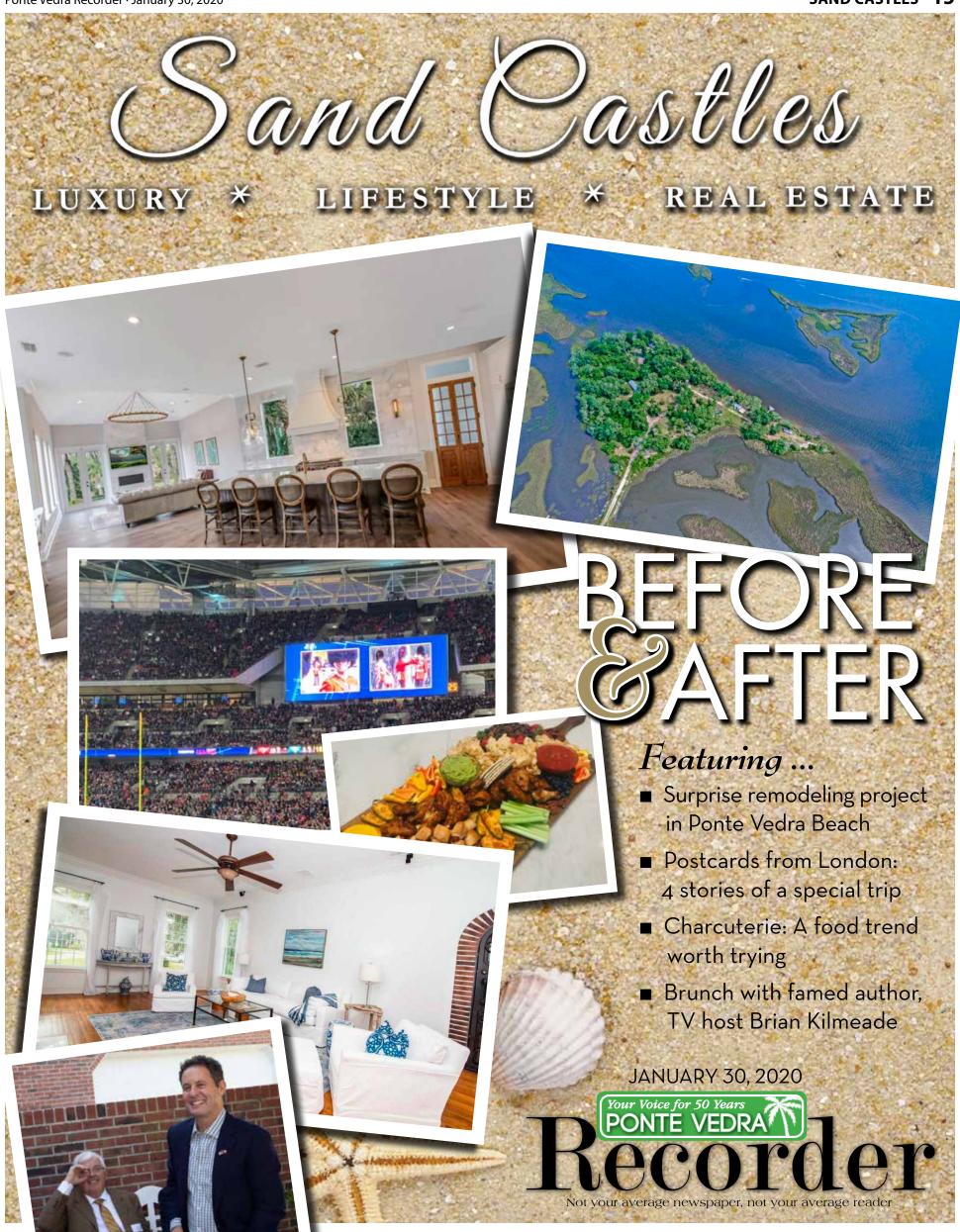
Complete and return this form, or submit your nomination online at: pvbrotary.org

	Telephone:	
Nomines's contributions to the	community (attach additional pages as needed):	
Nominee 3 contributions to the		

Telephone:

Nomination Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020
Email entries to: Iksmith59@yahoo.com
or mail to: Local Heroes Awards Committee Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach
P.O. Box 70, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004

Thank you for your nomination!
Awards to be presented
Thursday, Aril 2, 2020
Christ Episcopal Church
Ponte Vedra Beach



Welcome to the before-and-after issue of Sand Castles



Happy New Year and welcome to our sixtth anniversary of our Before and After Issue of Sand Castles!

Our Before and After issue is one of my favorite issues of Sand Castles. I love the start of the new year, when we set goals that range from organizing your home, getting fit and healthy to creating new

designs for your home and embarking on renovations. We cover all these topics and I think this issue lives up to our goal of delivering interesting stories — from our beaches and abroad to London, Ireland

We start our new year off with travel tales from Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Realtors, who traveled across the pond and share their stories and adventures about their trips to London and beyond during the Jacksonville Jaguar game in November.

Our renovation issue features part one of a major renovation on an oceanfront condo by Kelly Canada Leland and her husband and partner Jim Leland from Abode Interiors. They transformed a Spinnakers Reach condo, taking it down to the studs and rebuilding a spectacular new design that creates more living space, opens up views of the ocean and gives the Indianapolis owners their perfect Florida getaway.

Another renovation took place in Marsh Landing, which has been written about in two past issues of Sand Castles. Heidi Zawacki shares the final reveal of her

home renovation featuring kitchen, family room and master bathroom, which looks amazing!

"Designed to Sell" offers readers a glimpse inside a home I recently redesigned with fresh white paint and an updated coastal contemporary look that attracts buyers and sells homes. In this issue, I share some before-and-after photos and write about my recent design on Deer Trace in Marsh Landing.

Every issue of Sand Castles features our Market Watch. January is a phenomenal month for real estate in our area. If the current activity is any indication of what is to come for 2020, it is going to be a great year for real estate!

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

"Happenings on the First Coast" features an area nonprofit and their fundraising efforts to raise money and awareness of the Women's Health Center and their April event featuring national personality Candace Owens.

National bestselling author Brian Kilmeade signed in at the Sawgrass home of Dale and Janet Westling in November to autograph books for his latest novel, "Sam Houston and the Alamo Avengers" to a receptive and welcoming audience.

Alice Hickox, chef and owner of Lettuce Do Dinner returns with a plan of healthy eating we all can adopt this year and features her charcuterie, designed for hosting the best Super Bowl party on our first coast.

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

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

MARKET WATCH > Prediction: A good year for real estate

By Holly Hayes

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Dear Ponte Vedra Beach neighbors, January is a phenomenal month for real estate in our area. If the current activity is any indication of what is to come for 2020, it is going to be a great year for real estate! Buyers are making plans to come in town to purchase prior to the spring/summer season and buyer activity has started earlier this year.

Take a look at the availability, buying activity and prices per square foot for residential and condominium sales in Ponte Vedra Beach for the fourth quarter of 2019:

OCEANFRONT Ponte Vedra Beach -**Single Family and Condo**

Currently, there are 35 active properties ranging in price from \$575,000 to \$10,989,000. The average list price is \$4,267,476, with an average square footage of 5,574 and an average price per square foot of \$769.29 and lingering on the market an average of 443 days. There are four properties currently in contingent status. There are currently three properties in pending status, ranging in price from \$690,000 to \$7,750,000. There have been three closed sales in the fourth quarter. all condos, priced between \$670,000 and \$745,000, with an average sales price of \$719,167 at 97% of list price, with 1,493 square feet at \$514.32 per square foot and 115 days on market. Just over \$2 million in volume was sold between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31.

OCEANFRONT South Ponte Vedra -**Single Family and Condo**

Currently, there are 24 active properties ranging in price from \$650,000 to \$2,845,000. The average list price is \$1,337,683, with an average square footage of 3,098 and an average price per square foot of \$443.15 and days on market average of 226. There is one home in pending status at \$1,395,000. There have been eight closed sales in the fourth quarter priced between \$600,000 and \$2,200,000 with an average sales price of \$1,010,672 at 94% of list price with 2,403 square feet at \$551.03 per square foot and 184 days on market. Just over \$8 million in volume sold during this time.

SAWGRASS Country Club

Currently, there are 14 active properties ranging in price from \$219,900 to \$1,449,000. The average list price is \$557,829 with an average square footage of 2,021 and an average price per square foot of \$273.75 and on the market on average 86 days. There are two homes in contingent status. There are four homes in pending status at \$400,000 and \$850,000. There have been 13 closed sales in the fourth quarter priced between \$299,000 and \$860,000 with an average sales price of \$533.192 at 96% of list price with 1.983 square feet at \$278.44 per square foot and 96 days on market. Just under \$7 million in sold volume for the quarter.

OLD PONTE VEDRA – NON-OCEANFRONT

Currently, there are 16 active properties ranging in price from \$599,000 to

\$9,995,000. The average list price is \$2,706,562 with an average square footage of 4,409 and an average price per square foot of \$558.12 and average of 187 days on market. There are currently five properties in contingent status. There are currently three properties in pending status ranging in price from \$699,000 to \$1,300,000. There have been nine closed sales in the fourth quarter priced between \$820,000 and \$6,107,000 with an average sales price of \$2,253,417 at 96% of list price with 3,846 square feet at \$557.08 per square foot and 159 days on market. This area had a sold volume of \$20.2 million.

MARSH LANDING

There are 29 active properties ranging in price from \$649,000 to \$5,385,000. The average list price is \$1,862,997 with an average square footage of 5,403 and an average list price per square foot of \$318.64 and with a days on market of 96. There are currently three properties in pending status ranging in price from \$734,900 to \$1,099,000. There have been 18 closed sales in the fourth quarter priced between \$585,000 and \$1,525,000 with an average sales price of \$927,389 at 96% of list price with 3,909 square feet at \$236.72 per square foot and 103 days on market. Marsh Landing has a sold volume of \$16.7

PLANTATION at Ponte Vedra

There are 24 active properties ranging in price from \$587,500 to \$1,789,000. The average list price is \$1,087,521 with an average square footage of 4,263 and an

average price per square foot of \$254.33 and 241 days on market average. There are four homes in pending status between \$650,000 and \$1,190,000. There are two homes in contingent status. There have been 10 closed sales in the fourth quarter priced between \$550,000 and \$1,467,500 with an average sales price of \$894,299 at 97% of list price with 3,719 square feet at \$236.46 per square foot and 187 days on market. The Plantation had overall sold volume of \$8.9 million.

PONTE VEDRA BY THE SEA

There is one active property at \$909,900; the square footage of 3,752 and price per square foot of \$242.51 and seven days on market average. There have been two closed sales in the fourth quarter priced at \$858,000 and \$950,000 at 97% of list price with 3,704 square feet at \$252.96 per square foot and 150 days on market. Total sold volume for the quarter was \$1.8

PLAYERS CLUB at SAWGRASS Luxury \$750,000 and up

There are 4 active properties ranging in price from \$991,000 to \$1,799,000. The average list price is \$1,341,000 with an average square footage of 5,328 and an average price per square foot of \$248.19 and an average of 214 days on market. There have been four closed sales in the fourth quarter priced between \$760,000 and \$1,010,000 with an average sales price of \$862,500 at 96% of list price with 3,540 square feet at

A 'surprise' remodel project: 740 Spinnaker's Reach Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach

By Jim Leland

Abode Interiors

Kelly Canada, my wife and co-owner of Abode Interiors, always says, "The road to a beautiful home is not always a straight path!"

After 20 years in the business, doing remodels and custom home interiors remains my wife's most enjoyable and rewarding work, although our projects are often filled with unexpected challenges.

She and I manage these exciting and demanding projects together. Important steps are taken into consideration when making a design plan, but at times one can never anticipate the unknown or unseen "behind the walls."

Often a remodel starts with definitive direction and a set of plans but as the project moves forward, the unknown presents itself and the client makes new decisions based on that new information.

Kelly's ability to be open-minded, creative and a problem solver are her greatest assets when these situations arise.

One of these "surprise" remodel projects is 740 Spinnaker's Reach Drive, an ocean-front condominium located in Sawgrass Beach Club, built in the 1980s.

With no original blueprints from the city, the team worked with a local architect and John Pearson with JEP Construction to create a blueprint, floor plans and an electric plan for the remodel.

Since the condo had not been updated and or modified for many years, it needed an overall update. The home had an amazing view of the ocean, but was originally designed with a wall at the entry that completely blocked the ocean view. This wall needed to come down!

In addition to removing the wall in the entry, part of the original plan was to use the available 900 square feet of unused attic space and build a new third level that could be used as an extra bedroom, bathroom and office.

After a review of costs to do this, it was decided to instead raise the ceilings in the second level from 8 feet to 9 feet in guest rooms, hallway and laundry areas, and raise the 8-foot ceilings in the master suite to 10 feet. The southern facing guest bedroom would also go from 8-foot ceilings to a new vaulted ceiling, much like existed in the master.

The original construction had a suspended ceiling, which was replaced with an entire new floor so the attic space could be used. This design gave the option to cre-





ate a third level that could hold a children's sleeping bunk space if needed down the

The original assumption was the wall at entry would contain only one main plumbing line. Oh boy, surprise! No. 1! When they opened the wall, we found several lines that would have to be moved in order to open the view from the entry.

There was also an electric panel that had been placed in the opposing wall that was also blocking the view. The entire plan for the new open-concept kitchen would have to be rethought. Kelly redesigned the island so there would now be two chases on either side of the island.

Plumbing would be in one side of the island and the electric panel in the other side of island. This would still require moving the entire electric panel and feeder as well as three different plumbing lines approximately 15 feet toward the south. If it was not moved, the chases would still block the

view. Kelly insisted that anything is possible if you just put your creative thinking cap on! After several meetings with the electrical and plumbing subcontractors, all agreed this was a complex task, but one well worth it. The next step was deciding how to make these two chases look amazing, and not just an afterthought.

Kelly designed an application to the chases that would seamlessly blend them to the island's custom cabinetry and countertop. It would have 1 ½ inches of batten strips of wood in a custom finish that would be applied horizontally. The finish would be a heavily distressed limed-wood finish. Perfect with the beach view!

Local architect Daniel Garcia with Dura Design was given the task of ensuring the correct engineering of this island, along with all the custom cabinetry throughout the condo.

During the demo, it was also discovered that there was a leak coming from



Photos provided by Jim Leland

the roofline into the air handler closet and into a guest closet. The A/C also did not have dual zones, which the client was eager to have in the condo. After correcting the leaks, it was decided to get a new A/C system that would provide dual zones and move the air handler from an outdoor closet into the new attic space. The entire duct system was very old and to increase efficiency, all would be replaced. Kelly assisted in the layout of the new duct system to ensure the space remained open for a third-floor space and to place intakes and vents in the most desirable areas. Kelly prefers to use laser cut wood vents from American Wood Vents rather than standard metal vent covers. It is those little details that make a BIG difference!

All doors, trim, cabinetry, flooring, lighting, staircase and even three non-working fireplaces were removed from the condo.

Some of the exciting features installed during the remodel are DuChateau wood flooring throughout, marble tile in herringbone pattern, concrete encaustic tiles, Stikwood accent walls and beautiful bohemian Arteriors lighting.

Kelly will be pairing these beautiful finishes with neutral linen upholstery, custom designed concrete and live-edge wood coffee table, reclaimed wood beams and beautiful furnishings from Taracea.

The new staircase features iron work by Edward's Ornamental in Jacksonville and has a simple, graceful line.

The "BEFORE" to the "REVEAL" day is filled with many decisions, details and hard work, but the AFTER is so worth it.

This home was originally listed and sold by Janet Westling, and the complete makeover will certainly bring a huge premium next time the home is for sale.

Market Watch

Continued from 16

\$257.51 per square foot and 148 days on market. Total sold volume was \$3,450,000.

PLAYERS CLUB at SAWGRASS up to \$749,000 includes Condos

There are 11 active properties ranging in price from \$349,900 to \$709,900. The average list price is \$549,236 with an average square footage of 2,363 and an

average price per square foot of \$234.12 and an average of 45 days on market. There are currently two properties in contingent status. There have been 11 closed sales in the fourth quarter priced between \$385,000 and \$680,000 with an average

sales price of \$540,177 at 95% of list price with 2,388 sf at \$241.72 per square foot and 76 days on market. Total sold volume was \$5.9 million.

I hope you enjoy this update! *Holly Hayes*

Build your Sand Castle

By Kim Martin-Fisher, Realtor and Jennifer Martin Faulkner, Realtor

Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty

As we move into 2020, buyers and sellers continue to be optimistic about a stronger housing market. The early signs are there. The economy is strong, and inventory is low, which refers to the well-known principles of supply and demand. Land is scarce at the Beaches, and updated homes are selling at premium prices. Oceanfront is at a premium and is also very low in inventory. If you want to build your dream, you must first pick your lifestyle.

If it is living so close to the beach you can hear the waves, then you need to visit 69 1/2 San Juan Drive, which is offered for \$2,295,000.

This premium 100x167-foot lot with eastern exposure has water-to-golf views to the 16th hole and views to the west of the 15th hole of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's Ocean Course. Beach access and club amenities are just minutes away.

Live in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach on 125-foot of ocean frontage located at 725 Ponte Vedra Blvd. The property is offered for \$3,650,000. This lot has a large circular drive (grandfathered in) and a ranch-style home with a pool that has been used as a vacation rental for years. Enjoy the rental income while you plan your dream home. This lot is located between The Lodge & Club and Sawgrass Beach

Club. The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is only five blocks north.

High elevations and privacy are a plus at 1107 Ponte Vedra Blvd., a 150-foot ocean-front lot, just two lots north of the Mickler's Beach approach. This location offers beautiful elevations boasting panoramic ocean views, perfect for morning meditations and evening strolls on the beach. Ride your bike or take the sidewalk north to all the beach clubs; offered for \$2.195,000.

1295 Ponte Vedra Blvd is a 150-foot oceanfront lot south of the Mickler's Beach approach in the estate section where the lots are deeper, allowing for the ultimate, private oceanfront estate. The 1.57-acre lot is offered for \$2,385,000.

For nature lovers, the Guana Preserve is a wildlife sanctuary with a 100-by-750-foot lot at 1194 Neck Road offered for \$795,000. It has an eastern exposure with Guana River views and 100-year-old oak trees. The location is west of Florida A1A and minutes to beach access at Mickler's public access.

Enjoy the vibrant beach-town lifestyle in South Jacksonville Beach, where weekend festivals, eclectic coffee houses and local eateries are just a walk or bike-ride away. Easy access to J. Turner Butler Boulevard and all the clubs in Ponte Vedra Beach. 4348 Ponte Vedra Blvd. is within 150 yards of Ponte Vedra Beach with

BUILD continues on **Page 20**







NOW SELLING! QUADRILLE

Ponte Vedra Beach's Newest Luxury Home Address

Located near the south entrance of Marsh Landing, Quadrille is an enclave of custom homes by AR Homes.

This exclusive 20-home neighborhood will feature a gated entrance and gorgeous West Indies inspired architecture. Lots in this highly anticipated community will not last long.

For more information, visit our model home in Eventide. 181 Seaglass Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

For more information call: 904-636-7460 Jay Wilkerson | JWilkerson@arhomes.com



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SAND CASTLES 19

DEDICATED TO EXCELLENT RESULTS **CHECK OUT MY RECENTLY**



740 Spinnakers Reach Dr. \$1,700,000 Spectacular Oceanfront views from every room



104 Muirfield Dr. S885.000 Water to Golf Views in The Plantation



169 River Marsh Dr. \$880,000 Tuscany Meets Coastal Contemporary in River Marsh - Redesigned to Sell



145 Summerfield Dr. \$539,000 Completely Updated 3BR/2BA in Popular Summerfield - Redesigned to Sell



600 Ponte Vedra Blvd., #109 \$725,000 Sophistication in The Carlyle - Redesigned to Sell



719 Spinnakers Reach Dr. \$2,150,000 Oceanfront Spinnakers Reach - Completely Renovated



3255 Old Barn Rd. W. \$1,125,000 Private Oasis in Sawgrass Country Club



113 River Marsh Dr. \$775,000 Beautifully Designed in River Marsh



129 Summerfield Dr. \$520,500 Spacious Open Design in Summerfield - Redesigned to Sell



Redesigned to Sell in Del Webb



24600 Deer Trace Dr. \$1,399,000 Redesigned to Sell in Marsh Landing Country Club



5577 Heckscher Dr. \$769,000 Spectacular Water Views - 3.6 acres with a beautiful cottage



2019 President's Circle Award Janet Westling, REALTOR®, GRI, CIPS 904.813.1913 Cell www.janetwestling.com Janet.Westling@bhhsfnr.com









Having it all in Fernandina Beach

By Angela Walker

In Fernandina Beach, you really can have it all.

The once-sleepy fishing town is now not only a bustling resort community, but is also known for its warm neighbors, diverse restaurants, busy shops, sandy beaches and majestic trees.

Every day begins with a glorious sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean and ends with a radiant sunset over the Amelia River.

With this home, now is your chance to own a piece of the island.

Take one look at this colonial beauty, juxtaposed against sand and sea, and you'll be hooked. Even with its graceful traditional-style columns, it is perfectly at home in this beachside neighborhood.

Step inside to see that this 1997 home has been renovated with lots of love. From its gleaming new granite countertops to its gorgeous wood-look floors, this like-new home is open, bright, spacious and move-in ready.

So what else is new? How about carpet, paint, ceiling fans, plumbing, light fixtures and kitchen appliances!

Come and see for yourself. Even the Florida-room has been heated and cooled, adding 200 extra square feet of fun to this house and a great place to hang out year-round.

Relax with the family and/or entertain your

guests in the kitchen and family room, which are open and integrated so you will always feel included.

Feel like a swim? Take a short walk to the beach at a close beach access. Or enjoy the privacy of a midnight swim in your fully screened, heated pool anytime, summer or winter

This home is loaded with personality, boasting stunning architectural details throughout its two-story floorplan.

But what is a home without a great location? Here in Fernandina Beach, you can have it all. The island features green marshlands and oak lined trails, beautifully complemented by the relaxing ambiance of 13 miles of private beaches.

You will find yourself drawn in by the rich history of the island's Victorian seaports and the enchanting shops along Center Street. From the ocean to the many inlets and rivers to the Intracoastal Waterway, there is never a shortage of water sports for enthusiasts: deep sea fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding or jet skis, just pick your passion.

Fernandina Beach is also home to Fort Clinch State Park, where you'll discover activities for the whole family.

Maybe it's time you called this island home.

Presented by Watson Realty

Listed by Angela Walker

Offored for \$600,000





A food trend to get excited about

By Alice Hickox

Happy New Year everyone!

I know January food articles are often focused on New Year's resolutions, as well as recipes and tips to ensure your success. But THIS year... I want to talk about several of the hottest food trends that show no signs of slowing down in 2020, and how you can customize my favorite up-and-coming food trend to whatever your style of eating is.

What food trends am I talking about? It



Alice Hickox

seems everyone these days is either following a plant-based diet, are gluten-free, doing the keto diet or living a vegan lifestyle. I personally adhere to certain aspects of all of them. However, the food trend I am

most excited about are the charcuterie boards and grazing tables! Say what? (Shar-ku-te-re).

Before you think I've lost track of my theme, a traditional charcuterie board consists of a variety of aged, cured meats, cheeses and jams, as well as fruits, nuts, olives and crackers, all artfully arranged to cover the entire board. It's basically a meat and cheese board, just fancier.

A grazing table is essentially a grandiose version of a charcuterie board, and often done on a kitchen island or on the length of a dining table to accommodate larger crowds. Not only are they an absolute feast for the eyes, but also for your guests! Trying out all sorts of food combinations together makes for a great conversation piece, and best of all, there is no cooking involved. You can add in wine pairings if you like or keep it simple for a stay-at-home date and movie night.

So how does this play into the plantbased, vegan, vegetarian or keto ways of eating? You can customize the boards to fit any eating lifestyle, which makes it even more fun. You can go traditional as described above or add and omit ingredients to suit your eating preference.

The beauty of the charcuterie or grazing board, is arranging a variety of textures, colors and flavors for the ultimate grazing experience, which can serve as a starter, or the main course. You can do theme boards for holidays, or game-day boards — why,



Photo provided by Alice Hickox

yes! That's where I'm going here. My game-day board provides a great variety of colors along with traditional finger foods, but feel free to swap out your own favorites.

My game-day board is also not necessarily healthy like a traditional Charcuterie

FOOD continues on Page 26

Build

Continued from 18

beach access across the street. Offered for \$995,000, this is a latge lot, 110 feet by 145 feet, and is ready to build.

Enter Neptune Beach, a quiet small beach oceanfront town located near the Beaches Town Center. The area features great restaurants, nightlife, beach access and boutique shopping. 216 Bowles St. a short stroll to the beach, Jarboe Park, and just blocks to Town Center. The lot is 40.1 feet by 115 feet. The property is offered as land only at \$429,000, or as a build-package for \$875,000.

If a boating lifestyle on the Intracoastal Waterway and easy access to the St. Johns River, as well as the ocean, is what you desire, then take a closer look at this rare 150-by-400foot lot located at 293 and 295 N. Roscoe Blvd. Complete with a large boathouse and dock, it is within minutes to fine dining. Build your dream home on a wide lot or sell one of the lots and build on the other. Offered for \$1,625,000. Now is a great time to plan and build the home of your dreams.

Just pick your lifestyle!

Paradise found on the Intracoastal Waterway





By Clare Berry

Passing through the gates of 41 South Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, is a multisensory sensation, from calming to exciting. The meandering stone-style drive leads to the mahogany and glass double doors of this timeless Mediterranean villa, crowned by a classic barrel tile roof.

Mature landscaping and the large 100-by-400-foot lot provides the privacy we desire, allowing us to relax and recharge from our busy lives.

A Southeastern architect/builder, now retired, designed and built this home for himself, with quality and features thoughtfully included to maximize the enjoyment of this Intracoastal Waterway hideaway.

Native cypress wood is the material for ceilings of all exterior porches and the lanai as well as the four garage doors. Inside, the ceiling details in the breakfast area, kitchen and stairwell are also cypress wood, giving a natural yet rich appearance. The interior doors are another show-stopper in this home; they were brought in from Colorado, solid dark wood, custom distressed and hand-scraped to the builder's specifications.

Two bedrooms, including the spacious owner's suite and an office, are on the first floor. All rooms have high ceilings with beautiful detailing as well as custom cabinetry (plentiful storage!).

The living room, owner's bedroom and family room have fireplaces with custom stone fireplace surrounds and mantles.

Every space in this home is designed to connect the inside to the stunning water

views and natural old Florida beauty outside. There is a retractable glass door system between the family room and the lanai, making entertaining a breeze, as does the central wet bar (with its custom-built 214-bottle wine cellar) and summer kitchen, set in a wraparound bar area.

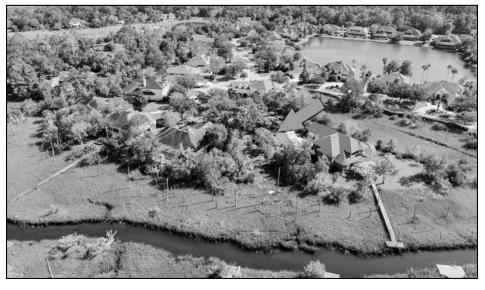
The surface of the outside area surrounding the pool is over 1,700 square feet of travertine surrounding a serpentine pool and spa.

The quality continues at the water, with a stainless-steel bulkhead over pilings. The boat house is the dream of boaters and nature lovers, beautifully appointed: roofing over two motorized slips (a 40-foot, 25,000-pound lift and a 27-foot, 10,000-pound lift), additional deck chair space, fish cleaning station and views that will mesmerize you.

Upstairs are two bedroom suites, very private, and an upstairs game room with a balcony overlooking the Intracoastal. The quality continues, with powered wenches for the foyer and stairwell light fixtures, oak treads and travertine risers in the stairwell and rich hardwood flooring in the game room.

This home will help you relax and refresh... it's in its DNA. The plan includes four bedrooms, an office, two 2-car garages (each 700-plus square feet, with storage systems), one half and five full bathrooms, and two large outside gathering areas as well as two inside, so everyone has their own space.

This special place is offered for \$2,450,000 by Clare Berry, broker/owner of Berry & Co. Real Estate.





Exquisite waterfront lot on Cabbage Creek in Marsh Landing

By Jennifer White

As everyone in Northeast Florida knows, Ponte Vedra Beach is a seaside haven known for its pristine beaches, Intracoastal Waterway and famous resorts with championship golf. It's also home to the PGA TOUR, The PLAYERS, private beach clubs and it is in close proximity to the renowned Mayo Clinic and downtown Jacksonville, home of The Jacksonville

Jaguars. Its St. Johns County A-Rated schools are ranked top in the State.

Marsh Landing Country Club, a premier private club located in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach, offers an 18-hole golf course, tennis, fitness and clubhouse.

And within Marsh Landing is 320 Keeler's Court, one of 51 homesites in the Clearlake neighborhood and its last lot. The lot is just over half an acre and is already partially cleared. If you are looking for a

home in Marsh Landing, remove the headache of remodeling and trying to retrofit what you want in an older home. Build your dream home and pick out all the finishes.

A geotechnical report on the property states that the lot has a 100-by-70-foot footprint. All you need to do is bring your architect and builder.

The tidal creek, with amazing views, flows right out to the Intracoastal, so don't forget to bring your fishing poles so you can fish off your new dock. Bring lounge chairs, too, so you can relax while enjoying the breathtaking views and nature wildlife. Also bring your boat, jet ski, kayak and paddle board — and enjoy the lifestyle this lot affords you.

This lot is a must-see. Access to the water is a water lover's dream.

Don't miss your chance! Listed by Jennifer White, ReMax Offered for \$554,000













Redesigned to sell with inspiration from Idea House

By Janet Westling

When the current owners decided to repaint their beautiful home, they took their inspiration for the exterior paint from The Southern Dream, 2019 Idea House on Crane Island, in Amelia Island,

Step inside 24600 Deer Trace Drive and experience our Southern Dream, Ponte Vedra Style! Just like Crane Island, our majestic home lives large on 1.73 acres, with stunning water views that lead to

the Intracoastal Waterway, surrounded by sweeping oak trees and natural palms. This splendid home features over 5,900 square feet of beautifully redesigned space for entertaining and refined ease that combines comfortable spaces in a classic blue and white design.

When I stage my listings, one of my go-to paint colors is Sherwin Williams Pure White. It allows a room to shine and highlights the features of the home and furniture we want to stand out. It appeals to young

and old and accommodates all design styles from traditional to contemporary.

It is amazing what changing the color of a room can have on the look of the space and the feeling you get. Creating a buyer connection, with neutral and natural colors, helps set the stage for the buyer to imagine themselves in that space.

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

My objective in my redesign is to create a new look with fresh paint and updated clean, crisp furniture that adds a simplistic vibe to the décor.

By creating a clean neutral appearance that strives for camera-ready chic, your home becomes more appealing to buyers.

Pure White was the perfect color to contrast against the dark wood cabinets in this spacious kitchen that any professional chef would consider state of the art. From the three ovens, two dishwashers, microwave, large center island and subzero refrigerator and separate subzero freezer, this kitchen will delight any cook.

There are several hidden surprises in 24600 Deer Trace. First, the owners installed a one-of-a-kind wine room that holds 3,000 bottles of wine in a climatecontrolled setting, with a soaring ceiling that is architecturally pleasing. A thirdfloor office with a newly designed balcony is the perfect place to enjoy gentle breezes as the sun sets. With tranquil water views on the estuary that winds through Deer Trace in Marsh Landing, to the Intracoastal, this splendid landscape feels like Old Florida.

The apartment over the garage is oneof-a-kind, as you can no longer build an apartment in a home in our county. Perfect for hosting guests, your mother-in-law or a nanny to help with your children, this added feature is unique. This exceptional coastal traditional with five bedrooms, 51/2 bathrooms with room for a pool, outdoor entertaining and a tennis court is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR. It is listed by Janet Westling and Heidi Zawacki and offered for 1,399,000.



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Be on vacation every day in this oceanfront dream home

By Jennifer Sexton

What's not to love about this four-bedroom, three-bathroom, 3,452-square-foot oceanfront dream home?

Situated on a quiet one-way street in South Jacksonville Beach, 2701 Ocean Drive S. exudes modern coastal yet perfects the feel of warmth and relaxation.

As you pull up to the paved driveway, to your three-car garage, you hear the waves crashing and smell the salt air. Ahh ... breathe easy, you are home!

This residence was custom built in 2013 by the current owners with the entire family in mind. There's a drop zone as one enters the home from the garage for shoes, bags, jackets or whatever you don't want to drag into the house.

As you make way into the main living space, you're immediately captivated by the views of the ocean. This home is perched above the sand dunes to provide optimal vistas of the Atlantic Ocean from all angles.

The open, modern, and bright main gathering space includes a family room, kitchen, and dining nook with sliding glass doors leading to the exterior. With all stainless-steel appliances, the contemporary kitchen is the heart of the common area and offers a large island for additional seating and food preparation. Want to dine alfresco? No problem. Just open the sliding doors and choose from the covered lanai or the one of the oceanfront decks in the backyard.

What's more, the first floor is also home

to a guest room and a full bathroom so there's no need for guests to climb stairs.

The second level features two more guest rooms, a Jack-and-Jill bathroom with double vanities, a private study, a bonus room with a covered balcony and a wet bar ... all with ocean views, plus a laundry room with loads of storage.

Spanning the entire third level, the master retreat is the perfect sanctuary for the most discerning homeowner. With a private covered balcony, you have the best views of the house. The spacious bedroom features a custom wood headboard extending the entire length of the wall and provides fantastic views from all angles.

Move on to the master bathroom with a double vanity, a walk-in shower with two entrances and two rain-heads, a modern soaking tub with a window that frames the Atlantic and a luxurious Toto toilet.

One may say the best feature of this home is the incredible master closet that many can only dream of. Say goodbye to your cramped closet...time to go shopping! With more than enough space for both him and her, the owners can showcase their coveted shoes, handbags and clothes for all seasons. And the center island is the perfect place to house your jewelry, sunnies and more.

Bring all your toys, because you won't believe the size of the garage. Not only does it comfortably park three full-size cars, but it can also fit exercise equipment, golf clubs, bikes, paddle boards, tools and more.

The fenced-in backyard by the ocean





has artificial turf so the homeowner will never need to have the grass cut.

Welcome to this special piece of paradise.

Represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Listed by Jennifer Sexton Offered at \$2,600,000

The beauty of transformation

By Lisa Barton

What do you do when you buy a gorgeous, move-in ready, marsh view property in Marsh Landing Country Club? You tear it apart of course! And that is exactly what the new owners of 608 Ibis Cove Place did when they closed on the property in the summer of 2019.

Tara and William Wegh moved to Ponte Vedra Beach last year with their three teenage children. When they decided to move to the Jacksonville area, the Weghs chose to limit their housing search to Ponte Vedra Beach because of the excellent public schools. After visiting several neighborhoods, Marsh Landing quickly became their favorite for many reasons, including its ease of access to and from downtown Jacksonville.

"We were always impressed with all of the beautiful homes in Marsh Landing, but when we first drove through the gates of North Island, we fell in love with that area," said Tara Wegh.



After an extensive search in Marsh Landing Country Club, they realized in order to have a home with the open living spaces they were after, they would either have to build a new house or remodel an existing one. They did not have enough time to build from the ground up, so the family searched for a house with "good bones."

Then they found 608 Ibis Cove Place. The North Island home had a fabulous location and enormous potential. The Wegh's vision for the renovation was to incorporate an elegant and inviting living area that was

spacious enough to host large gatherings.

"We have always loved hosting holiday parties and special events in our home. Even though our previous home was almost 10,000 square feet with numerous guest areas both inside and outside, we noticed that everyone always gathered in the kitchen," Tara Wegh said. "We knew that if we ever had the opportunity to design a new home, having a stunning, oversized gourmet kitchen would be our top priority."

After many, many months of projects, design meetings, extended deadlines and increasing budgets, the Weghs have the custom-designed home they were after. The kitchen and family room have been opened-up and extended to include an enormous center island with a stunning quartz countertops. This area is great for food prep, a family dinner or for a party of 100. The new, high-end hardwood flooring makes the home more open, welcoming and streamlined.

Finish line in Marsh Landing Country Club

By Heidi Zawacki

Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR

What a journey it was remodeling a Marsh Landing Country Club home.

It was fun, exciting, frustrating — decisions and more decisions.

Back in May of last year, we had a list of items that we wanted done and gradually kept adding while the contractor was around.

Adding new windows and doors was not in the plan, but once we opened some walls there were some older water stains, so we decided if we were going to do it, let's do it right.

The new windows and doors brought a whole

brand-new look to the kitchen and family room.

During the process, sourcing items such as cabinet handles, marble and quartz for the kitchen and bath was not as easy as I thought. But I took my time and waited until I found the perfect items to make the project complete. We are lucky we had many places to source products. The quartz counters were found at Marble Masters, a wonderful company that has been in Jacksonville for over 50 years. We found the marble at a new company with a great selection as well, called Any Old Stone. R Cabinet Studios was where we sourced our cabinets and the owner helped direct me to her premier sources.

FINISH LINE continues on Page 27





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INTRACOASTAL CONDO + BOAT SLIP Located in the private gated community of Marina San Pablo, this 6th story luxury condo offers a convenient location, resort style amenities, and phenomenal views of the marina and Intracoastal Waterway along with a 20x50 boat slip. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths \$765,000



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The wait for your dream Marsh Landing Estate home is over. From the moment you walk in the front door you will fall in love with this light filled 5BR/4BA 4098sf home with soaring ceilings & gorgeous water views throughout. Chefs get ready to make your favorite dish in this renovated kitchen with custom cabinetry, marble counter tops & Viking Appliances. Family room boasts



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2,275 SF | \$975,000 | MLS#1014494

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To be included in the next issue publishing May 28, 2020, please call (904) 285-8831



CUSTOM BUILT OASIS IN THE PLANTATION PRICED WELL BELOW APPRAISAL! Comfort and elegance merge in the thoughtful design of this custom-built home situated on a premium lot in the premiere Plantation community. Gorgeous water to golf views are showcased throughout the home. 4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms \$1,595,000



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COSTA VERANO TOWNHOUSE

Live the beach life dream in this gorgeous furnished two-story, 3BR/2.5BA, 2424SF townhouse-style condominium with your very own private terrace! Also includes a private entry attached 2-car garage. HOA Dues paid for 1 year! Offered for \$635,000.



Call Willie Lane 904-710-8152



RIVERWOOD DEL WEBB

With Del Webb's world class amenities you can live everyday like you are on vacation. This 3 bedroom, 3 full bath Infinity floor plan comes in at 2,633 sqft plus an office/ study and 3 car garage Premium preserve lot. Offered for \$550,000.



Call Casey Johnson 904-472-7433

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SPECTACULAR WATER VIEWS

Step inside 5577 Heckscher drive & experience an amazing waterfront cottage on 3.6 acres on Little Andrews Island just minutes from downtown Jacksonville. This perfect waterfront getaway has been recently renovated. Fall in love with Florida rain showers under the new metal roof & take in the spectacular water views on the large wooden deck, bulkhead & dock. Offered for

\$769,000.

Call Janet Westling 904-813-1913



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On a quiet one-way street in S Jax Beach, this modern coastal 4 bed/3 bath/3,452 SF home was built in 2013 with family in mind. There's a drop zone as you walk in from the garage, open kitchen and living space, 4 large bedrooms, laundry room on the 2nd floor, office and bonus room, master on the top floor with the walk-in closet of your

dreams, fantastic ocean views from all rooms, and a fenced in oceanfront yard! \$2,600,000

Call Jennifer Sexton 904-463-3326



BEACH AND COASTAL LIFESTYLE

Relax and Enjoy the Beach Life from this Stylish Entertainer. Upscale finishes and fabulous open floorplan is perfect for entertaining family and friends. Wake up every morning refreshed with a coffee on upstairs balcony or meditate to the sounds of the Atlantic Ocean. Grab your surfboard and walk to the beach or grab a bite to

eat or drink at nearby restaurants. 4BR | 4.5BA | 2,452 SF | \$899,000 MLS#1017157

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SPECTACULAR WATER TO GOLF VIEWS

Located in Sawgrass Island on an estate-sized lot this spacious single-story home showcases spectacular water to golf views. With high ceilings, generous windows, and custom details throughout this home was built to accommodate all your needs. 4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms \$1,575,000



Call Elizabeth Hudgins 904-553-2032



TURTLE SHORE COTTAGE

Pristine 2BR/2BA, 1324SF cottage on a quiet cul-de-sac across the street from the ocean. Surrounded by natural beach oak and palm trees, just 397 steps to the pool and tennis, 700 steps to "toes in the sand" through the turtle tunnel under A1A. Offered for \$385,000.



Call Rosemary Kristoff 904-333-4841



LUXURY NOCATEE POOL HOME

This warm and inviting 5BR/4BA home flows nicely, with the perfect blend of social and private areas. Relax to the gentle sounds of the pool fountain from your great room or large screened private lanai with summer kitchen. Offered for \$574,900.



Call Cynthia Lupi 904-814-5058



LITTLE BAY HARBOR CONDO

The wait is over for this great 3BR/3BA, 1974sf condo with amazing views of water, golf and a private nature island sanctuary. The sound of birds chirping will keep you entertained for days while you are enjoying the fantastic screened-in porch. The moment you step in, you will fall in love with the lovely, large great



Call Tina Webster 904-982-7330

room. Offered for \$569,000.



PANORAMIC GUANA TO OCEAN VIEWS

With the Guana River to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, this oceanfront home offers stunning panoramic views. Built with top engineering designs, this home thoughtfully merges comfort with sustainability. 7 bedrooms, 7.5 baths \$2,700,000



Call Elizabeth Hudgins 904-553-2032



PONTE VEDRA BOULEVARD

Experience Luxury Living at the Oceans' doorstep. Panoramic ocean views from almost every room. Elevated deck wraps around the master bedroom past the great room and kitchen! Come and live the beach life! 5BR/3BA, 3089SF. Offered for \$1,389,900.



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pool, grocery stores, shops & restaurants in minutes. Offered for \$669,000



SOLANO CAY

Come and see this 3BR/2.5BA, 1501SF home located in the heart of PVB! Short walk to the beach, community pool and A-rated St. Johns County School District. Offered for \$338,000



Call Wally Sears 904-610-9771

To be included in the next issue publishing May 28, 2020, please call (904) 285-8831

You will absolutely love this home

By Kathleen Floryan

This one-of-a-kind house is situated on a half-acre lot with water-to-golf views and located in the unparalleled, equity neighborhood of The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach.

Located at the end of a cul de sac, the house has a pavered-driveway and three-car, side-entry garage.

When you pull up, you enter the home through beautiful, etched glass doors, into to a spacious open living room with soaring high ceilings and a soft contemporary blue coastal palette.

The 3,863-square-foot floorplan flows in a way that allows for gracious daily living, with comfortable entertaining space both indoors and out.

Multiple door sliders open the house to the covered lanai from every major room.

The original builder was Benchmark Homes, and the current seller has been in the home since 2006 as a second owner.

Trendy updates to the house were completed in past three years, bringing the house out of the 1990s motif.

This one-story home has two short-step elevation changes: one from the foyer to living room, the other from family to dining area. The transitions are done very well, with three wider semi-circular steps.

The original dining area in the front of the house has been converted to a sitting/ music area. With a redesign it could be a bar or office/study.

The master suite captures beautiful views of the embracing water lagoon with a quiet sitting area, complete with a small fireplace.

A flex room is adjacent to the master, and is suitable as an office, a fourth bedroom or nursery. There is a pool-bath directly across from this room.

Two interconnected guest bedrooms with their own corridor enjoy separate sink vanities and a joint tub/shower combo

The laundry room, adjacent to the





garage area, is very spacious and accommodates storage and a folding area.

Some of the special features in the remodeling include: gorgeous Hallmark Nu-Oil Hardwood wide-plank floors throughout the entire house; a custom Brazilian Cherrywood half-moon ex-

tension, placed at the end of the center island to provide bar-top seating; Quartz-ite countertops; and a five-burner gas cooktop graced with hidden cabinetry for utensils and cookware.

Beautiful Bahama shutters accent the dining room windows.

There is a stunning wood-plank accent wall in the living room, which acts as an artistic focal point.

The family gathering area adjoining the kitchen features a coquina fireplace, perfect for relaxed conversation.

Heading outdoors, you will find a screened lanai with a pool/spa. A portion is covered overhead, allowing outdoor enjoyment even in the rain.

The landscaping is lush and surrounds the exterior of the cage.

Energy improvements include solar power attic fans, PEX Plumbing, all HVAC vents and unit have been replaced. The house also has a newer hot water heater, newer washer/dryer, newer pool motor/valves/filter/sweep, newer landscape lighting and irrigation and an electric dog fence.

Exterior and interior painting was completed in 2019.

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach is the only local private equity HOA where neighbors enjoy the amenities with their neighbors and not with resort guests or non-owner members.

Amenities include a four-acre oceanfront beach club, a 2016 revitalized 72-par golf course, a fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment, seven Har-Tru tennis courts, a croquet court, fine dining, various social clubs and summer camps, 24-hour security at two gated-entrances, community mail services and valet trash service.

All gratuities included in monthly fees, with no food or beverage minimums.

Additional usage fees for golf carts, club care, locker rentals and golf guests

The house is currently offered for sale at \$1,029,000.

It exudes comfort, peace, quality, and relaxation.

Come see for yourself.

Represented by EXP Realty LLC

Listed by Kathleen Floryan

Offered for \$1,029,000

Food

Continued from 20

board (you're welcome, men) but I figure you all have been angels for the month of January, so why not have a fun board for the game?

First you need a cheese board, a large platter or even a nice size tray. If you don't have anything large, you can do two to three smaller ones. I particularly love the trays that you would, say, bring someone breakfast in bed with. If you have neither, you can pick up a roll of brown paper on the paper aisle and tear a sheet the size you want and place it on an easily accessible place in your kitchen, such as an island, where guests can gather. For a traditional board, I love to fill them up with wheels of

Brie, cheese slices, crackers, grapes, little bowls of different jams, strawberries—and of course some sort of chocolates. However, for a themed-board for the Super Bowl, I'm taking some of our favorite football finger foods and putting together a fun board that you can make your own changes to according to your favorites. Coming this spring, Lettuce Do Dinner, Personal Chef Service will be offering custom boards for your special event, so stay tuned.

Traditional Charcuterie boards are always a hit, but since the Super Bowl is right around the corner, I'm excited about this themed Game Day Board:

Game Day Grazing Board or Table (Serves 10)

■ 24 chicken wings in various flavors, storebought or homemade, cooked

- 12 bacon and pimento cheese stuffed Jalepeno poppers (see easy recipe below)
 24 store bought or homemade pigs in a
- Carrot and celery sticks
- Cucumber slices
- 6 jalepeno peppers, halved lengthwise
- \blacksquare Small container of Palmetto (pimento) cheese
- Favorite store bought ranch dressing
- Chunky blue cheese dressing store bought or homemade
- 1 ½ cups guacamole (store bought or homemade)
- 1 cup salsa (store bought or homemade)
- 2 cups blue corn scoop chips
- 2 cups white corn scoop chips
- White and dark chocolate-covered pretzels (I love Trader Joe's for flavor and value)
- Popular add-ons: Frozen onion rings or sweet potato fries, cooked to package instructions.

Directions: Arrange various chicken wings

through center of board diagonally. Place dressings and dips in small assorted bowls in various places around the board. Fill in with clusters of the different vegetables arranging artfully or in small piles. Fill in with jalepeno poppers and pigs in the blanket along the edges. If there is room on board, fill in with chips. If not, have two baskets on either side of the board with chips.

Jalapeño Poppers: Half lengthwise six jalepeno peppers, seeds removed. Fill with store-bought pimento cheese (my favorite is Palmetto cheese at Publix or Costco). Top with a little bit of shredded cheddar and real bacon bits. Preheat oven to 400 F. Spray baking sheet with nonstick spray or line with parchment paper. Bake for 15-20 minutes until bubbling and starting to brown.

Alice Hickox, personal chef of Lettuce Do Dinner (www.LettuceDoDinner.com)



Transformation

Continued from 2

The addition of the new moving glass wall system from the formal living room to the pool deck helps expand the living spaces to the outside and showcases the expansive marsh views.

The kitchen and bathrooms are appointed with beautiful custom-built cabinets, which provide lots of storage space and allow for clutter-free counters. The gorgeous, oversized light fixtures add a touch of modern class to all the rooms. The six

renovated bathrooms are delightful with upscale finishes and lovely custom tiles.

Finally, the spa-like master suite is a fabulous retreat with a completely new bathroom, including a large soaking tub and huge walk-in shower, all tiled with beautiful white and grey marble. The master bathroom truly turned this property into a 2020 thing of beauty.

After this labor of love, the Weghs found themselves having to relocate again, just as the renovations were completed. Now this extraordinary property will be coming back on the market, completely re-done and ready for a new family.



Finish Line

Continued from 24

The planning of the kitchen and layout was easier, since we kept with the layout but took out the original look with the desk in the kitchen and made the whole wall more up-to-date with all new appliances. We were able to get more custom drawers and racks than our previous kitchen. We chose the Sub-Zero Wolf Line for our products and were impressed with First Coast Supply's customer service and selection.

Our cabinet company, R Cabinet Studio, also helped with the cabinets in our master bath. We incorporated a timeless look of Carrara marble and white walls with chrome accents. The shower consists of a steam shower and a cast iron stand-alone tub. We hope that this timeless look stands the test of time.









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Eventide: Luxury community by the sea in Ponte Vedra Beach

By Tina Webster

Nestled on prestigious Ponte Vedra Boulevard, through a canopy of outstretched oak trees, is the buzz-worthy boutique neighborhood called Eventide.

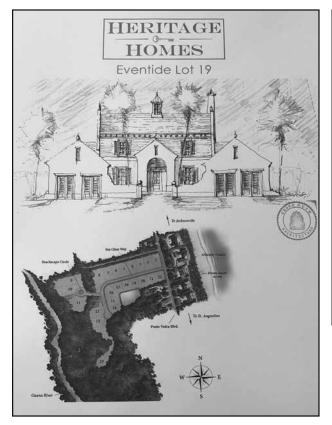
Situated right off the boulevard, on the adorably named street, Sea Glass Way, is a stunning West Indies-style home designed by Cliff Duch of Cronk Duch architecture, which is currently being built by the father-and-son-duo Scott and Jason Ulm of Heritage Homes of Jacksonville. Household names in our community, they are known for consistently executing quality designs and expertly crafted homes.

At the Sea Glass Way home, an exquisitely crafted custom-built mahogany door draws you in, where the French white oak flooring greets you with a warmth and style that makes you want to stay a while.

The kitchen boasts a layout perfect for entertaining and cooking alike, with a custom-designed plaster hood above the range that gives a nod to the West Indies-vibe showcased on the exterior of the home. Hand-selected reclaimed wood beams adorn the ceiling in the kitchen that will host two Sub-Zero columns, Wolf gas range appliances and a magnificent island.

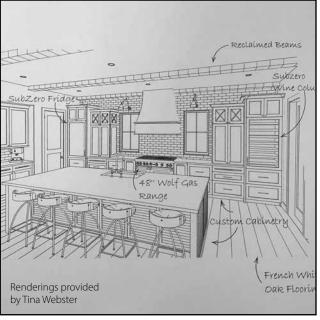
The kitchen flows into the main living area, which faces a serene view of the water and natural preserve. Step out of one of the three French doors off the living room to what we Floridians call the "second living room" onto a gorgeous lanai that includes an outdoor kitchen, fireplace and pool and you will feel like this home is a vacation you don't want to end.

The master suite is located on the first floor and is equipped with an en suite bathroom and a lofty walk-in closet.



Also, located on the first floor is a powder bath, laundry room and an office with custom-designed wainscoting. Make your way up the stairs to find three more bedrooms, three bathrooms, a bonus room and a wet bar area that will meet the needs of even the most discerning house guests.

If one ever did want to leave this permanent vacation spot of a home, they could do so by exiting out of one of the four-car garages and take a few short steps to the



private beach access.

No stone was left unturned in the planning of this home, and it shows even while the building process is not yet complete.

Quality design and craftsmanship paid off in the case of this West Indies beauty.

For more information, contact co-listing agents Tina Webster and Terre Ulm. Come see for your self the amazing care and detail that went in to this fantastic Ponte Vedra Beach home.

Represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Listed by Tina Webster and Terre Ulm Offered for \$2.2 million





Contemporary oceanfront luxury living

By Katie Hughes Johnson

Step into Northeast Florida's most impressive oceanfront community. Home to only 22 residences and two per floor, Marbella exudes exclusivity, from its gated entrance up to private elevator entries into each home.

The desirable South Jacksonville Beach location is home to white sand beaches and convenient to wonderful shopping and restaurants, with many reached by a short walk. Located on the fifth floor and with 4,435 square feet of luxurious living space, plus over 1,000 square feet of outdoor terrace living, this elegant condominium has been completely updated with the finest finishes.

The new open-concept structural changes to the floor plan afford unparalleled ocean views. Large living spaces open to the expansive oceanfront terrace, which faces a Southern exposure and is equipped with a summer kitchen.

Sleek lines and a neutral palette complement any design style. The beautifully equipped kitchen is complete with Elmwood contemporary cabinetry, Miele and Sub-Zero appliances, three ovens, including a convection and steam oven, gas cooking, separate built-in fridge/freezer with drawers and

quartz and butcher block counters.

The built-in Miele coffee station is a "must have" for the coffee lover. Reverse osmosis, instant hot water, pot filler, under and in-cabinet lighting are among some of the amazing features of this complete chef's kitchen.

Kitchen bar seating, nook-area dining and a secondary bar-area allow for ample spaces to dine and entertain. The kitchen is open to the large family room and adjacent dining room.

Adjacent to the dining room is a complete bar with Elmwood cabinets, quartz counters, cabinet lighting, wine cooler, beverage cooler and ice maker.

Nine-inch oak wood flooring with a Driftwood color finish is throughout the home besides the two secondary bedrooms that flank new high-end plush carpeting.

Bathrooms have all been updated with the latest design options and emit the essence of relaxation.

The master bathroom focal point is an oversized ADM soaker tub situated in the center of the room. Two large his/her vanities flank either side with Elmwood cabinetry and quartz counters. The shower with rainfall

Ponte Vedra Recorder · January 30, 2020 SAND CASTLES 29



Spectacular waterfront cottage on 3.6 acres off Heckscher Drive

By Janet Westling

Step inside 5577 Heckscher Drive and experience an amazing waterfront cottage on 3.6 acres on Little Andrews Island, just minutes from downtown Jacksonville.

This perfect fisherman's and boater's paradise has been recently upgraded with a newly resurfaced driveway, fresh sod and mature palm trees.

Enter this cozy cottage to beautiful wood flooring, quality fixtures and designer furnishings. Fall in love with Florida rain showers under the new metal roof and take in the spectacular water views on the on the large wooden deck. You have your choice of deep water or tidal fishing on one of the two private docks.

This property and cottage have undergone a complete renovation inside and out. It includes new electric, plumbing, kitchen, bathrooms, roof, irrigation, pumps and an asphalt driveway.

Convenient to city life and the serenity of Florida, this unique island home is one of a kind!

Own your private retreat on 3.6 acres with water on three sides or build your estate home and bring your yacht. The Heckscher Drive-hideaway is located across the water from a bird sanctuary with over 500 feet of waterfront navigable to the St. Johns River.

Design your dream home to take advantage the unsurpassed water views in a natural, peaceful environment. Walk this beautiful property to appreciate the potential of this perfect waterfront getaway!

Represented by Berkshire Hathaway Home services Florida Network realty. Listed by Janet Westling. Offered for \$769,000.

About Heckscher Drive

Heckscher Drive, located between the tidal marshes of the Timucuan Preserve and the St. Johns River, offers breathtaking scenery, beautiful beaches, waterfront dining, fish camps and sport fishing. Heckscher Drive is named after August Heckscher, a German immigrant from Hamburg, who made his fortune in zinc, iron, coal, steel and the real estate industry. In the 1920s, during the Florida land boom, he had a great interest in Northeast Florida, where he purchased property in the area to escape the cold winters of New York. Also named for August Heckscher are Heckscher Playground in Central Park, New York City; Heckscher Park in Huntington, New York; and the Heckscher Museum of Art and the 1.500-acre Heckscher State Park in East Islip, New York. Read more about him in the April/May issue of Sand





This place is awesome

By Tansy Moon

If you are looking for the privacy of a gated community without compromising size or location, look at an acre of premier Ponte Vedra Beach real estate at 214 Pablo Court.

It's close to the highly desired Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, with its 5-diamond resort and spa, private beach access and numerous amenities.

With backyard views showcasing 180 degrees of unobstructed water, to golf views of the club's exclusive Lagoon

Course, with four holes of visibility, life on Pablo Court is one to be envied.

Along with a brand new roof, two newer A/C units, beautiful wood floors, skylights and panoramic windows lining the rear of the home, you are provided with an ample amount of sunlight throughout the entire day.

If you know this community, you know that this is a scarce and incomparable find.

Represented by Berkshire Hathaway

HomeServices Florida Network Realty Listed by Tansy Moon, Realtor Offered for \$2,075,000



Contemporary

Continued from 28

tile accents is equipped with a rain-head showerhead and an additional handheld showerhead. The bathroom has the ultimate necessity which I coin "the marriage keeper" — his and hers water closets.

In addition to the luxurious design choices, the home is a Smart Home!

A Savant Home Automated System controls audio and visual with surround-sound throughout most rooms. This system can be controlled from your phone or an iPad in the house. EcoBee programmable thermostats and remote sensors to maintain optimum temperature can

be controlled manually or from a smart device.

Blink security cameras in several locations can also be remotely controlled. Hunter Douglas blinds are throughout and most can be operated through a smart app.

Marbella is the Beaches most exclusive oceanfront condo community, with private gated entrance, on-site security guard/concierge services, underground parking and private elevator access to each residence, pool, spa, fitness center and community social room.

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TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT: LONDON CALLING

Three travel stories that will encourage you to go there. Even if you have been there, you'll want to go back

Intro by Janet Westling

In 2007, the Jacksonville Jaguars played its first regular season game in Wembley, London and have continued to play there every year since. As a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, I thought it would be the perfect time to meet with our Berkshire company in London while the games were played.

Realtor Jennifer Sexton and I set up a meeting through the CEO of our firm, Linda Scherrer, with Martin Brikit in London, who owns three prominent Berkshire company firms.

It was a very good meeting that educated us about the London buyer and doing

this prestigious firm and their clients. We produced a very broad video about the beaches of Northeast Florida that showcased the amazing lifestyle we know and love. It was a very good meeting.

In London for the games were several other

Berkshire Hathaway agents who share their

adventures in our Post cards from London.

business with the international buyer. Our mission was to introduce our beaches to





ABOVE: Thames River Cruise
LEFT: Portobello Market in London

5 days in London

By Janet Westling

In early November, I spent five days in London and attended the Jaguar game with my daughter Katie and son-in-law David. This was my first time to Wembley and the Stadium was filled with many Brits. It was wonderful to experience the enthusiasm for our version of football. Next year I hear that the Jaguars will play back-to-back games, which could be a great time to go and take a side trip to Paris, Scotland or Ireland in between the two games. Some other Berkshire agents did exactually that on this trip!

THE PERFECT RETREAT

If you are looking for the perfect home away from home in London, I would highly recommend The Draycott Hotel, one of the finest hotels in Chelsea, London.

When my husband and I visited London several years ago, the Draycott, a boutique hotel, was recommended by European friends and this 5-star retreat surpasses its reputation for providing the best in British Luxury and hospitality. Guest are welcomed every day at 4 p.m. with complimentary tea and biscuits. Relaxing in the English country-designed living room with a burning fireplace and a cup of English tea is heavenly! With 35 beautiful suites with cozy fireplaces and many overlooking the Cadogan gardens, the attention to English detail is unsurpassed. Enjoy a glass of complimentary champagne before you set out



Photos provided by Janet Westlin

Draycott Hotel in London

for the evening and upon your return hot chocolate at 9 p.m. every day of your stay. One could get very spoiled by this luxurious English hospitality.

CHELSEA AN IDEAL LOCATION

Chelsea is the ideal location for some of the best shopping London has to offer, from Sloane Square to Kings Road. Sloane Square was once known for its most famous shopper, Lady Diana Spencer, and the other Sloane Rangers. Today, small boutiques and larger retailers like Peter Jones

POSTCARDS continues on Page 32

PROPERTY APPRAISER Eddie Creamer



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Back to the United Kingdom

By Jennifer Sexton

I made the first trip to London with the Jaguars in 2013 and for a variety of reasons — the usual suspects, kids, clients and cost — didn't get back to the U.K. until 2019.

What a mistake on my part, London is an amazing place to spend a long weekend or an abbreviated week. Either way, I didn't spend much time sitting around, there was too much to do.

My husband and I love to walk, and London is a fantastic city to lace up a comfortable pair of shoes and get going.

Whether fabulous Hyde Park or strolling past Buckingham Palace in Green Park is your thing, the trails through the trees are so inviting that you barely notice you're in the city.

If the hustle and bustle is more to your liking, the intersection of Oxford Circus and Piccadilly is the perfect place to just turn in circles with all the shopping and eating possibilities.

Maybe the whole exercise thing isn't your thing, which is perfectly fine because the London Underground or the "tube" as the locals call it, seems to offer a station at nearly every turn, with a train heading nearly every direction.

I was a little hesitant at first, the New York subway system can do that to you. But the hardest part of getting around underground is just choosing the right ticket and there is always someone nearby to help.

Really, the tube makes the journey to the U.K. so easy; it's there when you step off the plane at Heathrow Airport. It's there when you want to make your way to dinner or shopping or a show. And it's there when you're tired of walking and just want an easy way to get to where you're going.

One of our favorite spots in London is Carnaby Square, which delights in things bright, bold and unusual. Carnaby is my husband Brian's so called "home away from home" when he's here working. His



favorite spot is a little tapas house called Dehesa, which apparently I shunned in 2013 for Rosa's Thai bistro next door. The smell of roasted meat, a deep and diverse wine list and an intimate interior caught his attention. And while I was in Florida from 2014-2018, he made it his mission to try everything on the menu and to recommend the place to everyone who made the trip to watch the Jags play. On a rainy Saturday I discovered the delights of Dehesa with close friends who know a thing or two about wine. We wasted away the day trying everything on the menu, from the rosemarygrilled flatbread to the Galician octopus to the Courgette flowers served with blossom honey, all blended expertly with amazing wines we never see in the United States. For a man who exaggerates for a living, his words, not mine, Brian wasn't wrong about Dehesa.

When the rain finally let up, we set out for the Imperial War Museum on the south bank of the Thames. I wasn't sure how long I would be interested in a museum focused on just one topic, war, but it was so good I made a second trip later in my visit to see a few of the exhibits I couldn't the day we went as a group.

The World War I scene was worth the effort all by itself, to experience life in the trenches that the British and Allied troops lived and fought in France. It was heady stuff for a group of folks who seemed to know plenty about World War II, but were somewhat unaware of the first big, worldwide conflict.



Photos provided by Jennifer Sexton

ABOVE: Jennifer Sexton with friends and family in London.

LEFT: Jennifer Sexton (third from

We arrived late in the day and so we hustled from the bottom floor to the top to get a glimpse of the men and women who were most decorated for their courage and valor in combat. It was amazing to read the stories and see the medals from conflicts that went back hundreds of years. We couldn't make the Holocaust exhibit before it closed, but trust me, I was glad I went back to see it.

Our Saturday was complete with a trip to see "Hamilton" at the Victoria Theater. Why see an American play in London? Well, it was more than a little cool to watch a show about our battle with the British for our freedom in the heart of their capital, but it was also a lot less expensive. Maybe that whole thing about going out on our own more than 200 years ago hasn't worn off, but the tickets were easy to get, and we sat on the floor, 12 rows from the stage for less than one upper balcony seat in New York or Chicago would cost.

We hadn't seen it but knew the story and could sing many of the songs our kids knew by heart. It was amazing, and not to spoil it, but the Brits' reaction to the character of King George was worth the price of admission. Let's just say they have a sense of humor about themselves and the royal family, even if they are fiercely protective of them. We thought it was a fantastic evening and our entire party agreed that the theater scene in London would rival that of Broadway or any other city in the world.

LONDON continues on Page 32



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Jags in London

By Lisa Sandifer

Early in 2019 my husband, Kirk, and I began to discuss how we wanted to celebrate our 30th anniversary, which was in October.

A moorings trip to the BVIs, fishing in Hawaii or wine country tour in Napa? At the time we were with some friends who were booking their annual trip to see the Jags play in London and we decided to jump on the bandwagon.

We figured we'd head to Paris for a few days afterward, which seemed more "anniversary-ish." We booked flights, hotels, trains and cars.

Fast forward 6 months later, and we realized the Jags London game is typically the day after Florida/Georgia weekend in Jacksonville. Kirk and I met at UF and have had season tickets since graduation. And Kirk had not missed a FL/GA game since he was in third grade (even when we lived in Ohio AND when the game was played in Athens). To his credit, Kirk only slightly twitched when that lightbulb went on.

We flew out on Virgin Atlantic, an airline we'd always wanted to try, and met several people from Jax who were also going to the game. We made fast friends and got a photo of us all in our matching



PJs, thank you Sir Richard! We spent a day sightseeing and on Saturday got tickets to watch Shad's other football team (Fulham) play. Afterwards, we headed back to our hotel to figure out how to track down American college football.

Fortunately for us, the large contingent of Jag fans that were at our hotel included Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry, who was also eager to watch the game if we could somehow find a way to get it on a British channel.

After much hand wringing, breath holding, and remote-control manipulation by hotel staffers, the game magically appeared to roaring cheers by our crew. It was a



Photos provided by Lisa Sandife

Lisa Sandifer (center) at London Jaguars game with friends

rowdy night, which only marginally ended before it was time to head to Wembley to see the main attraction on Sunday. The Jaguars may have lost the game, but I can assure you, we won the party.

The next day, Kirk and I were lucky enough to be invited to join friends Butch Hofstetter and Hannah Addington, who were headed to the Adare Manor in Ireland for a couple nights.

Not sure what I was expecting, but I was blown away by the beauty of that country. Hannah and I rode horseback through trails by old castles while the guys played golf. We spent one day on a "driven shoot" and

were feted and entertained at the guide's cottage by his wife who turns out to be a gifted chef. They served us champagne and hot whiskey.

I'd never shot a gun before, nor had I ever tried a hot Irish whiskey, not a combination of which seems either appropriate or safe, but the day turned out to be magical.

And although I still do not own a gun, what I do have is a brand spanking new bottle of Jameson in my liquor cabinet and heart full of treasured memories.

I'm hoping I don't have to wait another 30 years to go back.

London trip was fantastic learning opportunity

By Wally Sears

Visiting London as part of the Design Leadership Network was a fantastic opportunity to meet and learn from international designers, archictecs and taste makers in a relaxed atmosphere.

We experienced behind the scenes visits in private homes and studios. had an extraordinary evening at Kensington Palace, Blenheim Palace and The Painted Hall at the Old Royal Naval College.

As part of the week-long visit, we attended highly selective talks with global design leaders and intimate forum-style workshops.

Cocktail parties at the iconic Dorchester Hotel and Mandarian Oriental Hyde Park were stunning venues for meet-and-greets.

It's always fascinating to see what ideas are trending in home design and decor on an international level.

London is such a design mecca, I felt fortunate to be able to bring back ideas and inspiration.

I did feel somewhat like an Ponte Vedra Beach ambassador, always happy to mention Ponte Vedra Beach as a great destination.

Britts are very familiar with Florida, but not necessarily Ponte Vedra Beach. They seemed quite interested in finding out about our little piece of paradise.

Postcards

to the Saatchi gallery, that exhibited the largest collection of King Tutankhamun treasures seen outside of Egypt, create a famous destination to shop and explore.

A WALKING CITY

London is a true walking city with an abundance of famous churches, fabulous museums, shops and markets.

On my very first day, I visited the Portobello Road market just a short bus ride from my hotel. According to its website, portobelloroad.co.uk, "Portobello Road is the world's largest antiques market with over 1,000 dealers selling every kind of antique and collectible. Visitors flock from all over the world to discover one of London's best loved landmarks!"

SUNDAY MASS AT WESTMINSTER

The most moving experience in London was attending the Sunday service at Westminster Abbey for the Sung Eucharist service at 11:15, which is open to the public. We entered through the Great West Door and to my surprise we were seated in the magnificent monk's choir loft with the choir. For over 1,000 years, sung service has been offered every day at Westminster Abbey by the world-renowned Abbey choir. Attending church services in this special place, where monarchs have been crowned King since William the Conqueror, was the highlight of my visit to London.

London

I probably shouldn't say anything about the game itself since the Jaguars didn't represent quite as well as they hoped.

But the tube to Wembley is a fun way to get to the game since it's really a kaleidoscope of colors from every jersey in the NFL.

Fans from all over Europe descend on London for the American Series, which features four games annually. You'll enjoy meeting Bears fans from Dublin, Seahawks fans from Frankfurt, Cardinals fans from Prague and Jaguars fans from the United Kingdom, where the team has built an impressive following in the seven years they've played there. A Saturday night pep rally held in a popular pub gets everyone together — and in the spirit for the big game the next day, and I would imagine after the big game the next night, even if the game wasn't as big for the home team as many would have liked.

Don't do what I did and say, "I'll get back over there someday."

London is an easy and affordable trip and one that will create memories that will last a lifetime. Even if the home team doesn't contribute a win to the weekend.



Ponte Vedra Recorder · January 30, 2020 SAND CASTLES 33



Dale Westling (from left), Janet Westling, Brian Kilmeade, Allison Ferebee and Judge Chris Ferebee



Judge Don Moran, Kilmeade, Judge Tyrie Boyer and Lee Smith



Mrs. Gold, Kilmeade, Janice Gold and Dr. Mark Gold

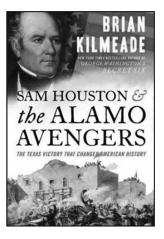
Photos provided by Janet Westling

Brunch with Brian Kilmeade

By Janet Westling

On Nov. 24, my husband Dale and I hosted a brunch and book signing with Brian Kilmeade, author of the bestselling novel, "Sam Houston and the Alamo Avengers," at our home in Sawgrass Country Club.

Kilmeade has written six best-selling novels,



and this event sold out within days of sending out invitations to friends in our community. Over 300 books were pre-sold and all who attended had the opportunity to meet Kilmeade, a leading nationally syndicated radio host, New York Times bestselling author and television show host.

Kilmeade gave a wonderful talk after the signing with details on the history, inspiration and development of the characters in his fourth historical novel. A genuine and natural speaker, he made quite a connection to his audience and took many questions after his talk.

"Sam Houston and the Alamo Avengers," according to author Brad Thor is, "a gripping pulse-pounding tale that'll have you turning the pages faster that you can say, 'Remember the Alamo!' Nobody does history like Brian Kilmeade."



Amy Harris, Kilmeade and Mike Harris



Kilmeade and Juan De La Cruz



Kilmeade and Mary Pappas



Kilmeade, Kendall Brown and Pat Brown

Candace Owens

Candace Owens to serve as keynote speaker at Women's Help Center Gala

By Nancy Basham

Women's Help Center will have Candace Owens as the keynote speaker for its 30th anniversary Gala Fundraiser for Life, slated for May 12. The theme of the Gala is Liberty and Justice for ALL.

A nonprofit charitable organization registered with the state of Florida, Women's Help Center has played an integral part in helping women and families throughout Northeast Florida since 1990.

All services are provided free of charge, with 100% of contributions supporting the organization.

Seats and event sponsorships (corporate and individual) for the Women's Help Center Gala Fundraiser for Life are still available. The event will be held at the World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort on May 12. Call the Women's Help Center at (904) 398-5143 for more information on sponsorships and to purchase tickets.



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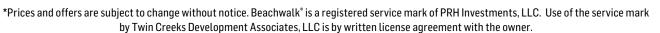


Atlantica Isles at Beachwalk is located 1 mile east of I-95 on County Road 210 (Exit 329).

Please visit our website AtlanticaIsles.com for more details.







Business Hursday, January 30, 2020

St. Augustine coffee house donates proceeds to assist Australia fire rescue efforts

Page 36

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photo by Christine Rodenbaugh

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted a joint luncheon with the Jax Chamber Beaches Division on Jan. 22. Gracie Simendinger, BEAM; (from left) Karen Everett, SJC Chamber – PVB Division director; Tierney Anderson, Fields Auto Group; Gloria Dongara, PVB Division board chair; Jared Rice, vice president PGA TOUR and executive director THE PLAYERS Championship; Jackie Smith, Jax Chamber Beaches Division board chair; Kathy Sutton, Jax Chamber Beaches Division; Isabelle Renault, SJC Chamber president and CEO.

THE PLAYERS Championship has 'something for everybody'

By Christine Rodenbaugh

Jared Rice, vice president PGA TOUR and executive director THE PLAYERS Championship, presented an update on the 2020 edition of THE PLAYERS Championship during the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division joint luncheon with the Jax Chamber Beaches Division on Jan. 22. The two Chamber groups combine meetings quarterly to network and share information. The January meeting was at the Casa Marina Hotel and Restaurant in Jacksonville Beach, sponsored by Fields Auto Group.

Rice said planning began 18 months ago for the 2020 tournament, scheduled March 12 to 15.

"Just 47 days to go," he said at the

THE PLAYERS FAMILY PLAN PACKAGE

Available through March 1, THE PLAY-ERS Family Plan package is intended to give families attending the tournament the most affordable – and memorable – experience possible. THE PLAYERS Family Plan package costs \$130 per day on Thursday or Sunday and \$140 on Friday or Saturday (plus tax) and includes two Stadium Passes and two \$10 on-site concession vouchers.

luncheon. There is a convenient countdown clock on the tournament website at theplayers.com.

Some of the changes for the 2019 tournament were a new trophy, the new Jack Nicklaus boardwalk entry, new brand-

specific theme music and the controversial move from May to March.

"The numbers show the move to March was a success," Rice said.

Of the 200,000 Tuesday through Saturday tickets for the 2019 event, 67% were purchased outside the local five-county region. March 2019 was the all-time busiest March for Jacksonville International Airport, and the area hotel occupancy rate averaged 88%. The goal is to be considered a "bucket list" destination.

Rice highlighted some of the 2020 tournament plans and improvements.

Fans can watch every shot live. The tournament has installed in-ground fiber optic cable around every hole and will

PLAYERS continues on **Page 38**

Do the work; crunch the numbers



Harry PappasColumnist

Can you fill in the blanks? We graduate college, begin a career, start a family and

Buy a home. For most folks, purchasing a home is argu-

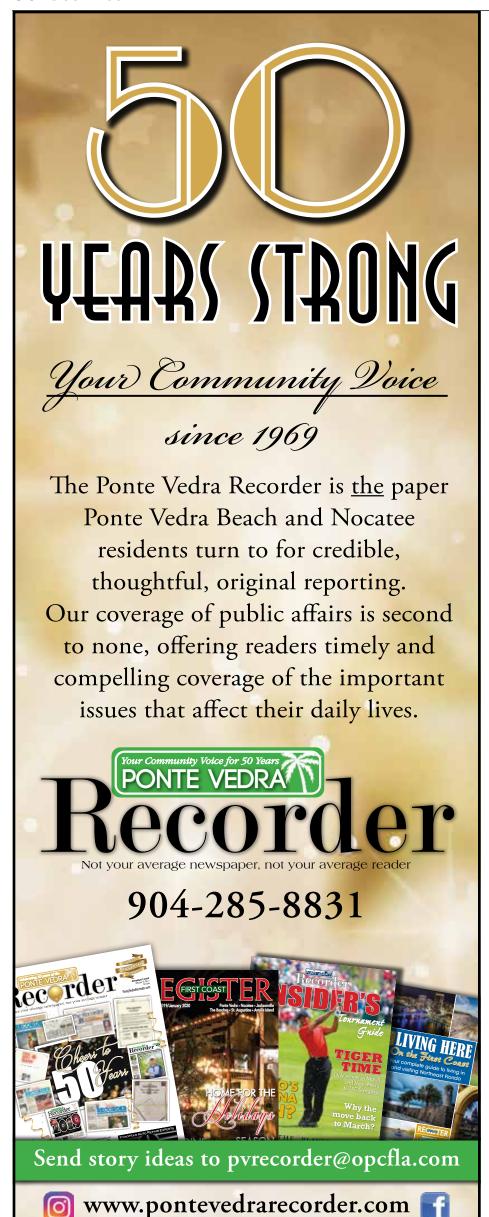
ably the greatest measure of success, especially when we are young.

However, others argue that acquiring a house has more to do with succumbing to the dreaded "keeping up with the Joneses" disease, as our hyper competitive society and culture of self-absorption is often too much for peeps to endure.

One of the most notable symptoms of keeping up with the Jones is debt, as most homeowners don't have the luxury of paying for their house with cash. This is where things often get problematic for many, especially when we get hit with a down turn in the economy. Perhaps the corn-fed capitalist, Warren Buffet, said it best, "When you combine ignorance and borrowed money, the consequences can get interesting."

I have long argued that renting is underrated when compared to buying a home, as many folks underestimate the cost of home ownership. As with most issues, if one maintains his or her position long enough, there is a good chance they will appear smart. For instance, anyone who did not own a home just before the Great Recession of 2008-09 looked like a genius while buying a home was a dumb money move that sounded smart!

In the final analysis, the housing crisis flipped the suggestion that home ownership was a no-brainer on its head. Nevertheless, when it comes to buying versus renting, there is a



TRAVEL EXPERTS HOST OPEN HOUSE



Travel Leaders hosted an open house Monday, Jan. 27, at their Ponte Vedra Beach location at 2 Fairfield Blvd., Suite 3. Their team of advisors discussed upcoming trends and new destinations for 2020.

Photo by Ed Johnson



Photo by Daniela Topore

Kookaburra Coffee is a local espresso bar and Aussie pie shop in St. Augustine owned by Spencer Hooker and Megan Vidal.

Aussie-American espresso bar donates funds to fight wildfires

By Daniela Toporek

When news came that wildfires were blazing through Australia, causing immense damage and death, a St. Augustine Australia-themed eatery, The Kookaburra Coffee, launched a one-week initiative pledging a portion of its sales to be donated to WIRES Wildlife Rescue and New

South Wales Rural Fire Service.

"Australia needs our help," Kookaburra's official Instagram posted. "An estimated 1 billion animals and two dozen people have been killed by the fires. More than 25 million acres have been set ablaze and 2,000 homes have been destroyed. And

AUSTRALIA continues on **Page 38**



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- Named one of Florida's Super Lawyer Honor.
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PLAYERS

double its videographer staff to stream every shot live. A new partnership with Discovery Networks will stream tournament action to 86 foreign countries through subscription. Further, TPC on Jan. 22 announced a relationship with Facebook Watch.

There will be no printed tickets. All tickets will be mobile and all tickets will be day-specific.

"This is important from a service perspective," Rice said. "We need to know when you're coming."

The tournament draws capacity crowds on peak days. Daily Stadium Passes range from \$25 to \$70. All active duty, military retirees, military reserve, National Guard and military spouses, along with dependents, can claim complimentary tickets online. College students can purchase a discounted Thursday through Sunday pass for \$55. Admission for kids 15 and younger is free when accompanied by a properly credentialed adult.

"The spirit of this [youth admission] program is we want kids and families to come out and enjoy the sport," Rice

To better serve guests, day-specific parking passes are also required. Four or more in one vehicle can still park for free, but only with a day-specific pass.

THE PLAYERS Championship is



Photo by Christine Rodenbaugh

Jared Rice (left) accepts the 2019-2020 Innovator Ward from Isabelle Renault.

more than a sporting event that draws worldwide attention to Northeast Florida. In 2019 alone, the tournament had a \$9.25 million charitable impact. Since the tournament's inception, more than \$100 million has directly supported nonprofit organizations in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties.

Rice encourages locals to attend the 2020 event and see improvements made to the fan experience during the last eight years, including ease of entry, more diverse food and beverage offerings and revamped spectator venues.

"There's something for everybody, whether you're a sports fan, foodie or a family," Rice said.

Australia

fire season isn't over yet."

The post added that the week of Jan. 13-18, they would be donating to the cause, and "our friends over at Swillerbees, The Hyppo Coffee Bar and M.C. Pressure will also be joining us in the effort."

The local businesses raised \$2,500 to donate to the foundations, which are "huge and very influential," according to Kookaburra's director of sales Brittany Vidal.

"It's just really important, not only for the owner, but the staff, too," Vidal said. "They were very cognizant about what was going on and wanted to help, too."

Vidal was referring to Aussie-American Spencer Hooker, who co-owns Kookaburra with partner Megan Vidal, and who opened the first coffee shop in downtown St. Augustine in 2012.

Since then, Kookaburra has expanded

all over St. Augustine, offering not only coffee, but Aussie pies. Some, like the Triple S (sausage, sweet potato and spinach), were created by staff members while others like the Thai Chicken Chili and Veggie Coconut Curry are family recipes from Hooker's childhood.

"It's my favorite," Vidal said about the Triple S. "The greasiness of the sausage with the sweet potato makes it magical and there's a little bit of healthiness with the spinach."

The Aussie business may be far from home, but its soul is rooted in the Down Under, not only showing St. Augustine a different side to the Outback, but also

"Spencer's uncle lives here," Vidal said. "Megan and Spencer were visiting, walking around town and said, 'You know what this place needs? A great coffeeshop. And that's where it all began."

For more on The Kookaburra Coffee, visit www.thekookaburracoffee.com.





Brittany Vidal. Photo by Daniela Toporek



PONTE

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passionate debate. Each side, of course, has their own beliefs and convictions, but an answer for your particular situation comes down to doing some much-needed work by crunching some numbers.

The decision to buy or rent has way too many moving parts, not to mention things (assumptions) constantly change. As you might suspect, the cost of buying is more varied and complicated than for renting, making it hard to tell which is a better deal. Thanks to the New York Times,



they can help you decide what is best for your specific place. If you are considering renting versus buying or vice versa, it is paramount that you get a hold of the New York Times calculator. If you have a computer, laptop, or smart phone I urge you to Google "New York Times Rent vs. Buy Calculator."

Yes, you. Yes, right now. I'll wait ... Tap-tap-tap-tap. You're back. Great job!

The calculator takes the most important costs associated with buying a house and computes the equivalent monthly rent. Additionally, it keeps a running tally of the most common expenses of owning and renting.

It also takes into account the opportunity cost (the return you could have earned by investing your money). Please keep in mind that even though your answer comes down to crunching the numbers, there is one paramount issue that we all need to consider ... affordability. Just because our bank will give us a mortgage does not mean that we can truly afford to buy a home. If this were the case, we might never have experienced the incredible housing meltdown from a decade ago.

In the final analysis, sometimes it's smarter to rent, and sometimes it's smarter to buy. Rather than giving in to one side or another, let's ignore the talking heads and self-proclaimed experts. Instead let's do the work by crunching

the numbers! Remember what Mark Twain once said, "It's not what we don't know that gets us in trouble. It's what we know for sure that just ain't so."

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INTHEARTS 39 Ponte Vedra Recorder · January 30, 2020



Gala Chair Ellen Berson and Cummer Beaches board of directors president Peter Karpen pose for a photo after greeting guests during cocktail hour.

TPC Sawgrass hosts Cummer Museum annual 'Celebrate! Gala,' Gatsby-style

By Daniela Toporek

Top hats and pearls were everywhere in evidence on the second floor of TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse Jan. 26, part of a Roaring Twenties theme to ring in the 2020 decade — while celebrating the arts at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens' fifth

"Every year we'll change the theme and make a connection to what's on exhibit at

that time," said Gala Chair Ellen Berson. "Because of the year 2020, it was easy enough and we did the Roaring Twen-

Berson's mother, Harriet, also attended, and said she couldn't be prouder of the execution.

"To hear your daughter planned this and see all the work, it's amazing," she

GALA continues on Page 41



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Cindy Wilson's indigo batiks to be featured at Butterfield Garage Gallery

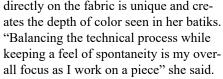
Batik artist Cindy Wilson will speak Friday, Feb. 7 at Butterfield Garage Gallery in St. Augustine. During her 6 p.m. presentation, titled "Midnight in the Garden of Indigo," she will discuss learning to use indigo dye for batiks.

The many shades of blue, and the extreme lightfastness of indigo, intrigued

her and after researching batik techniques using indigo, dye vats soon took over her studio. Dying with indigo is both science and art, she said, and batiks have a haunting stillness, revealing an incomplete visual story. The images encourage the viewer to see the familiar in a new light.

Wilson' process of building colors





A natural artist from an early age, Wilson graduated with a degree in Graphic Design from the University of North Florida.

After a 30-year career as an awardwinning graphic artist and owner of a fullservice design firm, she retired in 2013. She initially learned batik from a workshop with Wendy Tatter in St. Augustine and was so charmed by the technique she



Magnolia Blossoms in Moonlight

began to exploring batik on her own. Wilson now works most days in her studio, experimenting with wax and dyes.

Wilson has been included in many regional shows and her batiks grace the homes of many collectors around the country. She teaches her technique in classes at The Bascom Center for the Arts in Highlands, North Carolina, as well as locally.

Butterfield Garage Gallery is located at 137 King St., Saint Augustine. For more information, call (904) 825-4577.





Florida Chamber Music Project to play Mozart and Mendelssohn at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The Florida Chamber Music Project will play Mozart String Quartet in d minor, k.421 and Mendelssohn String Quartet Opus 44, No. 3 at 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 23 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. A reception with the musicians will follow the concert.

"This concert gives us the opportunity to explore the similarities and differences in their music and lives. Both Mendelssohn and Mozart were child prodigies and I think their music shows their youthful genius," Music Director and violinist Susan Pardue said.

Mendelssohn led a privileged life and as a child he had his own orchestra for practice. Mozart was constantly in search of funds.

Mozart dedicated this quartet to Haydn. He completed it in 1783, while his wife was in labor with their first child. She claimed the rising string figures in the second movement mirrored her cries.

Mendelssohn wrote six quartets in his lifetime. Opus 44 is dedicated to Crown Prince Oscar of Sweden.

Show tickets may be purchased at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box fffices or at www.ticketmaster.com/florida-chamber-music-project-tickets/artist/1921638

Florida Chamber Music Project was founded seven years ago. Joining Pardue are violinists Patrice Evans, Anna Genest and Annie Hertler and cellist Laurie Casse-



Photo provided by Florida Chamber Music

Anna Genest (from left), Patrice Evans, Susan Pardue, Annie Hertler

day. All are members of the Jacksonville Symphony. Follow Florida Chamber Music Project on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@FLChamberMusic). Visit them online at flchambermusic.org.

said. "And they plan for the next gala as soon as this one ends."

A classic, dark green Packard Super Eight was parked outside to welcome guests inside, where they went upstairs to find Cummer Beaches board of directors president Peter Karpen greeting them one

"Our mission is to bring awareness of the Cummer Museum out to the beaches community," Karpen said, while multitasking and making sure no guest went ungreeted.

"We sponsor a fall lecture series in collaboration with the Beaches Museum in Jax Beach," he said. "We have a book group that highlights books based on museum exhibits and we also provide funding for field trips for elementary school students to the Cummer Museum."

This calendar year, about 1,700 students, teachers and chaperones will be able to visit the Cummer, according to Karpen.

While he continued greeting guests, the Cummer Museum pop-up shop lay ahead with bow ties, greeting cards, jewelry and

Guests passed through the shop, just like in a real speakeasy, to where the cocktails were hidden—in the back. Men in black-tie suits and women in beaded flapper dresses lined up at the open bar while munching on hors d'oeuvres like mini-crab cakes and Beef Wellington puffs.

Before guests filled up on snacks and spirits, doors opened to the main dining area, decorated with black and white balloons and filled with the sounds of the Jacksonville University Jazz Orchestra.

A field garden salad with saffronpoached pear, goat cheese, pistachios and champagne-pear dressing had already been served at the tables, where there was an endless flow of red and white wine (thanks to the attentive servers) that Gatsby would have envied.

Gala speakers Karpen and Board of Trustees Chair Pam Paul gave thanks for the attendance (up by over 40 guests since last year) and recognized the Cummer's success in bringing the arts to the Jacksonville and Beaches communities.



The Jacksonville University Jazz Orchestra welcomed guests to the dining area, decorated in classic black and white, and filled with sounds from the prohibition era.

But the most moving speech came from the Cummer's newest director and CEO, Adam Levine.

"Thanks to all of you for taking a Sunday night to be here to support this institution and learn about the Cummer Museum and Gardens and why it matters," Levine began, taking a step back to remind attendees why the Cummer, and all museums, matter in the first place.

He spoke of how art museums are the only places where geography and chronology "evaporate." He spoke of how museums are a place where someone from this new

decade can stand in front of an object made by someone from 5,000 years ago, 15,000 miles away.

"Time and space dissolve in an art museum," he said. "They teach you about other cultures. They broaden your horizons. They teach you empathy, how to use your senses, how to look, how to slow down. Art museums create great citizens and great citizens create great cities. I have come to know this community fairly intimately, and one thing that makes Jacksonville special and is contributing to the momentum we see everywhere, whether St. Johns County

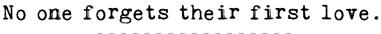


Photos by Daniela Toporel

Cummer Director and CEO Adam Levine gave a speech on the importance art museums in great cities and why they matter in all communities during the gala.

or Downtown, is that people want Jacksonville to be great."

After a standing ovation from inspired guests, the JU Jazz Orchestra turned the volume back up. And just like that, flapper girls in beaded dresses and pearls and their partners hopped to the dance floor. Like a museum exhibit springing to life.



ON STAGE JAN. 9



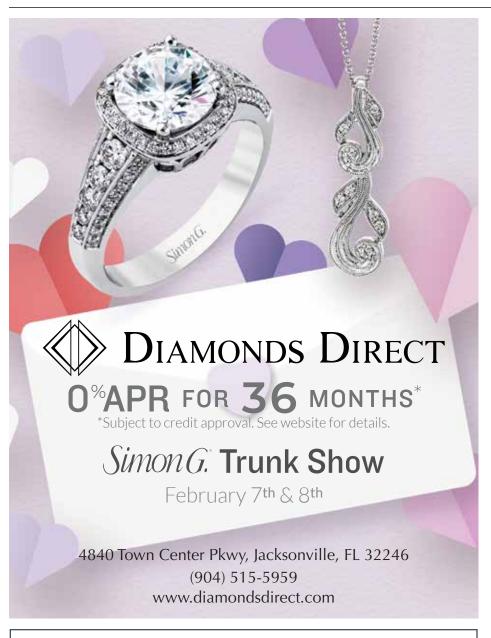
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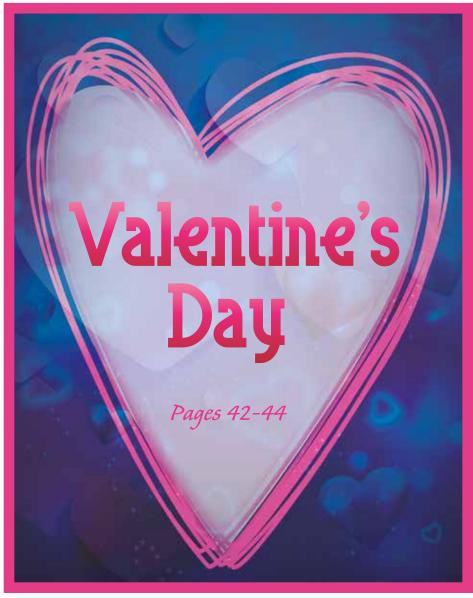
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Tips for buying jewelry this Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is rife with tradition. Couples may have their own unique traditions, but others, like Valentine's Day date nights, are widely popular.

One Valentine's Day tradition many couples embrace is the exchange of gifts. Shoppers might not need much advice when purchasing heart-shaped boxes of chocolates or flowers for their sweet-hearts. However, when shopping for jewelry, Valentine's Day celebrants may feel as though they're in over their heads. The following tips, courtesy of the Better Business Bureau, can help shoppers as they navigate the potentially confusing process of buying jewelry.

DIAMONDS

The BBB notes that diamonds' value is based on color, cut, clarity, and carat. Often referred to as the "4 Cs," this criteria refers to the grade of the color (color), the way the diamond is finished (cut), how flawless the diamond is (clarity), and its weight (carat). When shopping for diamonds, the BBB advises asking jewelers if they have the most up-to-date testing equipment, which makes it easier for them to distinguish between diamonds and labcreated gemstones. That's important, as lab-created gemstones resemble diamonds and may not be detectable if jewelers are



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

using testing equipment designed to identify cubic zirconia.

COLORED GEMSTONES

Colored gemstones are very popular, and the BBB notes that various new

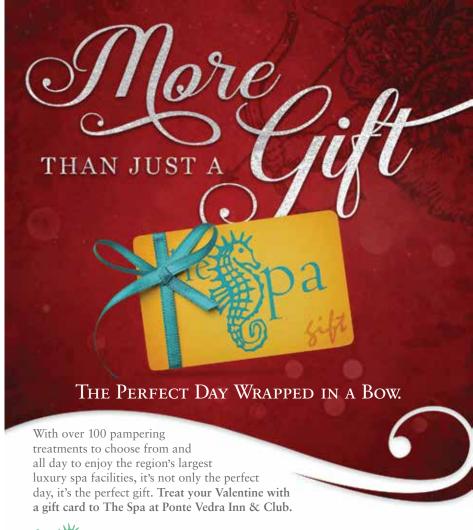
stone treatments have been developed to improve their appearance and durability. However, the BBB also notes that such treatments may adversely affect the value of the gem and necessitate special care in order to maintain the gem's appearance.

When shopping for colored gemstones, ask the jeweler if an item has been treated and if there's any special maintenance required. Imitation or assembled stones may look like natural stones, so shoppers should ask if a stone is natural, synthetic or imitation before purchasing anything.

GOLD

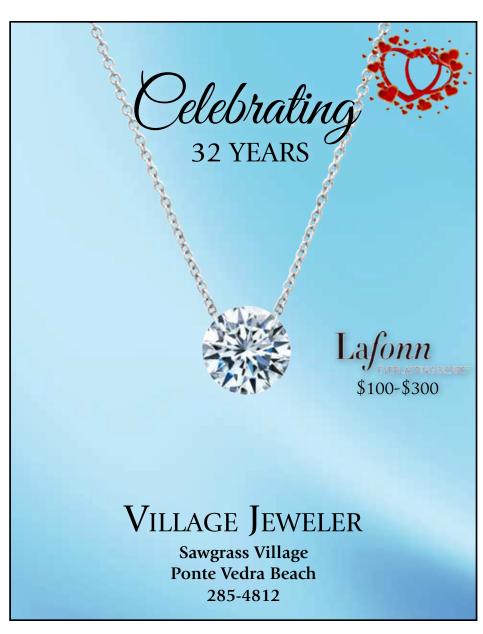
When used alone, the word gold implies an item is all gold or 24 karat gold. But the BBB notes that gold is naturally soft and, as a result, is typically mixed with other metals to improve its hardness and durability. The karat-quality marking indicates what proportion of gold is mixed with other metals. For example, the most common mark for gold jewelry is 18K of 750, which signifies an item is 75 percent gold. Lower-karat gold jewelry may include copper, silver, zinc, or other metals. Consumers should ask about these alloys and determine if the item's ultimate recipient is allergic to certain metals or if he or she has a high acid content in their bodies. People with high acid content in their bodies may have their jewelry turn black as a result.

Buying jewelry can be intimidating. However, jewelry buyers can work with their jewelers to find a beautiful piece their sweethearts will be proud to wear this Valentine's Day.





Don't wait, wrap up your Valentine's gift today. Call us at 904.273.7700 or visit pvspa.com.



Combine decadence with refreshment this Valentine's Day

Chocolate is often described as "decadent," and rightfully so. Few foods can make people feel as if they're being indulgent as well as chocolate. Perhaps that's what makes chocolate such a great fit for Valentine's Day. When giving that special someone some chocolate on February 14, you're not just giving them something delicious, but also a chance to indulge in a forbidden fruit.

But chocolate desserts can be more than merely decadent. In fact, this recipe for "Pasticcio di Cioccolato con Lampone (Individual Chocolate Cakes With Fresh Raspberries)" from Michael White and Joanna Pruess' "Fiamma: The Essence of Contemporary Italian Cooking" (Wiley) is both decadent and, thanks to the fresh raspberries, refreshing. The individual cake is an ideal Valentine's Day gift, as it serves to emphasize how that special someone is the only one for you.

PASTICCINO DI CIOCCOLATO CON LAMPONE

(Individual Chocolate Cakes With Fresh Raspberries) Makes 8 servings

Ingredients

- 1¹/₃ cups cake flour, sifted
- 1/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons cocoa powder, sifted
- ¹/₄ teaspoon baking soda
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 6 large eggs

C StatePoint Media

■ 1 cup granulated sugar



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup heavy cream
- ½ cup confectioners' sugar, sifted
- 1 pint fresh raspberries
- Vegetable cooking spray
- Pinch of sea salt

Directions

Preheat the oven to 325 F. Spray a standard muffin tin with nonstick spray or fill 8 of the cups with paper or foil liners

Sift the flour, ½ cup of cocoa, salt, and baking soda into

a bowl and set aside. Melt the butter in a small saucepan and set aside.

Combine the eggs and sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a whisk attachment. Set the bowl over a pan partially filled with simmering water. The water should not touch the bowl. Using a whisk, beat the egg-sugar mixture until it feels very warm to the touch and all of the sugar has dissolved. Immediately remove the bowl from the heat and transfer it to the electic mixer.

Whip the egg-sugar mixture on medium speed for 3 to 4 minutes until it triples in volume and is very thick and light colored. Add the vanilla and whip 2 to 3 seconds longer to blend. Remove the bowl from the mixer and gently fold in the flour-cocoa mixture.

Place about 1½ cups of the batter in a separate bowl and fold in the melted butter. Do this gently, as you do not want to overwork the batter. Fold this into the remaining batter. Divide the batter evenly among the cupcake tins. Bake in the center of the oven for 20 to 25 minutes, or until a toothpick or knife inserted in the center of one cupcake comes out clean. Remove and cool completely on a rack.

While the cupcakes are cooling, combine the heavy cream with the confectioners' sugar and the remaining two tablespoons of cocoa, beat into soft peaks, and set aside.

Remove the cupcakes from the tin and place them on dessert plates. Spoon the whipped cream on top, divide the raspberries among the plates and serve.



THEME: BE MY VALENTINE

ACROSS

*Abélard to Héloïse
 C.E.O.'s degree
 a.k.a Snowmobile

13. Make amends

14. Over, poetically

15. Garlic unit

16. ____ lazuli

17. New, prefix

18. Bumpkin

19. *St. Valentine's

Day Massacre city 21. James Bond's

drink of choice

23. Building annex

24. Galsworthy's "The Forsyte"

25. MD, familiarly

28. Land of Nod, in relation to Eden

30. Hire for work

30. Hire for work 35. Part of an eye

37. Feudal laborer

39. Request from

Amazon 40. Waterproofed

41. Bunch of bees

canvas

43. Black cat, e.g.

44. Apollo of "Rocky" 46. Roofed colonnade

47. X in a letter 48. Medicinal herb

50. Tangerine-grapefruit hybrid

52. Tennis barrier

53. Hold as a conviction

55. End of a fuse? 57. *_____ Valentine, a.k.a. humorous

Valentine

61. *One of starcrossed lovers 65. Beyond's occasional partner 66. E.T. transporter 68. Wombs

69. Hansen's disease patient

70. Young canine 71. *Flirt

72. *They used to be each other's Valentines

73. Attempt 74. Passover meal

DOWN

Barber's supply
 Arizona's neighbor

3. Serengeti antelope 4. *Like a bottle of champagne

5. "Goodwill Industries" business

6. *Unfortunate consequence of kissing? 7. Busy as a what?

8. *Pleasant bouquet smell9. Vegas bandit

10. MischievousNorse deity11. ____-tempered

12. Sub station 15. *Roxane's pen pal

20. "Heart of ____

Blondie's hit
22. Well-kept secret,

for some 24. Strata, si

24. Strata, sing. 25. *Go _____, or split the cost of a date

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26. Estrogen maker 27. The smallest dwarf planet 29. Uses a Singer 31. Get the picture 32. Short for administrator 33. Goslings, when they grow up

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34. *German artist or
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36. "Singes" in "La
Planète des Singes"
38. *Mr. Right, pre-kiss

Planète des Singes" 38. *Mr. Right, pre-kiss 42. Tiny European republic 45. Jackie Robinson,

e.g.

49. Princess tester 51. "My two cents," pl.

8

54. Do like Vesuvius 56. *Héloïse to

Abélard 57. Wide river valley

58. Wild goat 59. Uh-uh

60. "The Three Faces

of _____," pl. 61. Printer button

62. Old paint hazard 63. Gaelic tongue

64. *Wedding cake layer

67. "____ Elise"

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THE PLAYERS announces special student ticket offer, parking info

THE PLAYERS Championship, which returns to TPC Sawgrass March 10-15, is rolling out a ticket offer for college and graduate students to experience Northeast Florida's biggest social event of the year at a discounted price.

College and graduate students with a valid student ID can access a discounted \$55 Stadium Pass for Thursday through Sunday. To purchase a ticket, students should visit THEPLAYERS.com/tickets and then click on "College Student Offer." Parking passes must be purchased separately and are available at THEPLAYERS. com/parking.

"With many local and regional colleges on spring break during the week of THE PLAYERS, I encourage students and their friends to come to this tournament and experience what we have to offer," said Executive Director Jared Rice. "From The Chainsmokers concert on Tuesday, to an endless variety of food and beverage experiences and the chance to get up close to the

world's best golfers, THE PLAYERS is a bucket-list destination for everyone, whether you're a hard core golf fan or someone who just wants to enjoy the social scene on-site."

Parking information:

Parking passes must be purchased separately and are now required Tuesday through Sunday. All parking passes are day specific and must be purchased in advance via THEPLAYERS.com/parking. Tuesday & Wednesday parking costs \$15 per day and Thursday-Sunday costs \$40 per day. Parking will not be sold on-site. As in years past, THE PLAYERS will offer fans free parking passes if they carpool with four or more people. These passes are limited and must be downloaded in advance.

Rideshare will continue to be one of the easiest modes of transportation, with drop off and pick up located at the Couples Entry off ATP Boulevard, just steps from the 15th hole at TPC Sawgrass.

WORLD GOLF HALL OF FAME MODIFIES SELECTION PROCESS

The World Golf Foundation Board of Directors has voted to make several changes to the World Golf Hall of Fame eligibility and Induction process in an effort to ensure the game's greats from around the world are actively recognized and celebrated.

Changes to the eligibility include lowering the age of a male or female competitor from 50 to 45 years of age or three years retired from the game. A player will be eligible for induction provided he or she turns 45 the year of the Induction Ceremony. Additional changes include elimination of the Veterans category and replacing "Lifetime Achievement" recognition with "Contributor."

"Recognizing the game's greatest players and contributors is an important endeavor and one our sport takes very seriously," said World Golf Foundation Board Chairman and PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan. "We are committed to regularly evaluating the selection process to ensure we approach it with both historical context and the future in mind. I believe these changes benefit the Hall of Fame Members, fans across the world and the institution."

Visit www.worldgolfhalloffame.org for more information.



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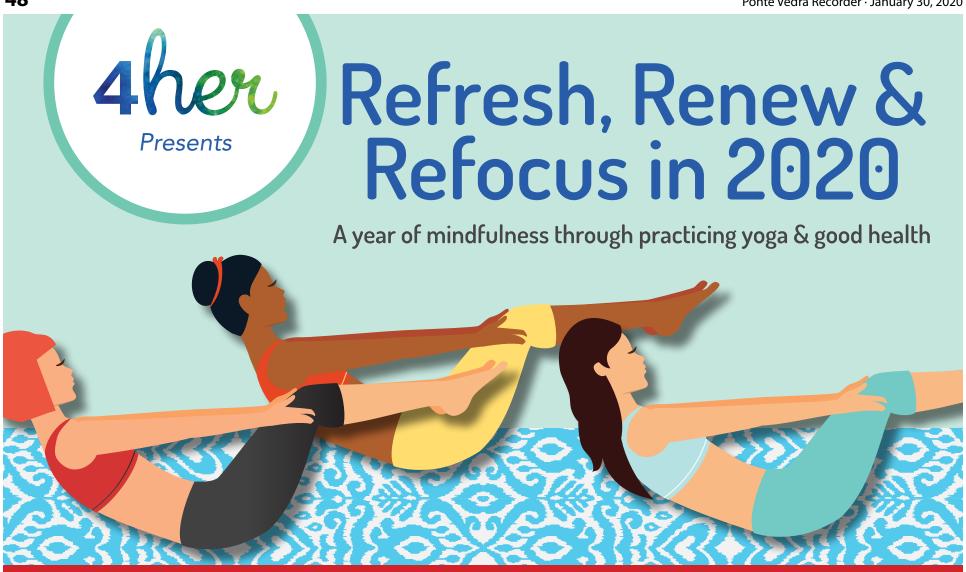
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