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PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

February 6, 2020
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75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com



Valentine's Day
Gift Guide

Pages 16-18



Gators
and
snakes,
oh my!



Spahhhhh
Time

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In the Arts

Pages 30-36

St. Johns County Parks
Naturalist Kelly Ussia
shows off a baby
alligator and a
corn snake named
"Maize" at the
Ponte Vedra Beach
Branch Library Jan. 31.
Read more on page 10

Photos by Maggie Fitzroy



CAR OF THE WEEK

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Send us your news

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

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

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email answer to pvrecorder@opcfla.com by Monday at 5 p.m.

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

Five readers correctly identified last week's photo as the sign for Christ Episcopal Church. The winner of the random draw was **Julie Briggs**. Congratulations, Julie — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Scout was picked up and brought to the Pet Center as a stray. He is a black, 4-year-old male domestic short hair. This handsome boy is very lovable, loves to be scratched behind his ears and cuddled. He also has bright golden eyes and a little bobtail. Come see Scout at the Pet Center today. #53511



DOG OF THE WEEK



AXL was brought in to the Pet Center as a stray. He is a 2½-year-old male, neutered terrier/lab mix. AXL is very athletic, loves to run, play and give kisses. He's light heartworm positive, so the adoption fee is waived and the Friends of the St. Johns County Pet Center will sponsor up to \$250 towards the heartworm treatment. Come see AXL at the Pet Center today. #53205

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The Pet Center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road in St. Augustine, off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. **For more information, please call the St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

T	T	U	T	O	R	M	B	A	S	L	E	D
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7	6	5	9	3	8	1	4	2				
1	3	2	6	4	7	9	8	5				

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



PHOTOARK
JOEL SARTORE

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A federally endangered Florida panther, Puma concolor coryi, ZooTampa at Lowry Park.

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Disturbance call results in soft lockdown in area schools

Ponte Vedra High School, Landrum Middle, PVPV/Rawlins Elementary and Ocean Palms Elementary affected

By Amber Lake

A brief and soft lockdown occurred the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 4 at some Ponte Vedra Beach schools, according to St. Johns County Sheriff's spokesman Chuck Mulligan.

The schools affected were Ponte Vedra High School, Landrum Middle School, PVPV/Rawlins Elementary School and Ocean Palms Elementary School. The decision was due to law enforcement activity in the area.

Mulligan told the Ponte Vedra Recorder the decision for

a lock down was due to a call about trespassing, with the caller alerting police to a possible shooting or gun possession. The individual involved was stopped by the police and was fully cooperative. Mulligan said the police did not find evidence of a firearm, later concluding the individual had actually thrown a wristwatch at the residence. Mulligan also stated the individuals involved knew each other and the call was related to a prior disturbance the day before.

Given the proximity of the disturbance to the schools, the decision to lock down was given as, "an abundance of caution," according to Mulligan, who cited the schools were not a component to the call. "Someone made a call concerning a gun and that heightens the awareness of everyone involved," Mulligan said. The disturbance call was received at a subdivision near Nocatee Parkway.

Land lease announced for Vicar's Landing expansion and Oak Bridge golf course revitalization

By Amber Lake

Vicar's Landing, in conjunction with Alta Mar, officially announced its plans for the expansion of the retirement community and the modernization of the Oak Bridge golf course.

The announcement took place on Feb. 4 at the 3 Palms Grille, overlooking the construction of the new course. In addition to revamping the Oak Bridge golf course, the land lease will allow for 238 senior living units.

The expansion has come as no small feat, occurring to Dave Miller, owner of Oak Bridge. Plans had been in place as early as four years prior. Due to adjustments with the area HOA and residence requests, however, construction has been delayed.

"We went through two different deals," Miller said. "Anytime you try to bring about change into a community that's as established as this, you meet with resistance. But everyone



Photo provided by Vicar's Landing

rode in the same direction at the end of the day, including the PGA TOUR. We are all going to be better off for it."

Currently, Vicar's Landing is facing a 7½-year wait list for admittance.

Bruce Jones, CEO of Vicar's Landing, said he is looking forward to the expansion of the 30-year-old retirement community, whose presence is "part of the fabric of Ponte Vedra Beach."

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.

Mark Miner named chief deputy of county clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller's office

Mark Miner was recently named chief deputy clerk of the St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller's office.

As chief deputy, Miner is responsible to the clerk for overall operations of the office, including all work, projects, personnel organization, technology and public information efforts.

"Mark will be a tremendous asset to the clerk's office as he brings a wealth of management, financial and government experience to this position," said County Clerk Brandon Patty. "His leadership skills, both in and out of uniform, are unrivaled and will help our office reach its full potential on behalf of St. Johns County citizens."

A former St. Johns County commissioner representing District 3 from 2008 to 2012, Miner helped lead the reduction of the county budget by more than 20%. Previously, he ran a financial services practice for Edward Jones and served as manager of military and diversity recruiting for CSX.

A two-time veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Miner has been a member of the Florida Army National Guard since 2002. He recently concluded a tour of active duty with the National Guard as a helicopter instructor pilot.

St. Johns County committee launches 2020 census campaign

St. Johns County's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee has launched an educational campaign designed to inform residents on the community-wide benefits of St. Johns County receiving the most accurate and complete census count possible in 2020.

The four-part campaign consists of an educational program, special events, speaking opportunities and partnership engagement. The multi-media educational

campaign includes customized branding and messaging, a new website, social media presence, educational videos and printed materials. Residents can now also communicate with the committee via a dedicated email address and sign up for census alerts directly from the Census Bureau.

In addition, St. Johns County's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee will have a presence at special events and local

farmers markets. Committee members will speak to local organizations and community groups. Partnership engagement will occur throughout the county to demonstrate united support for an accurate census count. The Complete Count Committee is comprised of numerous notable St. Johns County organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, the School District, the Veterans Council, the Florida Department of Health, the City of St.

Augustine and the City of St. Augustine Beach.

Information collected by the Census Bureau will be used to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds and grants to states, counties and communities. It will also help determine how many representatives each state gets in Congress and will be used to redraw district boundaries.

For more information, visit www.sjccfl.us/census or call (904) 209-0573.



Jenna Sutphin (from left) and Sawgrass Country Club Sous Chef David Cressler Jr serve Ponte Vedra residents Becky Dykstra and Julie Colbert during SOUPer Bowl V at Nease High School on Jan. 30.



A hungry taster accepts a sample of tortellini soup from the young chefs from Freedom Crossing Academy's 4H Culinary Club, Tristan, Avadia and Dakota, at the fifth annual SOUPer Bowl at Nease High School on Jan. 30.



Diane (from left), Titus and Rich Dettra accept the 2020 People's Choice Award for The Ice Plant's puree of mushroom soup with truffle creamy Parmesan gremolata.

RIGHT: In addition to tasting soups from 25 area restaurants, patrons could choose a commemorative bowl created by a St. Johns County student.

BELOW: Karina and Sara of Trasca & Co. serve Zuppo Trascana with a smile.

Photos by Christine Rodenbaugh



Hot soup benefits local kids in need at 5th annual SOUPer Bowl

By Christine Rodenbaugh

Everyone was a winner at the Jan. 30 SOUPer Bowl fundraiser to benefit Hugs Across the County, but the People's Choice Award went to The Ice Plant for its puree of mushroom soup with truffle creamy Parmesan gremolata.

Rich, Diane and Titus Dettra accepted the trophy for the recipe created by Chef Laird Boles. The soup is made with crimini and porcini mushrooms, chicken broth, garlic, onion, butter and cream. The gremolata is toasted bread, olive and truffle oils, Pame-san, lemon zest, parsley and chives.

"It's an Ice Plant favorite created by Chef Laird," Rich Dettra said.

In its fifth year, the SOUPer Bowl is largely facilitated by International Baccalaureate and Hospitality Academy students at Nease High School to raise funds to help provide weekend meals for local food-insecure students. For a \$25 ticket, tasters sample soups prepared by 25 area restaurants and culinary programs. The winning soup in 2019 was chicken tortilla presented by St. Johns Technical High School Culinary Arts students.

This year, a team of seventh-graders in the Freedom Crossing Academy 4H Culinary Club were the youngest competitors with chicken tortellini soup.

Young chef Tristan said they developed the recipe because, "This is what we had in our garden." Undaunted, the students look forward to the next culinary competition.

There were a few gluten-free, vegetarian or vegan options, including The Floridian's chilled cauliflower coconut bisque with ginger, lemongrass and red pepper reduction. Genie and Jeff McNally chose to serve a cold soup because, "in Florida, you never know what the weather is doing."

"We think of it as a palate cleanser that still has intensity of flavor," Chef Genie McNally said.

Lulu's Waterfront Grill served beer cheese

soup with pretzel crouton. "It's something we do at the restaurant and it goes over real well," Sous Chef Brett Allen said.

David Cressler Jr, sous chef at Sawgrass Country Club, served spring minestrone verde with pistachio pesto crostini. He said the vegan, gluten-free soup was plant based with kale and leeks as the base.

"We prefer using local and fresh ingredients," Cressler said. "It's a vegan selection that's good and healthy made with in-season ingredients. We also strive to support the community and farmers."

Tasty soups were on the menu at the annual student-run event, but servers and tasters alike expressed a desire to give back. Karen Gaby recently moved to the area from South Florida. This was her first SOUPer Bowl. She and her husband thought it would be a good opportunity to learn about local restaurants.

"It's exciting," Gaby said. "I'm thinking of becoming a volunteer. It's a great cause."

She was sampling chicken and Tasso ham chowder prepared by Thomas Allen, sous chef at Vernon's First Coast Kitchen and Bar. The day before the competition, he switched from serving chicken and dumplings to the chowder.

"I got in some Tasso ham and it was my inspiration," Chef Allen said. "It's Cajun ham smoked with a little datil hot sauce."

To cool off from tasting hot soups, Christy's Dream Ice Cream served up samples of butterscotch, fabulous Oreo, ridiculously good coconut and other frozen flavors to eager tasters. And everyone could choose a commemorative bowl created by St. Johns County students.

At the end of the evening, Nease students presented a check to Hugs Across the County in the amount of \$39,342, just shy of their \$40,000 goal. To help bridge the gap and put the total over the top, visit stjohns-hugs.org and make a donation by Friday, Feb. 7.

A resident of Nocatee, Dr. Eric Sandler is medical director of the Neuro-oncology Program and director of the Vascular Malformation Program at Nemours Children's Specialty Care and Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville. He is also associate professor of Pediatrics at Mayo School of Medicine.

Dr. Eric Sandler

As told to Maggie FitzRoy

What is a typical day like for you?

A typical day for me is usually very busy. It involves taking care of patients in the hospital and the clinic and participating in a variety of research protocols working to improve outcomes for children with cancer.

What types of cases do you have?

The majority of children I take care of are children with brain tumors. And the most exciting part of that is how much the outcomes have improved over the course of my career. When I started about 40 to 50% of children with cancer in general were cured. And now it's over 80%. The other thing is we're able to make those patients who are cured healthier as adults, without many of the long-term side effects that we used to see.

How about children with brain tumors?

For children with brain tumors it's gone from 30% cured to 70 to 80% now.

How so?

Because of the systematic research efforts around the whole country. Due to clinical research protocols designed to improve outcomes. We work in a coordinated team. I meet multiple times a week with the radiotherapy physicians, the neurosurgeons, our psycho-social support team and our nursing staff to provide comprehensive care.

Has medication improved?

Yes, there are always new drugs being developed. The newest treatments being developed are based on the knowledge we now have as to what makes a tumor grow. So, we can target treatment to the patient's tumor.

How common are brain tumors in children?

Brain tumors make up 20% of all cancers we see in children. In our hospital, that translates into 25 to 30 new patients a year. In the whole country, there are about 3,000 children with brain tumors.

Where do your patients come from?

From Jacksonville and the eight-county region of Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia.

What innovative treatments do you have?

We have the largest pediatric proton therapy center in the world in Jackson-



Photo by Maggie FitzRoy

ville. It's a UF program we partner with. Through it we see 80 to 100 additional children with brain tumors. My favorite program is that through Nemours and Wolfson I have an educational mission every year to Mongolia. We go and teach and work with their physicians to improve the outcomes of children with cancer in Mongolia.

Where did you grow up?

New York, in a suburb of New York City.

When did you decide to become a doctor?

That's been my goal since I was in my early teens.

When did you decide your specialty?

Not until I was in the third year of medical school. I originally thought I would go into geriatrics. But I loved taking care of kids. And in hematology and oncology, there is something new to learn every day. And because patients

are treated over a long period of time, you develop relationships with the children and their families. We take care of children with blood disorders as well as cancer disorders.

Where did you go to medical school?

University of Vermont. I did my fellowship in Gainesville and met many doctors working in Jacksonville. After my fellowship, I went to Dallas, to the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School of Dallas Children's Hospital. Wolfson invited me to look at a position here, so that is what got me back to Florida. We've been here since 1998.

Tell us about your family.

My wife, Marcy, is a social worker by training. For the last 10 years, she has worked as a substitute teacher in St. Johns County, and she is involved in a number of community organizations. I have four children, ages 33 to 23. Three are married and I just found out today that I'm finally going to be a

grandpop, so that's exciting.

You personally have an insight as to what parents of children with cancer are going through. Tell us about that.

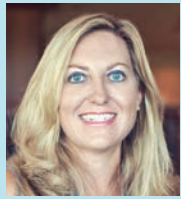
I have a unique empathy, because I was also a parent of a child with leukemia. My daughter, Alyssa, was diagnosed when she was 3 years old. She went through three years of treatment and then at 9 years of age, she had a recurrence of leukemia and was treated for another three years. So, she is also a long-term survivor. She is now 31 and a special ed teacher at Landrum Middle School.

Do you enjoy your work?

I love what I do. Just helping children and families get through this and get healthy again. Wolfson and the work we are doing here is an incredible secret in Jacksonville. When parents here have children who are sick, they know they have the right place to get the best care for their children.

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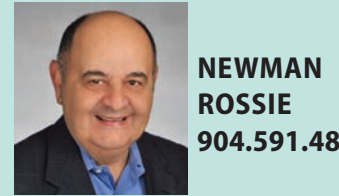
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<p>Torah & Tea Join fellow Jewish women for camaraderie and refreshments as they meet for "Torah & Tea," Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. This weekly study group finds relevant messages from issues discussed in the Weekly Torah portion. Reservations can 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.</p> <p>'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 Queen," 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>First Friday Cosmic Concert at the MOSH First Friday of the month are nothing but galactic at the MOSH with First Friday Cosmic Concerts. The MOSH's Bryan-Gooding Planetarium will present "total sensory entertainment" as lasers, HD images and digital sound work together to create a cosmic experience for all. Four concerts will be presented each hour from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Feb. 7, featuring out-of-this-world music from popular bands. Admission is \$5 per show for museum members and \$10 per show for non-members. Arrive 15 minutes early and be aware that laser shows and light effects may cause seizures in certain individuals. For questions and more information, call the MOSH at (904) 396-6674. The MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville.</p> <p>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 Feb. 7 at 8:45 a.m. Fidelity Bank is located at 110 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Vinyasa + Vino: Interactive Pairings Who said that yoga practice and a glass of wine don't go together? No one at Big Fish Yoga. Join yoga instructor Kimberly Mashek for this Vinyasa + Vino interactive event. Yogis will move through a unique pairing of gentle, deep-stretch yoga poses while sampling wines. Class is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and costs \$45. To register or for questions and more information, call Big Fish Yoga at (904) 372-0601 or visit www.bigfishpoweryoga.com/jacksonville-schedule. Big Fish Yoga is located at 3852 Third St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Lemon Bar opening day After the winter season, Lemon Bar is back in action and opening its doors at 11 a.m., Feb. 7. Guests can enjoy drink specials and soak back in the sun in Lemon Bar's outdoor patio. For questions or more information, call Lemon Bar at (904) 372-0487. Lemon Bar is located at 2 Lemon St. in Neptune Beach.</p>	<p>Porch Talks at Alpine Groves Park St. Johns County Parks and Recreation has partnered with the Stetson Kennedy Foundation for "Porch Talks," a series where local experts discuss local issues focused on art, history, environmental issues, and interesting personalities. Learn about the Northwest area of St. Johns County, including notable landmarks and the historical richness of the area. The Feb. 8 Porch Talk is titled, "The Ladies of Tea: 1700s-1900s," and will run from 5 to 6 p.m. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, email AyoLane Halusky at ahalusky@sjcfl.us or call (904) 209-0348. Alpines Grove Park is located in St. Johns County at 2060 SR 13 in Switzerland.</p> <p>Fight 4 Australia From noon to 5 p.m., Feb. 8, The Mini Bar in Jacksonville Beach and Southern Swells is hosting a marketplace and fundrasier to support Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors in efforts to help with the wildfire crisis in Australia. Enjoy local vendors, live music, Valentines raffles, a puppy kissing booth and more. Come out for a day of donuts, local brews and helping a good cause. For more information, email Beacheslocalmarketplace@gmail.com</p> <p>SAFE Pet Recue adoption event Safe Pet Rescue will be hosting an adopting event at the Pet Supermarket in Ponte Vedra from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 8. The mobile adoption truck will be parked near the entrance to Pet Supermarket filled with SAFE Pet Rescue dogs that are seeking new "forever" homes. For questions or more information, call SAFE Pet Rescue at (904) 460-0556. Pet Supermarket is located at 880 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>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 Saint Augustine.</p>	<p>Birth Prep Workshop: Preparing for a Positive Postpartum During postpartum, a woman will go through physical, emotional, and hormonal changes, focusing on the baby while also taking care of herself. This class, hosted at the Greenhouse Playhouse from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., is meant to walk expecting mothers and families through the postpartum period and discuss a postpartum plan. These monthly workshops are to empower and educate families so they feel confident throughout pregnancy, birth and postpartum. Each workshop covers a different topic as to what to expect. Tickets are \$5 per couple or \$10 at the door. Email doulamelina904@gmail.com for questions, more information or to reserve a spot. Spots are limited to 10 couples only. The Greenhouse Playhouse is located at 1238 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>First Coast Newcomers Club card playing date The First Coast Newcomers Club will host its next card playing date at a V Pizza restaurant, Sunday, Feb. 9. Arrive at 1:30 p.m. to dine. After the meal, card playing begins at 2:30 p.m. The event is open to the public. For the exact V Pizza location, to join or for more information, contact the club organizer at (904) 814-9612.</p> <p>Great Gatsby Party at The Wine Bar Flapper dresses, pearls, top hats and classic music from the 1920's. The Wine Bar is hosting a party, 6 to 8 p.m., Great-Gatsby-style, filled with hors d'oeuvres, traditional 20's dance lessons by Seaside Ballroom and a complimentary glass of champagne. For cost, questions and more information, call The Wine Bar at (904) 372-0211. The Wine Bar is located at 320 First St. N., #102 in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Sundays at Surfer the Bar Join Big Fish PowerYoga on Sundays for a free Music & Flow class at Surfer the Bar. The class is held upstairs at the bar and runs from 10 to 11 a.m. every week. Bring friends and family and enjoy brunch and mimosas downstairs following class. Register at www.bigfishpoweryoga.com under the "classes" section. Surfer the Bar is located at 200 First St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>

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Monday, Feb. 10	Tuesday, Feb. 11	Wednesday, Feb. 12	Thursday, Feb. 13
<p>Cold War Kids with special guest Overcoats at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall California indie-rock group Cold War Kids will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall at 7 p.m., Feb. 10. Cold War Kids have become a major part of the modern scene, with a dozen releases on major and indie labels alike, non-stop tours and the festival circuit's biggest stages. Ticket cost is \$32 in advance and \$45 at the door. Doors open at 6 p.m. For tickets or more information, visit www.pvconcerthall.com. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>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 Beach.</p> <p>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 wrk 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.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Beach Conservative Women voting registration The Ponte Vedra Beach Conservative Women will be conducting voter registration at the Ponte Vedra Beach Post Office Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., beginning until the end of June, weather permitting. (weather permitting). For questions and more information, call Elvira Hasty at (904) 705-5650 or email elviraafhasty@gmail.com. The Ponte Vedra Beach Post Office is located at 130 Corridor Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p>Lillies of the Valley support group Lillies of the Valley is a monthly support group offered free of charge to widows in the community. A luncheon and meeting is held the second Tuesday of the month, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Ponte Vedra Valley. For more information, call the Ponte Vedra Valley offices at (904) 285-1130. Ponte Vedra Valley is located at 4750 Palm Valley Road, in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Educational Talk: Estuaries Estuaries are areas where freshwater and saltwater meet and are a unique environment where dozens of animals call home. Join Park Naturalist Kelly Ussia from 2 to 3 p.m., Feb. 11, for a talk about this ecologically and economically important ecosystem at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library. This event is free and open to all ages. For more information, call Kelly Ussia at (904) 209-0335. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Men's Fellowship Lunch Men of all ages are invited to join for lunch and fellowship, the second Tuesdays of the month, at LuLu's Waterfront Grill in Ponte Vedra. Lunch is from noon to 1 p.m. and no reservations are needed. For questions or more information, call Bill Tickle at (904) 285-2795 or email williamrtickle@hotmail.com. Lulu's Waterfront Grill is located at 301 N. Roscoe Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Karaoke Tuesdays at theLOFT Liven up a Tuesday and visit theLOFT for its weekly karaoke party. Dj. Keith Wilson will provide the tunes, with a variety of up-to-date songs and lyrics projected on a massive screen. The first five participants get a free shot of Fireball and bragging rights. This event is free and open to those over 21 years of age. For more information, call theLOFT at (904) 551-1350. theLOFT is located 925 King St., in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Men's Over 40 Basketball This active recreational group meets at the Palms Presbyterian Church gym (Fellowship Hall), Tuesdays at 6 p.m., for exercise and fellowship. The group is open to all who want to play some ball. For more information, call Paul Short at (904) 626-5305. Palms Presbyterian Church is located at 3410 Third St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p>Flagler Health+ clinical job fair Flagler Health will host a clinical job fair from 4 to 7 p.m., Feb. 12, inside the Osceola Conference Room at the Flagler Hospital main campus. The hospital is currently hiring RN's, LPN's, and PCT's to be a part of of the Flagler staff and family. Flagler offers competitive pay and benefits for those who are selected for these positions. Hiring managers will also be on-site and hospital tours will be provided. For questions or more information, call (904) 819-5155 or email patientfeedback@flaglerhospital.org The Flagler Hospital is located at 400 Health Park Blvd. in Saint Augustine.</p> <p>Newcomers of the Beaches annual birthday celebration The Newcomers of the Beaches invites members and nonmembers to join in the annual Mardi Gras birthday celebration from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 12, at Marsh Landing Country Club. This social club consists of a diverse group of women who have recently moved to the beaches and/or have undergone a major life event. Grab boas and beads and join for an afternoon of fun, new friendships and games. For more information, visit www.newcomer-softhebeaches.com or email Andrea Smith at abs520@hotmail.com. Marsh Landing Country Club is located at 25655 Marsh Landing Pkwy. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Democratic Club meeting The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will be holding its monthly meeting at the Ponte Vedra Library from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 12. The meeting will feature representatives from major Democratic Presidential candidates speaking to the candidates' policies. For questions or more information, call Ed Warren at (904) 294-7621. The Ponte Vedra Library is located at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p>Amelia Island Book Festival The Amelia Island Book Festival is a three-day celebration of the written word throughout various venues in Amelia Island. The festival, to be hosted Feb. 13 through Feb. 15, engages adults and youth in the hobby of reading and writing through a series of events featuring New York Times best-selling authors, independent publishers and authors, award programs and workshops. The festival starts at noon with the Kickoff Luncheon at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation, featuring best-selling author and keynote speaker Lisa Scottoline. For the full line-up of events, locations and more information about the visiting authors, visit www.AmeliaIsland-BookFestival.org.</p> <p>Cocktails & Creatives at Bog Brewing Co. American Institute of Graphic Arts Jacksonville is headed to Bog Brewing in St. Augustine from 6 to 9 p.m., Feb. 13, for Cocktails & Creatives. The event connects creative professionals like print/web designers, photographers, painters, writers, makers, and more, in a low-intensity social setting. Whether new to the city, a regular at AIGA or a seasoned professional getting back in the groove, the event encourages the community at large to network, relax and find out what the latest updates are in the design world. For questions or more information, email hello@aigajacksonville.org or visit the official website, www.jacksonville.aiga.org. Bog Brewing is known for its variety of classic beer styles, Belgian-inspired ales and Florida-inspired seasonals. Bog Brewing Co. is located at 218 W. King St., #220 in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to Daniela@opcfla.com or call (904) 686-3939.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Compiled by Daniela Toporek</p>

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Library visitors learn how to live with snakes, alligators

By Maggie FitzRoy

When St. Johns County Parks Naturalist Kelly Ussia came to the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Jan. 31 to do a PowerPoint presentation on snakes and alligators, she brought some live specimens with her.

Including a 4-foot-long corn snake, named "Maize."

Maize seemed perfectly content wrapped around Ussia's arm as the naturalist walked around the room with her, so the audience could get a closer look.

"I fed her a few days ago," Ussia joked. "No big deal."

Ussia gives hour-long presentations every month in the Friends of the Library Room about nature topics of interest to St. Johns County residents of all ages.

Her talk on snakes and alligators was popular and well received with adults and children in attendance.

"It was really good," said Taner Sarac,



St. Johns County Parks Naturalist Kelly Ussia shows off a Corn Snake named "Maize" at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Jan. 31.



Taner Sarac, a tourist from Turkey, takes a picture of the baby alligator Parks Naturalist Kelly Ussia is showing off.

Photos by Maggie Fitzroy

a tourist from Turkey, after he snapped a closeup photo of the baby alligator Ussia brought.

Ussia opened her talk with facts about reptiles, including that they are cold-blooded, lay leathery eggs, have scales, are vertebrates and breathe air. That includes alligators, she said. "Alligators are holding their breaths when they go underwater." Although, she said, they can hold it longer than humans.

She then presented facts about snakes and listed the species that are found in Northeast Florida.

All snakes are carnivores, lack eyelids and external ears and don't chew their food. They unhinge their lower jaws to take in and swallow food. All snakes can swim, although not all like to. And they are found in every continent except Antarctica.

Florida has 45 native species of snakes. Six are venomous (she emphasized not

SNAKES continues on Page 17

Sympli.

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OBITUARIES

James Sylvester Brunson

James Sylvester Brunson, 93, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Feb. 1, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100

Merrill J. Palmer

Merrill J. Palmer, 80, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died Feb. 2, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Fu-

neral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100

Marcel "Marty" H. Roy

Marcel "Marty" H. Roy, 89, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Jan. 28, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100

OBITUARIES continues on Page 11

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NOCATEE HAPPENINGS

WINEMAKER VISITS COASTAL WINE MARKET

Bryan Page, owner and winemaker of Revolver Wine Co., visited Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room Tuesday, Jan. 28. Page (right, with Coastal Wine Market owner Steve Lourie), made the Nocatee wine market his first stop on his Florida tour. "An incredible fifth time visiting, and we can't get enough of you and your amazing wines," Coastal Wine posted on its Facebook page.

Photo by Susan Griffin



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Obituaries

Continued from 10

Janet Simpson

Janet Simpson, 84, formerly of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Jan. 7, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Lou Ann Swann

Lou Ann Swann, 70, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died Jan. 26, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

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ELIZABETH HUDGINS

KIDS SAY

In this new feature of the Ponte Vedra Recorder, "Kids Say," area children offer their answers for some pressing questions. This week, pre-K students at the Bolles School, Ponte Vedra Beach campus, were asked ...

WHAT ANIMAL DO YOU THINK IS THE CUTEST?



"A pug. Because it's so small and it's the cutest to me."

Reyna



"A bird. Because they fly."

Eduardo



"A cat. Because it goes 'meow.'"

Daniela



"I think bunnies. Cause they have adorable eyes."

Gilchrist



"A tiger. Because they fight a lot, maybe."

Charlie

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The Bolles School hosts 'Super Bolles' party



Rob Olson (from left), Chris Stubbs and Laura Olson

The Bolles School hosted its 39th annual Super Bolles "Party of Champions" Jan. 30.

The event celebrated and thanked the school's Agnes Cain Painter and Glynlea and Heritage Society donors.

Held in Bolles Hall, the event included tailgate fare and live music with halftime remarks from President and Head of School Tyler Hodges.

Photos provided by The Bolles School



Katy and Pat Murphy



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Cathy Stupski (from left), David Moffett, Lori Moffett, Dr. Katherine Gold and Steven Gold

Landrum Cheer hosts Pom-poms 4 PAWS Bake Sale to benefit S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue

By Grace Theiler
Student Contributor

Landrum Middle School Cheer and S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue held its second annual Pom-poms 4 Paws Bake Sale at Pet Supermarket in Ponte Vedra Beach on Jan. 25.

The event was a huge success, raising more than \$600 in sales and donations, as well as assisting in three pet adoptions, several potential fosters and raising community awareness of S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue's mission. Proceeds donated to S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue will predominantly be used for medical and operational purposes.

Every year, Landrum Middle School Cheerleading Coach Taylor Beamer selects a specific service volunteer effort to work with to help contribute to society. This year, S.A.F.E. (Saving Animals From Euthanasia) Pet Rescue and the LMS Cheer team came together to raise money and awareness. The cheerleaders helped share valuable information about the dogs to educate families who were interested in adopting or fostering a pet. The team took many pictures with the rescues, the community and previously adopted pets to help spread the word. Students and volunteers walked the dogs, cleaned water bowls and gave plenty of treats and love to the animals.

S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue was founded by Robin Kanter in September 2008. It is based in St. Augustine.

Kanter created the foundation to help adoptable dogs and cats find "forever" homes through foster homes, shelters and volunteers. She believed too many animals were having their lives taken from them by euthanasia, and she



Landrum cheerleaders cuddle with their furry friends while volunteering with S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue. At press time, all pets pictured were available for adoption.

wanted to help change this. Dedicated longtime volunteer and manager Sharon Keach, regularly transports the animals to local adoption events and supervises volunteers. For more information about S.A.F.E Pet Rescue or to donate to their cause, visit Safe-Pet-Rescue-FL.com.



Photos provided by Landrum Cheer
Lila and Anna Kathryn give little Renegade some love.

PET RESCUE ADOPTION EVENT

Beautiful S.A.F.E rescue dogs in need of good homes will be available for adoption at Pet Supermarket, 880 A1A N. Ponte Vedra Beach from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. Stop by and give a deserving pup a "forever" home. The mobile adoption truck will be parked near the entrance to Pet Supermarket.

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National nonprofit hosts annual volunteer event

By Daniela Toporek

National women-empowering nonprofit Generation W hosted its annual Generation Works event Feb. 1 at St. Augustine Youth Services, where here volunteers from the community helped spruce up campus.

St. Augustine Youth Services was one of 17 locations selected for the Generation Works event. Over 450 volunteers arrived bright and early at their specified locations to assist and “join in the process of improving family, work, community and beyond,” according to the nonprofit’s official website, GenWNow.com.

“We have four key elements of W,” said Christina Upchurch, manager of development and engagement at Generation W. “We have Generation W, which is the signature event; Generation WOW, our girls program for eighth grade through high-school seniors; our book, “WOWsdom, and Generation Works, which is what’s here at St. Augustine Youth Services today, presented by Deutsche Bank.”

St. Augustine Youth Services is a local organization that focuses on troubled youth with mental health illnesses in St. Johns County, as well as Putnam, Volusia and Flagler counties.

“Here, we have 40 beds for children in the foster care system that have diagnosed mental illness,” said SAYS Director of Development Chelsea Reppin. “We also work with the youth in and around this county that need support.”

Volunteers and University of Central Florida students Carter Thompson and Carter Ellis said that they found out about Gen. W through their sports management program.

“We have to do 21 hours of volunteer service and our professor knew about this organization,” Ellis said. “Today our group planted flowers and gardens in front of some of the homes, painted some rooms, painted bike shelters and excavated a sandbox.”

Ellis also said that some of the boys from the SAYS campus eagerly joined to help and that they were “incredibly appreciative” for the Gen. W crew’s visit.

“Meeting them was very rewarding and motivated us that much more,” Ellis added. “At one point, a 14-year-old joined us. We worked with him for probably about an hour. He was very kind and hardworking, pushing Craig and myself even more.”



Kathy Bird (above) and husband Todd (below), were in charge of painting the SAYS bike shelters on campus.



Reppin said that she and Upchurch knew each other, but it was the first time Reppin and SAYS had an opportunity to partake in the Gen. W event.

“There are 17 different sites today across Northeast Florida and we’re just really fortunate to be chosen as one of them,” she said. “The boys are so excited and love it when people come to campus.”

After a day of hard work, Ellis felt just as fortunate to part of the team.

“Helping youth in the community and seeing how hard everyone at our site was working to get our job done, it felt really great,” he said. “And to know there are more sites across Northeast Florida, where people are working just as hard, was very inspirational.”

For more information on Generation W, visit www.GenWNow.com.



Gen. W volunteers Carter Ellis and Craig Thompson pick weeds and start clearing the sandbox before other volunteers come to help.



LEFT: Christina Upchurch and Chelsea Reppin pose before grabbing some shovels to help clean the SAYS sandbox.

BELOW: Gardening supplies are ready to be used to help beautify the St. Augustine Youth Services campus.

Photos by Daniela Toporek



Photo provided by Mission House Jacksonville

Mission House continues to pave ‘Path to Hope’

By Daniela Toporek

In effort to help those struggling with homelessness at the Beaches, Mission House is continuing its initiative, “Pave the Path to Hope” fundraising campaign. The funds will go to assist those without homes gain housing and life necessities for survival.

“For a minimum of a \$250 donation,

people can purchase an engraved brick in honor or memory of a loved one.

The pathway is laid on the way to our client entrance,” said Mission House Executive Director Lori Anderson.

“The money goes toward our Mission House Endowment, which will ensure our clients’ lifesaving, basic services will be available well into the future.”

Services include hot meals, clothes, shelter and showers, according to Anderson, who also stated the endowment also ensures utilities, including electricity and hot water, will be paid for even in another economic downturn.

“Mission House is proudly supported by our community,” Anderson said.

For more information visit www.missionhousejax.org/ways-to-give.

Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway holds meeting, announces volunteer of the year 2019

During their annual meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 29, the Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway, Inc. announced its 2019 Volunteer of the Year. Outgoing president of the organization, Bill McClure, was recognized for a decade of service to the Friends of A1A and presented with the annual volunteer service award.

Presenting the award to McClure was newly elected president of the organization, Marge Rooyakkers, of Hammock Dunes Club in Flagler County. A longtime member of the organization and vice president for the past three years, Rooyakkers has been an advocate for the A1A Byway community, chairing the annual Kids Ocean Day Florida event for the Friends of A1A, and is a passionate supporter of the Audubon Society. Also elected, Adam Morley, co-owner of Genung's Fish Camp in Crescent Beach and co-chair of the organization's International Coastal Cleanup efforts each year, will serve as vice president, and St. Augustine Beach resident Robert Samuels, two-time Friends of A1A Volunteer of the Year award recipient, will serve as treasurer of the organization.

"We're pleased to honor Bill with the Volunteer of the Year award for his service not only in 2019, but over



Photo provided by Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway

Bill McClure (center) poses with his award among members of the Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway

many years," Rooyakkers said. "His enthusiasm for the Friends of A1A is felt by all who know him. Bill has dedicated countless hours to the organization, providing enthusiastic leadership during his term as president, earning praise from board members for his upbeat, can-do attitude and his willingness to champion transportation, safety and economic development projects for the Friends

of A1A and the community."

Rooyakkers takes the helm as the Friends of A1A prepare to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their designation as Florida Scenic Highways in 2021, followed by the 20th anniversary of the A1A Scenic & Historic Byway's National Scenic Byway designation in 2022.

For more information, visit www.scenic1a.org.

2 Guana volunteers recognized

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve recently announced that two of its volunteers, Ruben Allen and Jeff Finnan, are recipients of the Daily Point of Light Award for their outstanding community service.

"We are thrilled that two of our volunteers are being acknowledged for their commitment to helping with our research, education and stewardship programs," said Michael Shirley, director of the GTM Research Reserve. "GTM Research Reserve would not be able to achieve all its projects without the dedication of its volunteers."

The Daily Point of Light Award was established by the late President George H. W. Bush to recognize extraordinary volunteers who donate their time and talent to better their communities.

For the past five years, Allen has been volunteering in all aspects of research, education and community outreach efforts at GTM. He has been instrumental in educating more than 4,000 students a year, along with teaching "GTM for All," which promotes greater accessibility to the GTM Research Reserve for visitors



GTM Research Reserve volunteers Ruben Allen (left) and Jeff Finnan

with unique abilities such as vision and hearing challenges.

Allen has helped those students learn about the reserve by pulling a seine net through the Guana Lake and inspiring them to become involved in environmental issues. He has also assisted with education's virtual reality long-distance learning program, which brings the estuary to the teachers and students with the aid of headsets.

In addition, Allen patrols GTM's beach, once a week from April to October, as a member of the marine turtle patrol. He also serves as the lead on fisheries, oyster monitoring and nekton surveys. Nekton are living organisms able to swim and move independently of currents. In 2019, Ruben received GTM's 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award.

As a volunteer for two years, Finnan



Photo provided by the GTM NERR

has contributed to GTM's research programs — spending hours on a boat in the ever-changing Florida weather — collecting nekton data.

He also leads the monthly hikes for GTM's education program, teaching the public about the reserve's natural and cultural history.

Additionally, Finnan conducts community outreach at local festivals, where he educates the public about the work being done at the reserve. He also volunteers with the oyster monitoring project, water quality data sampling and marsh vegetation monitoring. He has volunteered more than 400 hours at the reserve in less than two years.

For more information about volunteering at the GTM Research Reserve, email Volunteer Coordinator Shannon Rininger or call (904) 823-4500.

Dentists offering free dental care day for children

Children in the St. Johns area will have an opportunity to receive free dental services from Alyssha Powers, DMD, Elizabeth Klanderman, DMD, and their dental team at Durbin Creek Dental Care as part of Kids Free Dentistry Day on Saturday, Feb. 8.

Nearly one in four children between the ages of 2 to 11 years have untreated cavities in primary teeth, according to the Center for Disease Control. Children are not visiting a dentist often enough to treat decay in its early stages.

"It's unfortunate that so many children have enough decay in their primary teeth that the only solution is multiple crowns or pulling teeth that can no longer be saved," said Powers. "We look at Kid's Free Dentistry Day as a way to provide important preventative care to children in our community, as well as educate them on the importance of having a good oral hygiene regimen."

During Kids Free Dentistry Day, cleaning, fluoride and sealants will be provided to children, under age 18, on Saturday, Feb. 8 between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. at 70 Durbin Pavilion Dr Ste 112, St. Johns. Patients will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call (904) 325-7276 or visit www.FreeDentistryDay.org.

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Valentine's Day GIFT GUIDE

PAGES 16-18

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Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

Be your own Valentine: Ways to tap into your 'Love-Power' and change your life

Romantic love is great and all, but "love-power" is far more potent—and it's something we all possess, regardless of our relationship status. Karen McGregor teaches you how to give yourself the best Valentine Day's present ever: a path to unlocking pure love-power.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and we all have our feelings about it. If we're dating or (happily) married, we may be excited about the flowers, chocolates and candlelit dinners.

If we are single, we may feel dissatisfied, sad or annoyed.

Either way, is our tendency to define love in terms of romance making us miss a much bigger picture?

Karen McGregor says "yes." She has no issue with Valentine's Day itself—she just doesn't want us to let it trivialize what love actually is.

"Whether you have a partner or not,

LOVE-POWER continues on Page 18

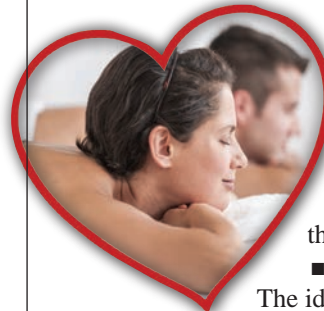
Looking for the perfect Valentine's Day gift?

The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa may just be the perfect place to celebrate the long weekend and take a much needed staycation.

In addition to unplugging by taking advantage of the resort's four pools, and the private Cabana Beach Club, the Sawgrass Spa is offering a variety of special treatments for the month of February.

And the culinary team at Vernon's First Coast Kitchen will be offering an indulgent prix-fixe menu for Valentine's Day dinner.

The Sawgrass Spa special treatments include:



■ **Love is in the Air:** A complimentary aromatherapy upgrade to any massage (choose from CBD — the ultimate in relaxation, or rose blend)

■ **Couple's Massage:** Couples will receive a complimentary glass of bubbles and chocolate-covered strawberries to enjoy poolside after their service.

■ **Wine Down Facial:**

The ideal antidote to tired and dehydrated skin, this facial includes a rinse with a green tea and coconut milk wash followed by a soft vitamin berry tonic; a raw honey, yogurt and oat face mask designed to soothe and clarify; a wine-infused serum proven to reduce pores and fine lines; a three-milk ageless moisturizer hydrates while wrinkle-performance peptides work to firm the skin; and an advanced peptide crow catcher eye serum finishes by smoothing fine lines around the eyes. The facial is finished with a post-facial glass of wine poolside.



GIFTS continues on Page 18

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER

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WHY IS VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATED ON FEBRUARY 14TH?

Sweethearts who want to keep their relationships running strong know that Valentine's Day is celebrated each year on Feb. 14. But even the most ardent Valentine's Day enthusiast might not know just why this day designed for lovers to express their affections for one another is celebrated in mid-February. According to the Library of Congress, it's hard to pinpoint exactly why Valentine's Day is celebrated on Feb. 14, though the date might have ties to the ancient Roman celebration of Lupercalia. Lupercalia was a spring festival celebrated each year on February 15. The holiday was moved to Feb. 14 after the spread of Christianity. The Christian faith had several early martyrs named Valentine, and each of them were celebrated with a saint day on Feb. 14. But the unique history of Valentine's Day and its association with Feb. 14 as well as its romantic sentiments does not end there. The Library of Congress also notes that, in the Middle Ages, people believed birds selected their mates on Feb. 14. As a result, it was not uncommon for lovers to recite prose to one another on this date.



Gifts

Continued from 17

A special prix-fixe evening Valentine's Day menu is available Friday, Feb. 14:

■ **First course:** Lobster and mascarpone arancini with herb aioli or broken burrata with Parma ham, charred sourdough and Bee Hill honey, made on-property.

■ **Second course:** Charred romaine with crisp prosciutto, blistered tomatoes, torn croutons and parmesan vinaigrette or Fisherman's Cioppino Stew with lobster, shrimp, tomatoes and fennel.

■ **Third course:** House-aged New York strip with pee-wee potatoes, mushroom ragu and black garlic butter; or diver sea scallops with sweet potato hash, bacon lardons, sautéed greens and pomegranate glaze; or double-bone pork chop with nduja gnocchi, whipped goat cheese and pork fast breadcrumbs; or black grouper with seafood rice, fennel, and a tomato, olive and caper relish.

■ **Fourth course:** Black forest gâteau with chocolate cake, cherry gelee, vanilla and cherry mousse, red velvet truffle and a salted cheese foam.

To make a reservation at Vernon's, visit [OpenTable.com](https://www.opentable.com) or call the restaurant at (904) 280-3405. To make a spa appointment, call (904) 674-4772.



Love-Power

Continued from XX

don't fall into the trap of seeing love as something outside yourself," said McGregor, author of the upcoming book, *The Tao of Influence*. "We're all born with love, in fact, it's our divine purpose—our reason for being here—and it's the origin of all our power. It's what allows us to exert positive influence on those around us."

When you reconnect with that primal power—she calls it "love-power"—you unlock the door to a deeper, richer, more meaningful life. You become a heart-driven person who regularly uses your influence to not only improve your life but the lives of those around you.

You may not be used to thinking of power and influence in terms of love. That's because Western civilization views the mind (not the heart) as the source of power. But since intellect is intertwined with ego, love-based power often gets distorted, morphing into fear-based power. This causes us to seek to control others, to be passive-aggressive, to act like a victim, to engage in risky behaviors to feel special or noticed, and more.

McGregor's book lays out a path—rooted in the ancient wisdom of the 4,000-year-old *Tao Te Ching*—for identifying and breaking the "power patterns" that undermine your influence, create dysfunctional relationships and otherwise squelch your potential.

"When you're in pure love-power, you're happy, curious, in an unending state of awe," she said. "You're quick to forgive. You're wide open to other people and new opportunities. Everything about how you experience the world—and how it experiences you—shifts."

Here are some "light" and relatively simple things you can do on Valentine's Day—and afterward—to start reconnect-

ing with your pure love-power, according to McGregor:

Take a Valentine's Day meditation break (It's the key to experiencing life in the holy moment of now.)

Why should we meditate? Because it helps us detach from our preferences—which trigger our need to be "right" or "in control" and leads to suffering—and practice being in the present. Just set aside 15-20 minutes to sit quietly and focus on your breath. If your mind wanders, that's okay: The point is not to judge the thoughts that stream endlessly into your consciousness but to allow them to ebb and flow without getting emotionally hooked.

"Successful meditation occurs when there is no war between your head and your heart," said McGregor. "This state is one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself. If you've always 'meant' to try meditating but haven't yet done so, Valentine's Day is the perfect day to start."

Gift yourself a lovely journal.

Journaling is a powerful practice that can help you get in better touch with your thoughts and feelings, recognize goals, enhance gratitude and pinpoint areas in your life that need work. Find a journal that speaks to you (pick a gorgeous one that inspires you to write). Then set aside some time alone (even just 10 minutes) to write each day.

■ **Journal to find gratitude.** Write about your blessings until you see how abundant your life really is. Pause as you write to ensure that you really feel the state of gratitude.

■ **Journal to stay in the moment.** When your mind is racing, journaling can help you return to the present. Make a small checkmark in your notebook or journal each time you're aware of not being in the holy moment of now. Note what took you out of presence.

Journal about stillness in your life.

When and where can you incorporate more stillness? When does your mind struggle to be still? Record how you feel after meditation or practicing gratitude daily for one week.

Sing and dance your way to gratitude.

As mentioned, many people keep a gratitude journal. The problem is, it can turn into a mindless checklist that simply creates the illusion of gratitude. If that happens, try singing and dancing instead. In his book *The Mastery of Love*, Don Miguel Ruiz says this is a natural expression of our love-power—which is why little children sing and dance. They haven't yet developed the filters and fear that they'll be judged. You can dance and sing in the privacy of your room or as you clean your house. If you want to take it to the next level, suggests McGregor, consider signing up for a hip-hop or salsa class or joining a local choir.

Get rid of something that isn't serving you.

Often without realizing it, we clutter and complicate our lives with things that create chaos and drama. It can be anything from too much "stuff" in our homes, to too many commitments, to the wrong job or relationship. A great expression of self-love is to pinpoint something to purge. Do a closet clean out or a social media detox. Turn down a project. Draw a much-needed boundary. Just take one step to simplify your life and free up your energy.

Grieve losses and release pain with this heart exercise.

This may not feel very Valentine-y, but when we're changing our life for the better, we must first release what was. Otherwise we'll get stuck and block the clarity we need to move forward. "Pain can be released through the portal of the heart," said McGregor. "When you focus

on your heart, a desire to release the pain of the past may arise. Even better, your heart knows how to do that without your mind interrupting."

If you're single, stop searching for "the one."

It's common to believe that there's one person out there who can finally see us for who we really are. But searching for our perfect match is a chase that's based on an illusion. "I love romance, but I've come to believe that it's usually founded in the need to be special," said McGregor. "People search for 'the one' their entire lives, never escaping the constant craving for specialness. Never confuse love with specialness. Love supports a life of joy and love-power; 'specialness' impedes it. In that same vein, it's time to revisit the definition of 'soul mate,'" said McGregor. "Soul mates are actually not romantic partners, but people destined to help you grow by presenting you with challenging personality traits and actions you don't like. This mind shift may defuse anger or defensiveness and help you change the dynamic with 'difficult' people who cross your path."

If you're in a romantic relationship, start working toward a cause you believe in, together.

There is no greater calling for a romantic relationship than to create a better world. In fact, many millennials are moving in this direction. Rather than being absorbed by one another, they are breaking the old paradigm of romantic co-dependency and choosing instead to be inter-dependent, working together for causes that uplift humanity. This new paradigm of relationship lets people shift from a state of isolation within their own dramas, fears, and wounds, which are experienced as they get to know their partner, to becoming a presence in the world.

World War II planes visit Jacksonville

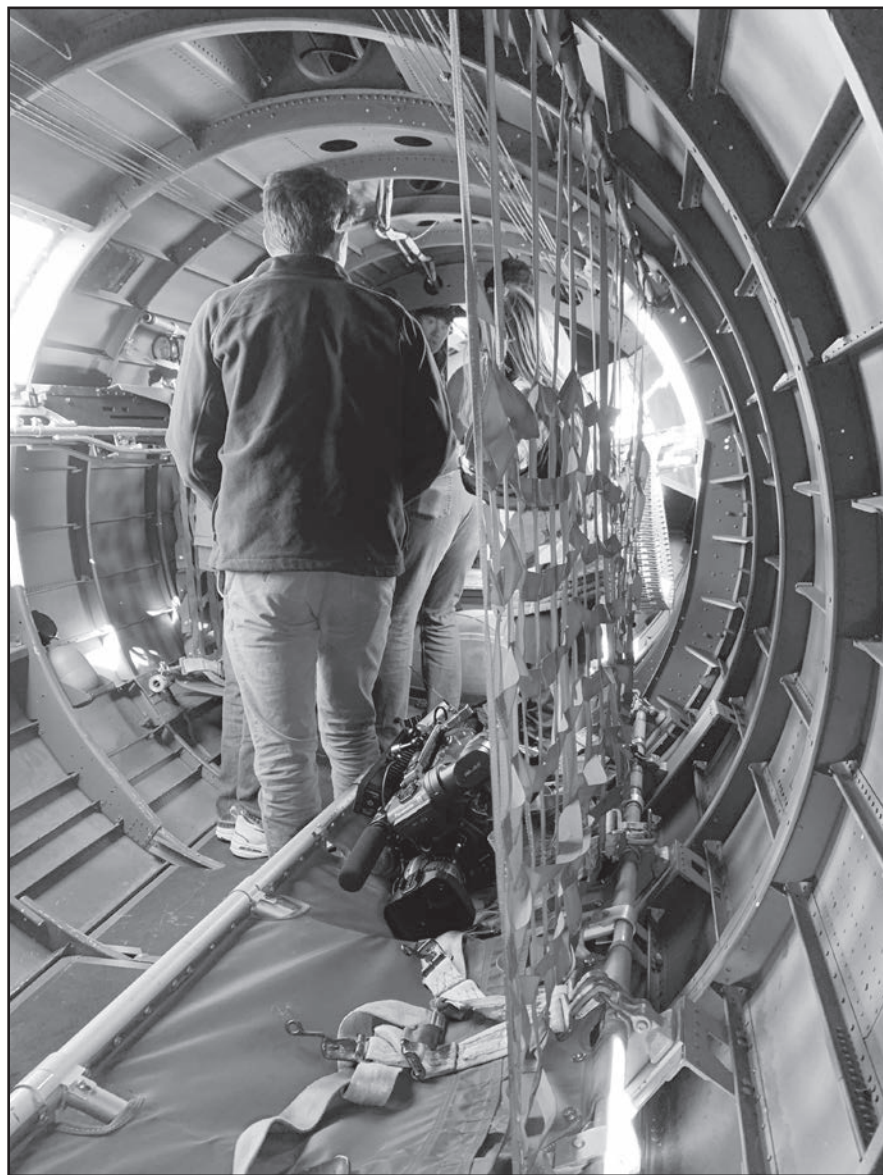


Photo by Mimi Pearce

By Mary McAllister

Special to the Recorder

Looking inside the body of a World War II B-17 plane gives you a small glimpse of what veterans of that war endured. And, the organization dedicated to preserving these planes and the veterans who served, the Liberty Foundation, brought history to the Craig Airport in Jacksonville Jan. 21.

One of the B-17s landed at Craig Airport and offered rides in the plane that was painted to look like one from WWII, called “Ye Olde Pub.” That plane suffered heavy damage in the war, with half the crew wounded or dead. It was escorted to safety by a German pilot—an event called “one of the most incredible encounters between enemies in World War II.”

The Liberty Foundation’s plane was built toward the end of the war and never saw any combat. But, painted to resemble “Ye Olde Pub,” it brings back memories of the men and women who served in that war. Some of veterans of the war were on hand to talk about their memories of that time.

One veteran, Cliff Miller, recalled that he entered the war in 1943, and was sent overseas in 1944, where he was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge. Returned to combat, he was subsequently wounded again, then continued to fight until he was discharged in 1946. “I don’t talk much about what happened,” he said. “I remember liberating a camp that held Jews, where people were stacked like cornrows. It was terrible to see.”

Donald Scheer, a veteran of the Navy, served on the flight deck of the USS Princeton, which was sunk by the Japanese. “We

had to abandon ship, and only the Bible I had on my shoulder saved me from a fierce blow by a Japanese soldier,” he said.

Howard Mathias entered the war late, but chose to learn paratrooping in Georgia, but when he arrived overseas, found that “they didn’t need me in the air, so I served on the ground in the 9th Infantry.”

He was part of a Christmas Eve lull in fighting in 1944, in which “someone from our side started singing ‘Silent Night,’” he said. “Suddenly, we heard it coming from their side, in German. By the next morning, Christmas morning, they were gone.”

These veterans and others, including a Gold Star Mother (a mother who has lost her son in combat), were brought to Craig Airport from Moosehaven by bus.

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association supports the Liberty Foundation’s efforts to preserve these planes by appearing at these events in period-correct uniforms and vehicles, mainly Jeeps, which are exactly like those used in WWII.

William “Butch” Hines explained that “our presence gives people another layer of World War II to see, and we have carried dignitaries, mayors, and sheriffs and people of all walks of life. This organization is international, with chapters in England, Australia, New Zealand, Poland, and many other countries.”

He added, “We’ve seen guys just come and put their hand on an aircraft and there are tears in their eyes. It’s amazing to see. We feel that we are bringing history to life and we want to pass on the enthusiasm not only for these vehicles, but also remembrance of that time in history.”

Snakes

Continued from 10

to use the word poisonous, because their venom is injected and not swallowed) and five are exotic, including the Burmese python which is slithering rampant in the Everglades but not found in St. Johns County.

“Be thankful for I-4,” Ussia said, as that keeps many invasive species from moving from South Florida northward. “Not many things can cross I-4 safely.”

Non-venomous snakes in the First Coast area include the black racer, rat snake, Eastern garter snake, Southern ringneck snake and Eastern indigo snake. Rat snakes come in two categories, “chicken snakes” and “corn snakes,” of which Maize was an example.

Of the six venomous snakes in Florida, four can be found in St. Johns County. They include coral snakes, the water moccasin, diamondbacks and pygmy rattlers.

Ussia said water moccasins are often confused with banded water snakes, which are non-venomous. She pointed out the subtle differences in their tail shapes in photos, but warned, “If you are



Photo by Maggie Fitzroy

Children and adults line up to pet the baby alligator that Kelly Ussia brought to her power point presentation.

close enough to see a snake’s tail, you are too close. Get back. Give it space.”

She advised that if a snake bites you, seek medical attention, adding the sur-

prising fact that even a dead snake can bite, so don’t pick one up.

Her tips for living with snakes included: never corner them and snake-proof

your yard by trimming overgrown shrubs and removing brush piles.

Ussia then switched to the topic of alligators.

Alligators can average 10 to 15 feet in length and weigh 400 to 1,000 pounds. Found from North Carolina to Texas, fun facts include that they have two sets of eyelids, can go through 3,000 teeth in a lifetime and have brains the size of walnuts.

They mate in May and June, when they are the most active.

Her tips for living with alligators included: never feed them, it is illegal. Don’t allow dogs to swim in waters with alligators and report truly nuisance alligators by calling the state at 866-FWC-GATOR.

“Never handle” an alligator, and before reporting one, make sure it is truly a threat, Ussia said. The animal will not be relocated, it will be put down.

Ussia ended her talk by walking around with a baby alligator and then letting people pet it.

“Hopefully I have replaced your fear of snakes and alligators with respect,” Ussia said.

“We have nothing to fear. They are just trying to live in our world.”



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Gifts that pamper and rejuvenate

Stress can be bad for the body, contributing to depression, anxiety, hypertension, and even obesity. Unfortunately, more than half of working adults and 47% of all Americans say they are concerned with the amount of stress in their lives, according to a survey from the American Psychological Association.

Reducing stress can be especially important during the holiday season, which, thanks in part to its hectic nature, tends to produce extra feelings of stress. Gifts that pamper, relax and rejuvenate might be the ideal fit for those who need a little rest and relaxation.

■ **Aromatherapy:** Studies have shown that aromatherapy, or breathing in certain scents, can trigger reactions in the brain and affect emotions, mood and memory. Specific essential oils can help relieve stress, induce relaxation and even promote better sleep. Scents such as lavender, lemon or yuzu, bergamot, ylang ylang, and jasmine can promote relaxation in many people.

■ **Candles:** The combination of subtle, low flickering light and relaxing aro-

mas can make candles soothing gifts. Put together an entire gift package with decorative candle holders or a nice tray on which candles of various heights can be placed.

■ **Plush robe:** Sometimes lounging around the house is all that's necessary to create a soothing atmosphere. A plush robe that is luxurious and comfortable will help that someone special unwind after a long day or after sleeping in on the weekend.

■ **Bed linens:** Treat someone special to the gift of added relaxation in the bedroom. Buying bed linens is often a chore and an expense that people put off. Pima cotton, silk, satin, or sateen sheets can be cool, comfortable and soothing.

■ **Facial treatment:** A massage session can be relaxing, but so can a facial. There's something serene about having a professional apply products and rub areas of the face and temples. Stress will slip away in an instant.

Pampering gifts can help ease anxiety, tame stress and help anyone feel more relaxed and happy.



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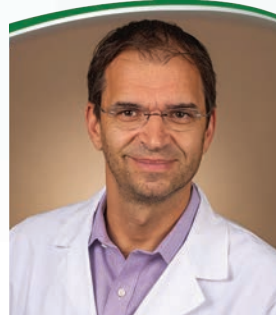
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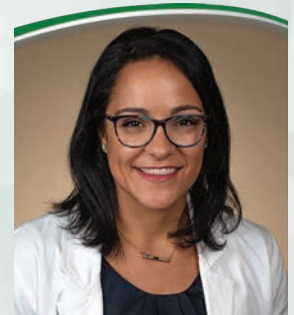
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Rotary, Recorder seek nominations for 28th annual Local Heroes Awards

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

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

Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

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

Nomination Submitted By:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

Nomination Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020
Email entries to: lksmith59@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, April 2, 2020
Christ Episcopal Church
Ponte Vedra Beach

Business Weekly

PAGE 23

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

“Why Women Lead”
panel discusses
overcoming adversity

Page 27



Earth Fare opened its first location in St. Johns County last Oct. 16.

Photo by Amber Lake

Earth Fare announces plans to close all stores

By Amber Lake

Following the heels of the recent Lucky's Market closing, Earth Fare will be shutting its doors according to a company announcement Monday, Feb. 3.

The organic, specialty store based out of North Carolina, only recently opened its first location in St. Johns County last Oct. 16 to a large community fanfare.

The chain currently has three locations in the North Florida area: Mandarin, St. Johns and Atlantic Boulevard. All locations are scheduled to be closed immediately, which the company stated will involve significant liquidation price reductions and store fixtures also available for sale.

The company cited financial difficulties as the reason for the announcement and encourages shoppers to take advantage of the liquidation savings prior to the final date. The

announcement came as a surprise, as the company recently implemented strategic initiatives aimed at growth and expansion.

“While many of these initiatives improved the business, continued challenges in the retail industry impeded the company's progress as well as its ability to refinance its debt,” the store stated in a press release. “As a result, Earth Fare is not in a financial position to continue to operate on a go-forward basis. As such, we have made the difficult, but necessary decision to commence inventory liquidation sales while we continue to engage in a process to find potential suitors for our stores.”

While Lucky's Market stores have taken a similar course, the locally owned Native Sun has announced it will be reopening its Jacksonville Beach location after being closed earlier this year.

Business owners: Plan for next phase of life



Karsten Jacobson
Columnist

As a business owner, you're always thinking of what you need to do now. But you can't forget about the future — yours and that of your business. So it may be a good idea to consider your personal retirement plan and business succession strategy.

Let's start by looking at a few retirement plan possibilities:

- **Solo 401(k)** – This plan, which is also known as an Owner-only 401(k), is available to self-employed individuals and business owners with no full-time employees other than themselves or a spouse. A Solo 401(k) offers many of the same advantages of a traditional 401(k): a range of investment options, tax-deductible contributions and the opportunity for tax-deferred earnings growth. You may even be able to choose a Roth option, which allows you to make after-tax contributions that can grow tax-free. Your Solo 401(k) contributions consist of two parts: salary deferral and profit sharing. In 2020, you can defer up to \$19,500 of income, or \$26,000 if you're 50 or older. Your profit-sharing contribution is based on your earnings. The sum of your salary deferral and profit sharing can't exceed \$57,000 (or \$63,500 if you're 50 or older). If your spouse is employed by your business, you each can contribute the maximum amount allowed.

- **SEP IRA** – If you have just a few employees or are self-employed with no employees, you may want to think about a SEP IRA. You'll fund the plan with tax-deductible contributions, and you must cover all eligible employees. (Employees themselves cannot contribute.) You can generally contribute up to 25% of compensation, up to \$57,000 annually. And you can fund your SEP IRA with virtually any type of investment.

- **Solo defined benefit plan** – Not many businesses still offer pension plans, also known as defined benefit plans, but you

JACOBSON continues on Page 29

Medure brothers open new restaurant



Photo by Sterling Tucker

Chef Matthew Medure stays in the zone inside the Midtown Table kitchen.

By Daniela Toporek

Brothers David and Matthew Medure have opened Midtown Table, a new restaurant located near St. Johns Town Center, at 5016 Gate Parkway in Jacksonville.

The eatery is open and bright, with colorful abstracts around the walls and simple, but effective, decor.

“We have five different concepts and eight restaurants, but this one is true to our upbringing,” Chef Matthew Medure said. “I have an Italian father and Syrian mother, so this is what we ate growing up.”

Customers can begin their meal with a charcuterie board, topped with artisan cheeses and cured meats, mustard, jam, cornichons and rosemary crackers.

The board can be paired with signature cocktails, including the Lemon Basil Manhattan and selections from their 20 beers on tap.

Choice of entrees include the muffedetta, filled with Italian meats and cheese, and selections of pasta dishes. The restaurant’s theme is “Italian-Inspired Kitchen.”

“My personal favorite is the taglierini,” Matthew Medure said. “The one for lunch is a Rosa sauce with shrimp (basil and



Photos by Daniela Toporek

Choose between chips or a house salad for any sandwich dish or add a signature side like Brussels sprouts for an additional \$2.



Like the muffedetta, Midtown Table is an Italian-inspired concept, but will soon add other dishes from the Medure brothers’ background and childhood.

Parmesan). At night, it’s fresh clams, tomatoes and red pepper flakes.”

They prepare everything to order.

MEDURE continues on Page 25




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Medure

Continued from 24

“The clams are super tender and it also comes with homemade croutons, so your bread is mixed right in,” Matthew Medure said. “We stir it all together with extra virgin olive oil and it’s just such a great texture.”

Midtown Table bartender Joel Mesa also suggests the radiatori.

“We’re selling a lot of that,” Matthew Medure said. “Our radiatori pasta is fresh and goes with a bolognese. It’s just a very comfortable dish, well-known by everyone.”

Customers can walk off their meals by visiting the back patio, filled with yard games and fire pits for chilly weather.

Matthew Medure said they also have an outdoor summer kitchen and plan to hold outside events starting in the spring.

Midtown Table will soon offer grab-and-go and take-out options at its soon-to-be market located at the front of the restaurant.

Matthew Medure said he believes Midtown Table brings something different to the table when it comes to many typical Italian restaurants.

“It’s more casual and upbeat, with faster-paced service yet still, a lovely atmosphere,” he said. “It’s super fresh, all done from scratch and we are all here and ready to serve.”



Photos by Daniela Toporek

Midtown Table is located at 5016 Gate Parkway #6 in Jacksonville.



Midtown Table’s charcuterie board features artisan cheeses, cured meats, mustard, seasonal fruit jam, cornichons and rosemary crackers.



The tagliarini lunch entree includes local shrimp, Rosa sauce, basil and parmigiano, according to the menu.



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MEDICAL SPA, CHAMBER HOLDS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY



Photo by Susan Griffin

A ribbon-cutting celebration and a St. Johns County Chamber After Hours event was held Jan. 29 at Aesthetix Plus Medical Spa, at 486 Town Plaza Ave., Suite 420, in Ponte Vedra. Attendees enjoyed the networking event and met other business owners in the area.

INNOVATIONS IN EYE SURGERY TECHNIQUES PRESENTED AT EVENT



Photo provided by Scott A. Grant

Scott A. Grant (from left), Dr. Arun Gulani and Donna Guzzo. Grant welcomed Dr. Gulani to speak at the first Health and Wealth 2020 event at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach on Jan. 16. Gulani revealed new innovations in corrective eye surgery. He believes everyone has the right to see better than 20/20 and customizes his surgery techniques to fit every individual's needs.

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Shapiro Group, 2012.

PV2-LM5045

‘When Women Lead’ panel discusses adversity with 3 keynote speakers

By Amber Lake

An “evening of powerful inspiration,” was hosted at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach on Jan. 23. The event, organized by Trudy Toche, featured three keynote speakers aimed at inspiring women in business through mind, body and spirit to overcome adversity.

The panel hosted personal trainer Peggy Hilbert, clinical psychologist Dr. Robi E. Tamargo and assistant chief at the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, Lakesha Burton. Burton reflected on how her faith helped her through her struggles surviving as victim of domestic abuse and child molestation while overcoming discrimination.

Each host shared their story about what it took for them to rise to the top while conquering adversity.

Toche, an inspirational speaker and owner of Positively Profiling, said she is working toward hosting another panel in the fall, due to “the overwhelming response” from those who attended.

“When you feel a need, it’s something



Jennifer Jordan, community connections director at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.

that you know is going to be successful,” Toche said. “We all have a story and we all have challenges; it’s about learning to overcome those and move forward in life.”



ABOVE: Event organizer Trudy Toche (from left), with keynote speakers Lakesha Burton, Dr. Robi E. Tamargo and Peggy Hilbert.



LEFT: Felicia Cox and Sandra Ingram attended the Jan. 23 event.
















Photos by Susan Griffin

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The Ponte Vedra Recorder has a new garden columnist, Kathy Esfahani, of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery. Read her column for valuable gorgeous-garden-growing tips in Northeast Florida.

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

"Love is the flower of life, and blossoms unexpectedly and without law, and must be plucked where it is found, and enjoyed for the brief hour of its duration."

— D.H. Lawrence



Kathy Esfahani
Columnist

Woo hoo! The groundhog says spring is coming early!

Here are a few ways to get ready for the upcoming spring season:

- Know our zone and what is best to plant here — We are the 9A Zone here in Northeast Florida. Make sure anything you purchase is able to live in 9A.

- Before adding to your garden, do a spring cleanup. Clean plant debris out of your garden beds and any annuals you didn't remove in the fall.

- Now is a great time to transplant any plants or trees if needed.

- Prune all plants and trees after Feb. 15, as long as there are no freezes in the forecast of 35 degrees or less, to ensure the

majority of cold nights are over. This will aid in maximum growth in the next few months.

- Fertilize flowers, plants and sod during the month of February, before the heat begins.

- Weed and mulch to refresh flower beds. Mulch discourages weeds, and moderates soil temperature, as well as creates a cohesive look for your landscaping.

- Tools — Make sure to purchase or clean/sharpen any gardening tools needed to be ready for spring.

- Although the warm weather is coming early, still be prepared with materials for a possible freeze or two before we are in the clear.

Flower of the Week: Geranium

Geraniums are easy to grow and can be an indoor or outdoor plant. They come in a variety of colors and are also fragrant. For maximum bloom, make sure to plant geraniums in an area they will receive a minimum of 4-6 hours of sunlight.

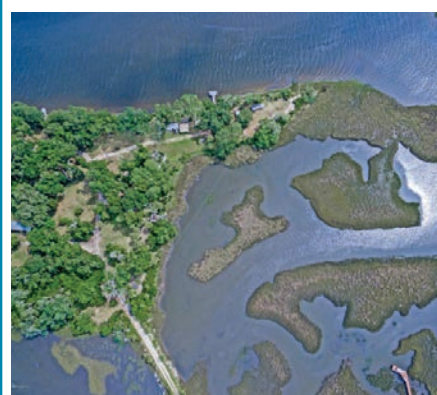
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Flower of the Week

Photo provided by Kathy Esfahani

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SJC Tourist Development Council elects chair

Longtime St. Johns County resident Danny Berenberg was elected as the Chair of the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council on Monday, Jan. 27 during the regularly scheduled meeting of the TDC. He succeeds Irving Kass in the role.

“I am deeply appreciative to be honored in this manner by my colleagues on the Tourist Development Council,” said Berenberg, who was appointed to a four-year term on the TDC in December 2017. “We are on the cusp of a very prosperous year in the tourism industry in St. Johns County. It is great to be part of it.”

Last year, visitors spent almost \$712 million in St. Johns County, serving as an economic engine for a county rated as the wealthiest in Florida, annually the top-performing school system in the state and one of the fastest-growing counties nationally.

The St. Johns County TDC recommends funding of facilities, programs and contracts to the Board of Commissioners for the purpose of bringing people from outside of the county to cultural events. The nine-member



Danny Berenberg

TDC, serving four-year terms, includes a County Commissioner, two other elected officials, three or four members who are owners or operators of lodging facilities and up to three members

who are involved in the tourism industry.

The Board of County Commissioners solicits applications for appointment whenever vacancies occur and members must be residents of St. Johns County. Current members include Berenberg, Kass, newly elected Vice Chair Diane Mataraza, Paul Waldron, Nancy Sikes-Kline, Undine George, Michael Gordon, Tom Manno and Jack Peter. The Council meets the third Monday of every month at 1:30 p.m., in the County Auditorium.

Funding for Tourist Development Council programs is provided by a “bed tax” paid by overnight visitors to St. Johns County.

First established by County ordinance 86-72, the “bed tax” or Local Option Tourist Development Tax (LOTDT) is assessed on short-term transient rentals. Hotel/motel rooms, campground spaces, condominiums, apartments and even private home rentals are subject to the tax if they are rented for six months or less.

The current level of the county-wide tax is 4%, which generates approximately \$5 million annually.

Berenberg has resided in Ponte Vedra Beach since the early 1990s. He has been instrumental in further developing the region’s arts and tourism attractions, with a focus on fundraising in the areas of symphony orchestras, museums, arts organizations, zoos, educational institutions, medical organizations and social service agencies. Two large projects where he oversaw major public-private capital campaigns were the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts (\$70 million campaign) and Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (\$50 million campaign).

Other efforts have directly affected his home county. The Florida Chamber Music Project performs at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and is in the midst of its seventh season. Artist showings as a part of the “Art in Public Spaces” program, held at the St. Johns County Administration Building, have included artists Susanne Schuenke, Harry McCormick, Anna Miller and the current showing by photography artist Kirk Marsh.

Berenberg graduated from the University of Minnesota with a major in Economics and received his Juris Doctor from University of Minnesota Law School. He is licensed before the United States Supreme Court and in the State of Minnesota. He is the founding partner of Gift Counsel.com LLP and has served on several nonprofit and corporate boards and received the Minnesota Human Rights Award, the World Gold Quill Award of Excellence, the American Honor Spirit Medal, the Omar Bondrud Human Rights Award and the March of Dimes Distinguished Citizen award.

Historic district craft cocktail bar migrates to Anastasia Island

Recorder Staff

Odd Birds Bar and Odd Birds Loft have vacated both downtown St. Augustine locations and are migrating to a larger space at 200 Anastasia Boulevard on Anastasia Island. The new island-based concept will be called Odd Birds Cocktail Lounge and Kitchen.

Chef Sebastian Sikora from Odd Birds Café is creating a menu for the full restaurant and cocktail bar with a focus on personalized cocktails, a new brunch menu and Venezuelan flavor. Chef will put a new spin on tacos, arepas and other new fusion dishes. Odd Birds Cocktail Lounge and Kitchen will continue the “Bartender’s Call,” tradition — bartenders serve a tailored cocktail that suits patron preference, spirit of choice and flavor profile.

Located at the former site of Hoptinger Bier Garden & Sausage House, the space boasts 6,000 square feet and is larger than both Odd Birds downtown locations combined. Cesar Diaz co-owns hospitality business, Odd Birds Group, with Asdrubal Martinez and Shane McFarland.

“We’re looking forward to bringing our traditions of multi-cultural cuisine and craft cocktails to a bigger and better location,” Diaz stated in a



Provided photo

Chef Sebastian Sikora has created a menu featuring Odd Birds favorites and new fusion dishes.

news release. “As we merge both bars to one location, we will be focusing on developing the Odd Birds brand and working on opening new locations around Northeast Florida.”

The opening is planned for late February with hours from 11 a.m. to

2 a.m., daily, for lunch and dinner. Brunch will be served Saturdays and Sundays starting at 11 a.m. A late-night menu will be served until 1 a.m. and bar will be open until 2 a.m.

For more information, visit oddbirds-group.com or call (904) 679-4933.

Jacobson

Continued from 23

can set one up for yourself if you’re self-employed or own your own business. This plan has high contribution limits, which are determined by an actuarial calculation, and your contributions are typically tax-deductible.

A financial professional can help you choose the appropriate retirement plan. But you’ll still need to think about succession planning. Of course, you can always sell your business outright at any time you like. Or you could leave your business to your children in your will, but if you give it to them gradually during your lifetime, you can become more confident they’ll be able to manage the business on their own.

Another alternative might be to transfer the business with a buy-sell agreement, which allows you to determine when, to whom, and at what price you can sell it. Because you can establish the purchase price as your business’s taxable value, a buy-sell agreement is useful in estate planning. If you want to keep the business in your family, you might want to consider funding the buy-sell agreement with life insurance, so family members can use the death benefit proceeds to buy your ownership stake.

In any case, given the complexities and tax issues involved with succession planning, you’ll need to consult with your legal and tax advisors when creating a strategy. But don’t wait too long. You can’t predict the future, but by planning ahead, you can help achieve the outcomes you desire.

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



Photos provided by Community Hospice & Palliative Care

PVHS senior volunteers at community hospice before attending college in the Big Easy

Livi Bowers, a senior at Ponte Vedra High School, has two essential roles as a volunteer at Community Hospice & Palliative Care. She is president of the Community PedsCare Teen Advisory Board, and the talented artist also takes part in the Creative HeARTs program, painting portraits of pets in the Pet Therapy program.

“Growing up, my family was very involved with Halloween Doors & More, and I could not wait until I was old enough to become a volunteer for Community Hospice.” Bowers said.



The teen has worked hard as an ambassador to raise awareness and funds for the Community PedsCare program, and she said she very much enjoys interacting with hospice patients through art therapy.

Next year, Bowers will be attending Tulane University in New Orleans. But the Florida native plans to continue volunteering at Community Hospice during her college breaks.

“Livi has been a wonderful volunteer for us. She is a gifted artist with a beautiful soul,” Betsy Miller, volunteer coordinator, Community Hospice & Palliative Care, said.

For more information about the Community HeARTs Program or becoming a volunteer at Community Hospice & Palliative Care, contact Betsy Miller at emiller1@communityhospice.com or call (904) 407-5022.

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Provided photo

Members of the Old City Drum Corps perform at the 2019 Paseo Procecion at the Governor's House in St. Augustine. The Corps received one of two inaugural Romanza Awards.

Old City Drum Corps earns inaugural Romanza Award

By Christine Rodenbaugh

Without missing a beat, Senior Drum Sergeant Michael Thomas established the Old City Drum Corps in 2018, a tradition initiated by his teacher and mentor, U.S. Army veteran Master Drum Major George

Carroll, who led the East Florida Fife & Drum at the start of St. Augustine's first Night Watch Parade in 1975.

"We're dedicating this entire endeavor to George Carroll," Thomas said.

DRUM CORPS continues on **Page 33**

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1355 OCEAN BLVD.

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Your options are endless with this 4 BD, 2.5 BA beach house, just 2 blocks from the ocean. Enjoy the lagoon views while relaxing to the sound of waves in your own backyard.
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Boardwalk Talk to feature Dr. Tru Leverette presenting 'Zora Neale Hurston and the Pleasure of Her Company'

The Beaches Museum will host a Boardwalk lecture, entitled "Zora Neale Hurston and the Pleasure of Her Company," by Dr. Tru Leverette, associate professor of English at the University of North Florida. The event will take place 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Zora Neale Hurston is known most widely for her literary legacy, which includes the now famous novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God." Perhaps less known are her

rebelliousness and her iconoclastic nature in the midst of the Harlem Renaissance and into the early Civil Rights Movement.

As a black woman artist, folklorist and anthropologist in the early 20th century, Hurston blurred the lines between scientific objectivity and imaginative subjectivity. She was a boundary breaker and a person whose life challenged ideas about what women of her time could accomplish.

Leverette teaches African-American

literature and serves as director of African-American/African Diaspora Studies. Her research interests broadly include race, gender, and identity in literature and culture.

This event will be held in the historic Beaches Museum Chapel and is free to Beaches Museum members, with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members.

Visit the Beaches Museum website www.beachmuseum.org or call (904) 241-5657 for more information.



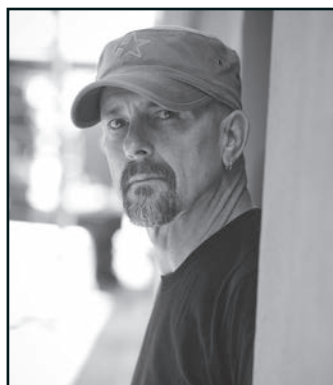
Photo provided by State Archives of Florida Memory Project

Zora Neale Hurston

Grant Peeples brings 'Listen to Women' CD-release show to St. Augustine Feb. 13

Singer-songwriter Grant Peeples is on tour in support of a new release and will play a CD-release show at Cafe Eleven in St. Augustine at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13. Accompanying Grant will be virtuoso violinist Mark Russell of Cambridge, Massachusetts and St. Augustine singer-songwriter Davis Loose, who will open the show.

"Bad Wife" is a unique concept album and a departure from Peeples' usual repertoire. Not known for performing other peoples' songs, he did not write a single song on the album, which is made up of songs all written by female songwriters. They include the title track "Bad Wife," written by Austin singer-songwriter Ali Holder. Other songwriters include Eliza Gilkyson, Carrie Elkin, Phoebe Blume, Dayna Kurtz, Myshkin, Telisha Williams, Caroline Spence and Florida artists Sarah Mac, Rebekah Pulley and Alicia McGovern.



Grant Peeples

The timing of the release celebrates the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote in the United States. The record is Grant's tribute to this milestone in women's history and his opportunity to express his appreciation and love of their work and influence.

"Each song was originally heard in a live setting, where it entered me, worked me over, and never left," he said. "I didn't go looking for these songs; they found me. Bludgeoned me. And my learning them has been an exercise of re-discovery, a search for those original nerves they struck."

The album is produced by iconic Roots/Americana producer-performer Gurf Morlix, who also produced and performed on four of Grant's previous records.

Showtime is 8 p.m. at Cafe Eleven, located at 501 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Tickets may be bought in advance at www.originalcafe11.com.



Photo provided by St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival

Liz Nugent will participate Celtic NOIR!: Irish Authors Mystery & Crime Writers event on March 14 and 15.

Author Liz Nugent headlines Celtic NOIR!

Award-winning Irish novelist Liz Nugent will participate with authors in Celtic NOIR!: Irish Authors Mystery & Crime Writers, on March 14 and 15 as part of the St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival. Nugent had several careers before turning her hand to writing. She was, among other things, a buyer for a construction company, a welfare office civil servant, a theatrical stage manager and a story associate on a tv soap opera.

In early 2014 her first novel, "Unravelling Oliver," was published. It went straight to the top of the bestseller list and also won the Crime Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards. Television rights for "Unravelling Oliver" have been optioned by Appian Way, Leonardo Di Caprio's production company in Los Angeles.

Her second novel, "Lying in Wait," was published in July 2016 and also went straight to No. 1. It won the RTE Radio 1 Listener's Choice prize at the Irish Book Awards and was shortlisted for Crime Novel of the Year. On its United Kingdom release in January 2017, "Lying in Wait" went straight into the UK bestseller list and was chosen for the hugely popular Richard & Judy Bookclub Spring 2017 list and won the Reader's Choice award for that season.

Irish tenor Emmet Cahill returns to Celtic Music & Heritage festival

Award-winning tenor Emmet Cahill, formerly with Celtic Thunder, will return to the main stage of the 10th annual St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival on Sunday, March 15 at Francis Field in downtown St. Augustine.

Cahill is a native of Mullingar, County Westmeath, Ireland. In recent years, he has been widely hailed as "Ireland's Most Exciting Young Tenor." In March 2018, he made his sold-out debut at New York's Carnegie Hall. The evening prior, he performed a special concert for the Aisling Irish Community Center in Yonkers N.Y., raising much needed funds for homeless communities around the city.

For tickets and further information, visit: CelticStAugustine.com



Photo provided by St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival

Emmet Cahill will perform on the main stage at the St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival.

Players by the Sea to hold auditions for pop/rock musical

On Feb. 8 and 9, Players by the Sea in Jacksonville Beach invites local talent to audition for the award-winning musical, “Spring Awakening,” to be performed April 24 - May 16. Auditions will be held at the community theater at 106 6th St.N., Jacksonville Beach.

Director Bradley Akers, who was last seen at Players directing *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, said he wants to cast enthusiastic actors, “So, be yourself. Be authentic. Be bold. Be brave.”

Auditions for roles of Girls and Boys will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8, with registration at 11 a.m. and auditions beginning a noon.

Auditions for Adult Man and Adult

Woman roles will take place on Sunday, Feb.9, starting at 6 p.m, registration beginning 30 minutes prior.

Some actors from Saturday may be asked to read with those auditioning for the adult roles.

Actors auditioning for Girls and Boys are asked to prepare 16-32 bars of a musical theater song in the style of any of the music found in *Spring Awakening*. They should bring sheet music to the audition. An accompanist will be provided. No acapella auditions or recorded accompaniment will be permitted. They should dress for a dance audition and be prepared for cold readings from the script.

Actors auditioning for Adult roles do

not need to prepare a song or be ready to dance. They will only be asked to read from the script.

All actors should also bring a headshot, resume, and list of conflicts from February 8 through May 16. The rehearsal schedule will be created based on cast-member conflicts. Due to mature subject matter, only actors over the age of 16 will be considered for casting.

“The audition process is not only designed to align the casting dynamic of the show, but it’s also a way for us to interview each other and make sure it’s a right fit. I’m looking for honesty, bravery, resilience, and safety in your choices (in your vocals, your movement, and your interpretations),” said Akers.

Visit playersbythesea.org/auditions for more information about available roles.

About the Show

The winner of eight Tony Awards (including Best Musical), *Spring Awakening* explores the journey through adolescence with poignancy and passion. It examines morality and sexual politics while unapologetically plumbing the depths of the hormonal teenage psyche in a way that feels both fresh and all too familiar. This landmark musical is an electrifying fusion of sex, rock & roll, and 1890s Germany.

For more information on how to buy tickets, visit playersbythesea.org/spring-awakening or call the box office at (904) 249-0289.

St. Johns County music study aims to grow music ecosystem and develop music tourism

The St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, in partnership with the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division, has launched a St. Johns County Music Strategy, an economic development initiative focused on the county’s diverse and growing music industry and leveraging the music culture of the county for impact in year-round tourism.

Tourism is already a top economic driver in St. Johns County, but the music culture of the area is an underutilized asset in attracting both short-term visitors and top talent to the area, according to the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council and the Cultural Events Division. They engaged Sound Diplomacy, a London, Berlin and Barcelona-based music policy consultancy and global expert in developing long-term and productive music strategies to help with the initiative.

Sound Diplomacy will manage a quantitative and qualitative year-long process that will deliver a detailed action plan to fill in the gaps and realize the full economic potential and vision for the St. Johns County music ecosystem. This process will include an economic impact assessment of the county’s music industry, a comprehensive mapping of the county’s music-related assets (from performance, recording and rehearsal space to businesses and educational institutions), a comparative analysis to position St. Johns County among other best-practice global music cities and a strategic plan to guide the sector’s future growth with a particular emphasis on building a smart music tourism strategy.

Drawing from the data collected and stakeholder feedback, as well as global best practices, this effort will result in a strategic plan to engage St. Johns County music makers, industry stakeholders, and audiences to support the industry’s future growth.

The public is invited and encouraged to participate in this study by completing the Sound Diplomacy St. Johns County Survey, available online at <https://www.surveymz.com/s3/5414873/St-Johns-County-Music-Strategy-Survey> now through Feb. 14.

For more information on the study, visit www.sounddiplomacy.com/st-johns-county.

Drum Corps

Continued from 31

The Drum Corps musicians, many of them award-winning, are not re-enactors. They use handmade rope-tension drums to play music from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries while marching in period uniforms. Ensembles may be as small as a two-man drumming exhibition or as large as a 12-piece fife and drum corps with color guard and drum major.

“It is thunderous, heart-throbbing sound,” Thomas said. “There’s nothing like it. And the fife was used because it’s such a high-pitched, distinctive sound it could be heard over the battle.”

Thomas said he’s integrating a new horn section into this season, and there are openings for fife and drum musicians.

The Old City Drum Corp is one of two recipients of the inaugural Romanza Award in the amount of \$1,500.

“The Old City Drum Corps takes

authentic depiction very seriously, both musically and visually,” said Albert Syeles, president of Romanza St. Augustine. “The Corps also works with various re-enactment groups in St. Augustine to further mutual educational and historic preservation goals.”

Romanza established its award to support the development of new and excellent cultural offerings and to sponsor smaller but noteworthy cultural projects beyond its own festival season. The non-profit produces the 17-day long Romanza Festivale of Music & the Arts in May, and the St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival in March.

Each year, Romanza will grant three to five awards of between \$500 and \$2,000 each for competitively selected arts and culture activities scheduled June through February. The fourth annual Pirate Fest, which took place Jan. 25 and 26 in St. Augustine, also received an inaugural Romanza Award.

For more information, visit Romanza-StAugustine.com.

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Photo provided by Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

Tower of Power returns to Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will welcome the return of legendary soul group Tower of Power on Tuesday, April 28. Tickets went on sale Jan. 31.

For more than 50 years, Tower of Power has delivered a brand of funky rhythms and driving grooves to fans across the world. With a soaring horn section, soul-

ful vocals, and one of the tightest rhythm sections in the business, the funk-soul outfit is renowned as a must-see act—combining R&B classics with jazzy hits.

Tickets for Tower of Power are available for purchase at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices and Ticketmaster.com.

Roscolusa Songwriters Festival coming soon to Nocatee

Roscolusa Songwriters Festival is slated to take place at Nocatee Station Field on Saturday, April 25. Early bird tickets went on sale Feb. 1.

The public is invited to come hear the stories behind hit songs performed by the original songwriters themselves.

Roscolusa is offering \$5 off general admission tickets and \$20 off VIP tickets while supplies last.

New this year — all ages will need a ticket for the event. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit Roscolusa.com.

Celtic NOIR

Continued from 32

In 2015, Nugent was the inaugural winner of the Jack Harte Bursary courtesy of the Irish Writer's Centre and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. In 2016, she was the Writer in Residence at the Princess Grace Library in Monaco, and in October 2017, Liz won the Irish Woman of the Year Award for Literature.

Her third novel, "Skin Deep," was published in Ireland in April 2018, hit the No. 1 spot and spent five months in the top 10 bestsellers list. Her fourth novel, "Little Cruelties," will be published by Simon & Schuster in the U.S. in August 2020.

She has written stories for children, radio plays, tv dramas and has good in-

tentions to write a stage play very soon. Her books have been translated into 16 languages.

Find the CELT in YOU in America's Oldest Celtic City

The event begins on Friday, March 13 with a pre-festival Whiskey Tasting, and continues Saturday and Sunday with live performances on two stages. It also features "Celtic NOIR!": Mystery & Crime Writers, The St. Augustine Highland games, Celtic artisans and food, and kids' games.

The St. Patrick Parade begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 14 at the site of the world's original St. Patrick's Day parade, begun in 1601 in St. Augustine.

For tickets and further information: CelticStAugustine.com

Festival tickets may also be purchased at Ann O'Malley's Irish Pub located at 23 Orange St., St. Augustine.



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Sports



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020 • PAGE 36

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Get set for DONNA Marathon Weekend's return

This weekend, Feb. 7-9, Donna Deegan and thousands of runners, walkers and spectators will be participating in DONNA Marathon Weekend, which will culminate with a marathon and half-marathon course that starts and finishes in the heart of Neptune Beach and Atlantic Beach.

The Beaches Town Center will once again serve as epicenter of weekend events.

Listed as Women's Running Magazine's "favorite charity race," the 26.2 with DONNA, The National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer is the only marathon in the country dedicated to breast cancer research and care.

"Last year, we debuted a flatter, faster course that runs through Northeast Florida's beautiful coastal communities. We look forward to welcoming back repeat runners, first-time participants and our incredible supporters for another exciting weekend that celebrates every step we take together toward finishing breast cancer," said Donna Deegan, founder of The



Photos provided by The DONNA Foundation

DONNA Foundation.

Now in its 13th year, DONNA Marathon Weekend events include a 5K, half-marathon (with the relay option returning this year), marathon and race expo. Participants will run and walk through Jacksonville's beach communities of Atlantic Beach,

Neptune Beach, Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Veda Beach on Sunday, Feb. 9 for the marathon and half marathon.

The updated route, enacted last year, makes the Boston Marathon-qualifying course — already one of Florida's fastest — an even greater opportunity for setting

new personal records.

"We are excited to welcome this wonderful event back to Neptune Beach," said Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown. "Last year's weekend brought an outpouring of support for the runners, as well as our local business community. DONNA Marathon Weekend is a beloved annual tradition, and one that we're proud to support."

Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser said, "If you have not run through Atlantic Beach as part of your race experience, you do not want to miss it in 2020! The first several miles of the course wind through our city and at every turn you will hear and see an enthusiastic welcome! We paint our town pink to support runners and all those whose lives have been changed by breast cancer. In supporting the 13th annual 26.2 with DONNA, The Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer, we are eager to do our part, along with our sister beach cities, to finish

MARATHON continues on Page 38

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THEME: U.S. PRESIDENTS

ACROSS

- Frenzied
- Between fathers and sons?
- Not fake news
- Black-tie occasion
- Pupil's place
- Whatchamacallit
- Similar
- Nessie's lake
- Poet T.S.
- *He called his residence the White House
- Dashing style
- Opposite of cathode
- No-goodnik
- Same as Danzig
- Inside information, pl.
- Antonym of keep
- Data input device
- ____ Madrid Club de Fútbol
- Anomie, alt. sp.
- Stupid person
- First M in MGM
- Narcotics agent, for short
- Jennifer Lopez' 2019 movie swindle
- Band aid
- Hiked the Inca Trail, e.g.
- Threat, two words
- H+, e.g.
- "Fences" actress Davis
- Long forearm bone
- *His epitaph doesn't mention his presidency

- Abracadabra, e.g.
- *First Lady of the US for only one month
- Milano moolah
- *Where JFK's "Honey Fitz" spent time
- Two of a kind, pl.
- Winglike
- Ring-around-the-rosy flower
- "C" ____ la vie!"
- *President during Mexican-American War

DOWN

- Petri dish filler
- Kind of shark
- Assortment
- Dorothy Gale, e.g.
- Gordon Gekko: "____ is good"
- Bridal path
- "Hey, over here!"
- *He installed library at the White House
- Marco Polo's destination
- "Oh ____!"
- Little squirt
- Conjure up
- "Faster!" to a horse
- Glorify
- *Announce presidential ____
- *He established Yellowstone as 1st national park
- 1/100 of a rial
- "I love you" or "I" ____

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

- *Only one to hold position in Executive and Judicial branches
- Prenatal
- Orwell's animals' turf, pl.
- North face, e.g.
- "You had" or "you would"
- Baryshnikov's step
- *First president to campaign by telephone
- Dixon of "The Walking Dead"
- Farm layer
- Body scrubbers
- Bear Down Under
- Hearing organ cover
- Second planet from the Sun
- "____ me, then who?"
- Machinating
- Not more
- Green gem
- Storage cylinder
- Face-to-face exam
- Police informer
- Tree juice

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Continued from 36

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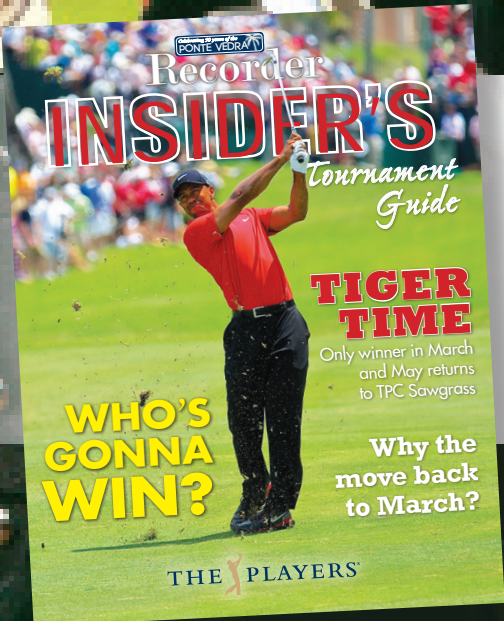
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