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# Recorder

February 27, 2020

Volume 51, No. 17

75 cents

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**Dispatches From Elsewhere** - Jason Segel's foray into the surreal

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## Beaches Go Green, Rotary clean up Mickler's Landing

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## In the Arts

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Backyard Buffalo is located off Wilderness Trail in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Photos by Amber Lake



ABOVE: Punita Patel immigrated from Gujarat, India when she was 17 years old. She opened Backyard Buffalo about three years ago after rediscovering her love of buffalo milk. **Read more on page 7.**

## CAR OF THE WEEK

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

### WHAT'S THIS?



**Do you know what this is?**

Email answer to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com) by Monday at 5 p.m.

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

Two readers correctly identified last week's photo as the sign for CORA Physical Therapy. The winner of the random draw was **Carol Maurer**. Congratulations, Carol — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



### ADOPT A PET



#### CAT OF THE WEEK

Meowe was an owner surrender. She is a 3-year-old female spayed domestic shorthair. Meowe is a shy, but extremely sweet, house-trained and great with kids and dogs. Come see Meowe at the Pet Center today. #53803



#### DOG OF THE WEEK

Leo came to the Pet Center as an owner surrender. He is a 9-month-old neutered shepherd /rottweiler mix. Leo is good with cats and other dogs, very energetic, sweet and playful. He is still a puppy and will need training. Come see Leo at the Pet Center today. #53629

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

### St. Johns County Pet Center

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

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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A	N	I	M	E	E	R	A	R	E	L	I	C
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1	8	9	3	5	7	2	6	4				
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5	6	1	7	8	2	4	9	3				
9	7	8	1	4	3	5	2	6				
4	3	2	5	9	6	7	8	1				

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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# The Recorder's weekly entertainment/TV guide debuts in today's issue

The Ponte Vedra Recorder's new entertainment/TV guide has launched. Inserted into this Feb. 27 issue you will find the Recorder Entertainment Extra, featuring news, games, offers and listings of the week's hottest in regular and special programming, including streaming.

"We are excited about providing readers more value in their newspaper," Editor Maggie FitzRoy said. "We are always looking for ways to serve the Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee and Beaches communities and this is another way."



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**SAWGRASS CC | \$449,000**

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# Short-term rentals under scrutiny as St. Johns County looks to develop possible ordinances

Controversy over regulation goes all the way to state level

By Amber Lake

As the popularity of Airbnb and similar short-term rental platforms has skyrocketed, communities like St. Johns County have been struggling to catch up.

Joseph Cearley, special projects manager for St. Johns County growth management, said the county is currently working toward developing a few possible ordinances in an effort to regulate the growth of short-term rentals, if that is, the state doesn't roadblock them first.

Recently, a Florida Senate committee approved a proposal that would take power away from the cities and counties to regulate vacation rental properties. The bill would preempt any ordinances of counties to the state's legislation. Regardless of the possible quashing, however, Cearley has developed two directions for the ordinances that will be decided for approval by the commission on March 17.

Cearley said the meeting will vote on which direction for regulation the county wants to go. The possible ordinances mainly favor noise mitigation, occupancy and parking regulations. Cearley said the county does not intend to include restrictions for owner-occupied units, however.

"Property owners are upset about living next to these 'party houses,' is what

they're calling them," Cearley said. "They have a lot of people coming in, parking all up and down the road, either trashing the place or being loud."

Although the possible ordinances would regulate short-term rentals, Cearley said they aren't overly restrictive, with one variation setting the maximum household occupancy at 16 people.

"It's nothing too major," Cearley said.

The city of St. Augustine, however, recently passed its own version of restrictions in late January that greatly restricts short-term rentals, causing many complaints from rental owners and agencies. The ordinance claims a \$400 permit fee, one off-street parking spot per bedroom and a seven-day minimum stay for rentals within certain zones.

The county's laws would not conflict with the city of St. Augustine, as it is annexed. Cearley said St. Johns County cannot regulate frequency of duration (how long a guest stays) or stop anyone from registering a rental due to a prior state law prohibiting that type of regulation. The city, however, cited a much older law that was in place before the state's law changed. Currently, the House Bill 1011 and Senate Bill 1128, if passed at the state level, would preempt both the city's and county's laws.

For anyone interested in contributing their feedback to the development of St. Johns County's ordinances on short term vacation rentals, or receive email updates on the matter, email Joseph Cearley at [jcclearley@sjcfl.us](mailto:jcclearley@sjcfl.us).

# Local foundation for autism hosts annual gala

By Daniela Toporek

The HEAL Foundation hosted its annual gala and fundraiser Feb. 20 at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, where guests ate, drank, danced and went on an auction spree to help raise \$136,000 to "help enrich autistic lives."

Gala guests were welcomed with open doors and an open bar as they lined up for their drinks of choice. They also picked at the hors d'oeuvres in the center of the room, ranging from chips and guacamole to salad and veggies, all in bite-size martini glasses, ensuring attendees still had room for the main dishes off to the side: brisket, shrimp and grits, crab cakes and more.

HEAL founders, husband and wife Bobby and Leslie Weed, later took the stage with their entire family, thanking guests for their attendance and generosity.

Since HEAL began doing fundraising galas, "I'm proud to say we've raised over \$3 million dollars so far," Bobby Weed said as the audience applauded. "It's been wonderful to start this foundation on behalf of Lanier and all the families and individuals we've met and everyone that's supported us along the way. We couldn't do this without all of you."

Lanier is the Weeds' 21-year-old daughter who was diagnosed with autism at 18 months old and is the inspiration behind the HEAL Foundation.

HEAL uses its funds to "Help Enrich Autistic Lives" all over Duval, St. Johns and surrounding counties, by donating grants, iPads and tricycles to local schools and organizations. And as honored guests, students from Westside High School stopped by the gala to strut their stuff with their new trikes, donated by HEAL.

After the special appearance, a lively auction had guests out of their seats, bidding against each other for luxurious prizes, including a large party at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, trips abroad and an original painting by one of HEAL's gala guests, who also has autism, 21-year-old artist Gentry Gudal.

The live auction's final total came to \$136,000 which was \$66,000 over the foundation's \$70,000 goal.

"It's unbelievable how much we raised in only 10 minutes," Leslie Weed said after the gala, which was only the first of two HEAL events that week. It was followed by



Carlisle (from left), Lanier, Leslie and Bobby Weed address guests as Bobby Weed speaks about the HEAL Foundation and the family thanks the audience for their support.



Gala guests Aaron and Jenny Evans (from left), Alejandra Gonzalez and Rishi Muchhala socialize before dinner at the HEAL gala.



Monica Pajcic (left) and Ruthie Wyatt pose during the gala cocktail hour.

Photos by Daniela Toporek



# Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary, Beaches Go Green join forces for Mickler's Landing cleanup

By Jennifer Logue

Saturday's strong winds and brisk early-morning temperatures didn't deter hundreds of local residents from gathering at Mickler's Landing for a community beach cleanup.

Organized by the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach in partnership with the nonprofit Beaches Go Green, the volunteer effort saw everyone from young children and local high school students to senior citizens fan out across the beach to collect cigarette butts, debris and other litter.

"We wanted to do an event for the 'Family of Rotary,'" said Rotarian Marc Savy, noting that the international service organization sponsors EarlyAct programs in local elementary schools as well as high school Interact programs and a Rotaract Club for young professionals. "The (Ponte Vedra Beach) Rotary regularly cleans up A1A, but obviously that wasn't a safe option for young children. We wanted to organize an event in an environment where everyone from the youngest kids to the adults could participate."

Savy reached out to Beaches Go Green, which enthusiastically got on board with the event. The organization provided hundreds of collection buckets and gloves, while local restaurant Trasca & Co. Eatery provided coffee, cocoa and post-cleanup pasta for the legion of volunteers.

"It's really awesome to see so many organizations and businesses come together for an event like this," Beaches Go Green Executive Director Taryn Montgomery said. "It shows that people care and really want to get involved and help the environment."

Bob Davenport was among the volunteers present. Also known as "Bucket Bob," Davenport regularly patrols Mickler's Landing, collecting thousands of cigarette butts, trash, clothing, towels and other items left behind by beach goers. After the recent Valentine's Day holiday, he said, the beach was littered with deflated mylar balloons, which can choke and suffocate birds and turtles.

"Not all balloons go to heaven," Davenport quipped. "They come back as trash; instead of letting balloons go, how about planting a tree?"

Still, Davenport said he was pleased to see the strong turnout for Saturday's cleanup.

"It's good to see more people out here participating," he said. "It would be great if it could be done more regularly."



Beaches Go Green Executive Director Taryn Montgomery



Bob Davenport displays some of the balloons left behind at Mickler's Landing that choke birds and turtles.



Isabella Wheeler, 8, and Vanessa Galan of Jacksonville Beach learned of the cleanup online.



Deborah and Marc Ressler with Ed Dalton participated as part of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach.



PVPV Rawlings student Sophie Kimber, 10, cleans the beach with her father, Ryan Kimber.



Rotarians Richard Hana and Marc Savy, who brought his 5-year-old daughter Kinsley.

Photos by Jennifer Logue



*Sara Frasca is the co-owner of Trasca & Co. Eatery with Karina Coryell. Frasca is also the vice president of Innovation Enablement for Platypus Labs, an innovation consulting firm.*

## Sara Frasca



Photo provided by Sara Frasca

As told to Maggie FitzRoy

### **Most people in the community know you from Trasca & Co. Eatery, so when did you start your career with Platypus Labs?**

After carrying on my family's legacy in the restaurant business, I wanted to restart my career in business. So I hired a general manager to take over the daily operations of the restaurant, which allowed me to be involved in the strategy with the restaurant while freeing up my time and stepping back a little bit.

### **Tell us about Platypus Labs.**

We help to unleash the creativity that lays dormant in individuals, teams and organizations, allowing them to think differently to drive results.

### **Who are some of the people and organizations you work with?**

We work with global brands and businesses that are eager to disrupt and find new ways of serving their customers and clients.

### **What types of companies?**

We work in a number of different industries, from automotive to financial services to consumer products.

### **What do you love about it?**

I get to work with so many different industries and

groups. I get to work with so many different industries, schools, companies doing clinical trials to cure cancer. The second reason I love this—I have the opportunity to witness people having an ah-ha moment. I get the chance to see them realize that they, too, can find ways to drive everyday innovation. It's very rewarding.

### **Do you travel a lot?**

I travel quite a bit. I like to joke that I see my boss and CEO more often than I see my friends. And the funny part is that he lives in Los Angeles.

### **In addition to California, where do you travel?**

All over the world. A lot of times when I do keynote speaking, I travel to where the company is having a team meeting. Could be Vancouver, Orlando, Las Vegas. I also travel to corporate headquarters around the world.

### **Tell us about your family.**

My husband, Jon Albert, is a fifth-grade teacher. We have five children. My husband was able to support me in opening the restaurant and then helping me with the family as I travel and help build the Platypus Labs business. My children are Ashley, 13; Georgia, 10; Alex, 9; Oliver, 8 and A.J., 7.

### **Who in the Ponte Vedra Beach or Jacksonville communities would benefit from your services?**

Leaders who know that innovation is important but aren't sure how to build a culture that enables inventive

thinking. Who want to empower their team, but need a systematic approach.

### **What type of business background do you have that prepared you for your career with Platypus Labs?**

I spent about 15 years in corporate America. I was also part of a couple of tech-based startups. And I also launched Trasca. It enabled me to be able to understand the entrepreneurial fire, tenacity, grit necessary for building a business. And to also understand just chasing the bottom line.

### **Do you have any hobbies?**

My family is everything to me. So chasing my kids around is what I do in my spare time. My husband and I also like to kayak in the Intracoastal.

### **Where did you grow up?**

In Minnesota, in St. Paul. I'm very happy to escape the cold.

### **Where do you live now?**

In Nocatee. We moved there in 2015 from Ponte Vedra Beach and we love it.

### **How can people learn more about your new business career?**

Visit [sarafrasca.com](http://sarafrasca.com) or email me at [sara@platypus-labs.com](mailto:sara@platypus-labs.com).



# Local Backyard Buffalo micro dairy dishes out unique, creamy treats

By Amber Lake

Sometimes a craving for something can last for hours, settling somewhere deep and laying in wait until properly fulfilled.

When a craving like that strikes, it's less like wanting something than being haunted by it.

One day, Punita Patel, Palm Valley resident and owner of Backyard Buffalo micro dairy, had just that sort of peculiar hankering, one she couldn't shake.

"I don't like American tea," Patel said. "I couldn't figure out why it was so different from Indian tea. That's where it started," she said of her business, "because I wanted a good cup of tea."

As it goes, the special ingredient to great Indian tea isn't the leaves, but the milk. Specifically, water buffalo milk, a common dairy ingredient to many Indian food staples, such as khoa, paneer, ghee and shrikhand, which is a yogurt-like product that Backyard Buffalo specializes in.

Currently, there is only one other water buffalo farm in Florida and only a handful in the U.S. For Patel, this meant a lot of work for a decent cup of tea.

Patel started Backyard Buffalo three years ago with no prior experience, having worked in the nonprofit sector prior to moving to Ponte Vedra Beach.

"I didn't know how to milk the buffaloes," Patel said. "I didn't know anything about buffaloes and I've never seen them up close. So, to bring a buffalo in my backyard was super intimidating."

Today, the farm houses eight buffalo, with three currently producing milk. Patel's first and favorite, Goldie, recently had her first calf born on the farm. Each morning, Patel wakes up early for a milking, where she acquires only about 2.5 gallons — much less than a typical dairy cow, which produces around 8 gallons per day.

Patel did a lot of research and asked a lot of questions before starting Backyard Buffalo. The farming community accepted her with open arms. As hard as the work is, Patel said she has found it incredibly rewarding. She soon learned that there are few buffalo farms in the United States because the yield per animal is low. With low profit margins, the milk doesn't take well to an American industrial setting. According to Patel, the product, however, is worth the effort.

Buffalo milk is typically creamier and thicker than cow milk, having less water content. It has a mild, sweet flavor that is often described as richer than regular milk. Patel said that is because buffaloes



Koko, the dog, watches over the farm.

deliver a more "concentrated" version of milk for their babies, which has more minerals like calcium, phosphorus, magnesium and potassium per ounce.

A water buffalo milking involves somewhat of a pampering hand. Without the cosset of a familiar face and routine, they will "pull the milk," meaning, hold the milk from leaving the udder. Patel utilizes a gentle touch with the aid of some delicious barley she acquires from Green Room Brewery after leftover craft beer production. While the buffalo munch away, they let down their teats and Patel fashions on an automatic stainless-steel pump that smoothly sips out the milk with a whirling electric purr. The process usually takes two to three hours.

From that, Patel pasteurizes and creates an array of unique products, which she sells at farmers markets to an increasingly ravenous crowd. Because her yield is so low and her farm small, she is currently "breaking even," although selling out of product every week. Shrikhand, her "yogurt" product is becoming increasingly popular, however. Her sweet, creamy version is often accompanied with lemon or mango puree and flavored with cardamom and nutmeg. It's a style that hails from her hometown in Gujarat, India.

"I wasn't sure how it would sell in this market," Patel said. On a whim, "I took some to the farmer's market and it was a sell-out, a hit from day one. That's when I realized, this is it."

These days, Patel said people are coming back, specifically looking for shrikhand, and finding themselves disap-



Photos by Amber Lake

Backyard Buffalo recently welcomed the addition of a newborn calf from mother, Goldie.



The farm is also home to sheep, who keep the water buffalo company.

pointed when she is out. Unfortunately for them, Patel owns the entire market for buffalo milk shrikhand in the United States.

"People come craving it," Patel said. "They have to wait until next week." They usually do.

Backyard Buffalo can be found at Beaches Green Market at Jarboe Park in Neptune Beach on Saturdays from 2 to 5 p.m. To learn more about Backyard Buffalo, visit their Facebook page or website at [www.backyardbuffalo.com](http://www.backyardbuffalo.com).



The farm currently holds about 40 chickens.



# Annual luncheon honors county's first responders

By Daniela Toporek

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty hosted its fourth First Responders Appreciation Luncheon on Feb. 20, honoring all first responders serving in St. Johns County.

The annual event was created by Berkshire Hathaway Broker Associate Bill Irwin after Hurricane Matthew and its 65 mile-per-hour winds swept through the county in 2016.

“We decided to do it as a thank you for everything they do for us and rather than the event being a one-time deal, we decided to do it every year,” Irwin said.

This was Commander Scott Beaver’s first year attending the luncheon. He said that on behalf of St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar and the St. Johns County



Broker associate Bill Irwin and Realtor Andreea Light helped organize and coordinate the 2020 luncheon.

Sheriff’s office, it was everything they could have hoped for.

“They have all kinds of food, like pulled pork and side dishes and a bunch

LUNCHEON continues on Page 9



ABOVE: First responders of St. Johns County are honored Feb. 20 at Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR’s fourth annual First Responders Appreciation Luncheon, where BH associates prepared home-cooked dishes, goodie bags and giveaway prizes for honored attendees.



LEFT: Commander Scott Beaver stands in front of Berkshire Hathaway’s office after taking group photos.

Photos by Daniela Toporek

annette görtz  
fall/winter 2020

## Trunk Show

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**ABOVE:** Paramedic Lt. Dan Jourbert serves himself a plate of Pettry's pulled pork at the luncheon.

**RIGHT:** Deb Pettry, Linda Sherrer and Molly Thompson get ready to dig in at the luncheon. Most dishes were home-made and brought by Pettry.

Photos by Daniela Toporek



Realtor Shannon Harvick and son Knox celebrate the luncheon in style.

## Luncheon

Continued from 8

of desserts. We prefer donuts, but we'll take what we can get," Beaver said, joking. "And on top of that, there were door prizes that they gave out. It was a really nice luncheon."

One of the giveaway prizes was a guided fishing trip for four, according to Irwin, who offered words of gratitude for all the businesses that helped with the event.

"We couldn't do it without partners like the Sawgrass Marriott, the Hilton Garden Inn and everyone that contributes to the prizes," he said. "It just makes this a lot of fun. It's the least we can do and it's nothing compared to what they do."



### Steps Away from San Marco Square

Great investment property within walking distance to San Marco Square & the St Johns River. This upstairs corner unit offers a bright & white kitchen has stainless steel appliances, including wine cooler and granite counter tops. The condo was structurally re-engineered, redesigned & rebuilt in 2005. **2 bedrooms, 2 baths \$345,000**



### The Perfect Beach Escape

Las Mirandas / Oceanfront Condo  
Located between The Lodge and the Cabana Beach Club, this second-story condo gives elevated views of the beach while maintaining the unit's privacy and security. Includes a large covered balcony and ground floor storage. **3 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms \$1,625,000**



### Oceanfront on Duval Drive

Built in 2017, this sophisticated custom oceanfront home showcases smart features and thoughtful design throughout with an emphasis on sustainability and energy efficiency. With an abundance of natural light this 5-bedroom home offers two master suites along with an office and media room. **5 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms \$4,250,000**



### Panoramic Guana to Ocean Views

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



### Design Oceanfront Oasis

Design your dream home on this oceanfront estate. With over 230 ft. of ocean frontage, this lush property will inspire your inner visionary and designer. Whether you are looking to build your dream home or renovate, this 1.6-acre estate makes for the ideal place to call home. **4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths \$3,650,000**



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## OBITUARIES

### Donald D. Asmus

Donald D. Asmus, 70, died Monday, February 17, 2020, in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.



Donald D. Asmus

He was born on December 29, 1949, in South Bend, IN, to Donald and Lois (Ley) Brooks. He graduated from Niles High School in 1968, served his country in the United States Army and attended the University of Michigan. After school, he went to work for Procter & Gamble in Cheboygan, MI. Don married Deborah Rene Deming on November 21, 1970 in Niles, MI. In 1986, the family moved to Perry, FL, where Don ultimately retired from Buckeye Technologies, formerly Procter & Gamble, in 2013.

In his spare time, Don enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson, flying airplanes, watching football and NASCAR, and most importantly, spending time with Debbie and his grandchildren. Don was a member of Christ Episcopal Church in

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.

Don is survived by his loving wife, Debbie; two sons, Scott (Angela) Asmus, Houston, TX, Ryan (Heather) Asmus, Lake City, FL; two grandsons, Zane Asmus, Houston, TX, and Wesley Asmus, Lake City, FL; three granddaughters, Allie, Gracie, and Sophia Asmus, Lake City, FL; one sister, Alice (Larry) Fisher, Peru, IN; two brothers, Robert Asmus, Niles, MI, and Thomas Asmus, New Boston, TX; along with several nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lois and Thomas Asmus and Donald Brooks.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 18, at Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Dr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, 32082, with a celebration of life to follow from noon to 1:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made in memory of Don to Community Hospice and Palliative Care, <https://www.communityhospice.com/give/> or Christ Episcopal Church, <https://www.christepiscopalchurch.org/give/>. Please sign the online guestbook at [www.pontevedravalle.com](http://www.pontevedravalle.com).

### Sarita May Sparrow

Sarita May Sparrow died February 17, 2020, at the age of 82. She spent her years



Sarita May Sparrow

sharing her love of floral arranging, interior design, gardening and entertaining with loving friends and family from North Carolina to Florida.

Born in Leaksville, North Carolina in 1938, she attended East Carolina University and married her high school sweetheart, Frankie May. Frank graduated Wake Forest University, where he was a member of the Sigma Epsilon fraternity and Sarita was Sig Ep Sweetheart. They lived in Winston-Salem, where they raised both their children, Elizabeth May Peck and George Franklin (Chip) May, Jr. Sarita was an avid member of the Junior Women's Club and The Garden Club Counsel of Winston-Salem, having served as President of both organizations.

She moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1998 to be near her children; her first cousin and childhood compatriot, Kenneth Campbell; and his entire family. She joined Christ Episcopal Church and quickly became an active member in that community. Sarita's love for life brought her close to the hearts of many in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Sarita recently married the love of her life, David Sparrow. Together, they planned to be parishioners of Christ, keep family and friends close to their hearts and live the next chapters of their lives to the fullest. They had just begun their journey. Those who knew Sarita say she lived a full life but passed too soon. She had many more dances left to dance.

She is survived by her husband, David Sparrow; two children, Elizabeth May and Frank Jr. "Chip" May (wife Holly); and her granddaughter, Lauren Elizabeth Peck. She will be missed by all who were touched by her life.

A memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, February 27 at Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach, with a reception for family and friends to follow.

In honor of Sarita and in lieu of flowers, please send donations to Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Dr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082. Arrangements are by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home. Please visit the online tribute at [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).



## ROTARY CLUB OF PONTE VEDRA FILLS BACKPACKS FOR GOOD CAUSE



Photo provided by Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra members, their spouses and kids recently gathered at the home of the club president, Hilary Wilson, to fill backpacks with basic necessary items for adolescents entering the Fostering Connections St John's County program. The Rotary Club takes pride in the many local projects that they've participated in through giving of funds and members "hands-on" involvement.

## Sunset Rotary renames scholarship in memory of past leader Jeff Hart

Club to present 2 \$1K awards to Nease, PVHS graduates

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset has renamed its annual scholarship program in memory of former club president and active district Rotarian Jeff Hart.

Henceforth, the club will annually present the "Jeff Hart Memorial Service Above Self Scholarship" to a graduate of both Ponte Vedra and Allen D. Nease high schools.

The \$1,000 scholarship will be presented to applicants who are involved in community service; currently enrolled as juniors or seniors at either school; and planning to attend college, university, technical or trade school after high school graduation. Children of Rotarians are not eligible for scholarship consideration.

A Rotarian since 2004, Hart was active in the international service organization at both the club and district level and exem-

plified Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self," club members said. In addition to serving as a club president, he served as Rotary foundation chair and as district chair for Rotary Youth Exchange, which each year sends local high school students to study in countries around the world. Hart also served as advisor for Nease High School's Interact Club and as chair of the Sunset Rotary Club's "Service Above Self Scholarship" from its inception in 2011. In 2018, Hart received Rotary District 6970's Brent Williams Spirit of Rotary Award. He died in April 2019.

Students interested in applying for the 2020 "Jeff Hart Memorial Service Above Self Scholarship" may visit <https://forms.gle/e6qC98y3twcEVjJJ7> to complete an online application package. Applications must be received by March 30, 2020, with scholarship recipients announced no later than May 3, 2020. For more information, contact the Sunset club's scholarship chairs at [JeffHartSASS@gmail.com](mailto:JeffHartSASS@gmail.com).

## U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to offer boating safety course

Flotilla 14-7 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard will offer a one-day boating course, "About Boating Safety," starting March 7.

The course is designed to inform and instruct owners and passengers on recreational boats, using approved course materials which are furnished to the attendees. "About Boating Safety" is open

to family members and individuals at the Northeast Florida Regional Airport Conference Center, beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. for each class. The course is approved for the state of Florida and given

by certified instructors under the auspices of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Any boat operator in Florida born after



# Beaches Museum hosts Boardwalk Talk honoring novelist Zora Neale Hurston

Tru Leverette speaks about Hurston's achievements and contributions to African American history

By Amber Lake

Tru Leverette, Ph. D., associate professor of English at the University of North Florida, was a guest speaker the Beaches Museum Feb. 25 as part of the museum's Boardwalk Talk lecture series.

Leverette's lecture, entitled Zora Neale Hurston and the Pleasure of her Company, drew a packed crowd to the Beaches Museum Chapel in Jacksonville Beach.

Zora Neale Hurston is most famously known for her novel, "Their Eyes Were Watching God," however, Leverette also spoke about her lesser known contribution toward the Harlem Renaissance, her anthropological studies and her enigmatic personal life. Hurston, who died in 1960, was one of the first scientists to actively document and capture African American oral tradition folklore, such as "Brer Rabbit" and "Signifying Monkey." Because of her work, many firsthand recollections



Zora Neale Hurston

and retellings were captured and preserved. Growing up in the all black town of Eatonville, Florida, Leverette said Hurston also spent some time in Jacksonville while attending school. Here, Leverette said, was where she first experienced racial discrimination as she retells in her essay, "How it Feels to be Colored Me." Due to her experiences, much of Hurston's fiction work takes place in Florida. Today, Orange County celebrates a Zora

Neale Hurston festival every year at the anniversary of her death.

Hurston's work is widely recognized as some of the pinnacle literary achievements during the Harlem Renaissance. She died in 1960, however, she was mostly unrecognized until years after her death, during the 1970s. She is known for capturing African American dialect as it was spoken in the South in the 20s and 30s, which can be tied back to her work preserving the region's folklore, also known as "Lying Sessions."

Leverette's presentation was held at the Beaches Museum honoring Black History Month. Next month the museum will be celebrating women's suffrage with Dr. Peggy Macdonald presenting "Florida's Female Pioneers," on March 5 at 6 p.m. For more information on upcoming Boardwalk Talks or chapel events, visit, beachesmuseum.org.



Photo by Amber Lake

Tru Leverette, Ph.D., associate professor of English at the University of North Florida where she teaches African-American literature and serves as director of African-American/African Diaspora Studies.

## Boating

Continued from 10

Jan. 1, 1988, must have in their possession a Florida Boating Safety Education Identification Card when operating a vessel powered by 10 horsepower or more. If the course is completed successfully, the state will issue a boater's ID card after certified instructors submit the final paperwork of the course.

Cost of the class is \$30 per person and/or the first family member and \$10 for each shared attendee.

To sign up for the course, visit [www.abs.mysafeboating.com](http://www.abs.mysafeboating.com). For more information, email the course instructor, Public Education Officer Bob Elliott at [pe@mysafeboating.com](mailto:pe@mysafeboating.com).

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<p><b>Job hunting with J. Dianne Tribble</b> On Feb. 27 at Christ Episcopal Church, listen to two high-energy presentations by J. Dianne Tribble, Certified Professional Life Coach, Motivational Speaker, Published Author and Business Start-Up Consultant. Dianne will discuss the innovative ways to approach new job searches. Buddy Webster of LEADERS Professional Recruiting will also be attending and reviewing resumes following the workshop. Sign in and network at 8:30 a.m. The presentation will start at 9 a.m. For questions or more information, email Pam Ottesen at pottesen66@gmail.com. Christ Episcopal Church is located at 400 San Juan Dr. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Open gym at Solomon Calhoun Center</b> Bring the team and play ball during open gym hours at the Solomon Calhoun Center in Saint Augustine. The gym will be open to adults from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., and students from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, through May 29. This program is free, but guests must bring their own basketball and sign in upon arrival. For more information, email Ashley Brown at abrown@sjcfl.us or call (904) 209-0379. The Solomon Calhoun Center is located at 1300 Duval Street in Saint Augustine.</p> <p><b>Wellness Workshop: Building Healthy Behaviors</b> At 6 p.m., Feb. 27, Momentum Wellness will discuss how to create a healthy lifestyle by changing simple behaviors. Owner Marie Merritt will show what it looks like to live an active and healthy lifestyle in and out of the gym. Learn how to implement realistic behavior changes that will impact the body. Cost is \$25 and can be found on Eventbrite.com. Momentum Wellness is located at 5150 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Thirsty Thursdays at Al's Pizza</b> What's a better combination than pizza and beer? Every Thursday from open to close, Al's Pizza serves \$1.50 Yuengling Lager and house wines. Al's Pizza is located at 635 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p><b>Spanish Wine Festival 2020</b> The St. Augustine Spanish Wine Festival will be hosted Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28 and 29, offering Spanish food and wine for visitors and locals to enjoy while showcasing the many aspects of Spanish influence on the culinary scene in St. Augustine. Proceeds from the festival will benefit Hospitality and Tourism Management Program at Flagler College. For tickets or more information, visit <a href="http://www.spanishwinefestival.com">www.spanishwinefestival.com</a>. The festival will take place at Flagler College, located at 74 King Street in Saint Augustine.</p> <p><b>5th annual DTJax Gala</b> On the 20th anniversary of Downtown Vision's Inc. being downtown Jacksonville's Business Improvement District, DTJax is celebrating the Roaring Twenties and Jacksonville's jazz heritage at the 5th annual #DTJax Gala on Feb. 28. Hosted at the One Enterprise Center, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., the Feeling Ritzy Gala will feature an interactive exhibit from the Ritz Theatre and Museum, bringing LaVilla's heritage of jazz, ragtime, blues and black history to life. The evening will feature jazz performers, swing dancers, food and drink from downtown establishments, a silent auction and photo booth. For tickets or more information, visit <a href="http://www.DTJAXGALA.com">www.DTJAXGALA.com</a>. One Enterprise Center is located at 225 Water Street, #1575 in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Ponte Vedra Professional Networking Group meeting</b> 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. 28 at 8:45 a.m. Fidelity Bank is located at 110 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Trash to Treasures sale</b> Stop by the Ribault Garden Club's Trash to Treasures sale from 5 to 7 p.m., Feb. 28, for "bargains aplenty." For \$10, shoppers can upgrade and add wine and appetizers to the experience. Items include household goods, kitchenware, books, jewelry, children's toys, clothing (women, men, children) and more. The Ribault Garden Club is located at 705 Second Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p><b>Tipsy Tea Party</b> Guests are invited through the gates of the invitation-only venue Fantasy Farms, for a whimsical cocktail party from 6 to 10 p.m. on Leap Day, Feb. 29. The evening will feature a cocktail hour and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Local restaurants and mixologists will have their best hand-crafted desserts and cocktails for all to sample and vote for their favorites. After the tasting, enjoy live entertainment, a silent auction and the Fantasy Farms property filled with rescue animals, classic cars and kitschy artifacts. Proceeds from Tipsy Tea Party will benefit Fostering Connections St. Johns' leadership programs including a college scholarship for youth transitioning out of foster care. Tickets can be found by visiting <a href="http://www.tickettailor.com/events/fosteringconnections-stjohns/322402">www.tickettailor.com/events/fosteringconnections-stjohns/322402</a>. For questions or more information, call Fostering Connections St. Johns at (904) 813-5809. Fantasy Farms is located at 194 S. Roscoe Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Beaches WellFest</b> Stop by Johansen Park on Feb. 29 and enjoy a wellness festival filled with events on the Main Stage, sponsored by Baptist Health. WellFest will kick off with an all-levels yoga class with MBody Yoga at 10 a.m., following with a tone and strengthening session from Pure Barre at 11 a.m. and more throughout the afternoon. Precision Mobile Mammography will be onsite for 3D mammograms. For more information, visit the WellFest 5k Facebook event page titled, "Run WellFest." Johansen Park is located at 1535 Park Terrace E. in Atlantic Beach.</p> <p><b>Science &amp; History River Tours</b> Ahoj! Take a ride through history on the St. Johns River Saturday afternoons with the Museum of Science and History and the St. Johns River Taxi. The Science &amp; History River Tours are now accompanied by a "history host" who will guide guests through the history of Jacksonville and the significance the river has played in the community over time. The boat tour is from 3 to 3:30 p.m. Arrive at 2:45 p.m. Admission cost is \$15 adults and \$12 children. For more information, contact the MOSH at (904) 396-6674. The MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Cir. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>Wellness Walk: A stroll for wellbeing</b> Join St Johns County Naturalist AyoLane Halusky from 10 a.m. to noon at the Arboretum Trail at the St. Augustine AMP and learn about the environment and Forest Therapy skills. Walk with intention and reduce stress. For more information, email AyoLane Halusky at <a href="mailto:ahalusky@sjcfl.us">ahalusky@sjcfl.us</a> or call (904) 209-0348. The Arboretum Trail at the St. Augustine AMP is located at 1340C A1A S. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>El Jefe's Kitchen Takeover series: Vol. 1</b> Be the first to experience El Jefe's new Kitchen Takeover series March 1, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., where chefs around Jacksonville share their take on Mexican cuisine. Chef Wesley Nogueira of Kloe's Kitchen kicks off this unique collaboration with a modern Mexican six-course dining experience. Tickets cost \$55 and can be found on <a href="http://www.Eventbrite.com">www.Eventbrite.com</a> by searching for, "El Jefe's Kitchen Takeover Chef's Dinner Vol.1." El Jefe is located at 947 Edgewood Ave. S. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Yoga in the Gardens</b> Wellness nonprofit Harmony is hosting a yoga practice at the Jacksonville Arboretum &amp; Gardens from 11 a.m. to noon, Feb. 16. Enjoy a stress-free morning in nature, quieting the mind, engaging the body and restoring the spirit. This is kid friendly family event. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. No mat? No problem Harmony has plenty to share. Just bring a friend and smile. For questions or more information about the event or nonprofit, call Harmony at (904) 401-5929. The Jacksonville Arboretum &amp; Gardens are located at 1445 Millcoke Road in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Sundays at Surfer the Bar</b> Join Big Fish Power Yoga on Sundays for a free Music &amp; Flow class at Surfer the Bar. The class is held upstairs at the bar and runs from 10 to 11 a.m. every week. Bring friends and family and enjoy brunch and mimosas downstairs following class. Register under classes on <a href="http://bigfishpower yoga.com">bigfishpower yoga.com</a>. Surfer the Bar is located at 200 First Street in Jacksonville Beach.</p>

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Monday, March 2	Tuesday, March 3	Wednesday, March 4	Thursday, March 5
<p><b>Wisdom's Table at Mavi Jax</b> Palms Presbyterian Church invites the community to Wisdom's Table, a monthly connection event with a view, hosted at Mavi Waterfront Bar &amp; Grille the on first Mondays of the month. Network and share experiences of seeking wisdom over food and beverages as the meet focuses on a "wisdom quote" from a variety of sources. For a complete listing of all food and beverages, visit <a href="http://www.MaviJax.com">www.MaviJax.com</a>. All are welcome. For questions or more information, email Holly Inglis at <a href="mailto:holly.inglis@palmschurch.org">holly.inglis@palmschurch.org</a> or call (904) 246.6427 ext. 103. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. and the conversation starts at 6:30 p.m. Mavi Waterfront Bar &amp; Grill is located at . 2309 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Trivia at Mellow Mushroom</b> Join Mellow Mushroom every Monday night at 7 p.m. for trivia with Trivia Nation. This event is free to play and there are prizes for the winners. Mellow Mushroom is located at 1018-2 Third Street N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Run Club at Southern Swells</b> Join Jax Beach Runners Monday nights at Southern Swells Brewing Co. for an evening run at 7 p.m. It is a 4.2-mile route, but runners can run as much as they'd like. After, enjoy \$1 Southern Swells beers for all who ran. For more information, visit the MeetUp page at <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Jax-Beach-Runners/">www.meetup.com/Jax-Beach-Runners/</a>. Southern Swells Brewing Co. is located at 1312 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>MOSH Mondays</b> Experience all of MOSH's exhibits, interactive programming, hands-on activities, special discounts and more on MOSH Mondays, hosted each Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Promotions include buy-one-get-one-half-off admission for adults, a 10% discount on MOSH merchandise, memberships and birthday packages; additional screenings of "Molecularium" in the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium, scavenger hunts, interactive sessions and science shows with MOSH educators and more. For questions or more information, call Amy Chamberlin at (904) 396-6674 ext. 242 or email at <a href="mailto:achamberlin@themosh.org">achamberlin@themosh.org</a>. The MOSH located at 1025 Museum Cir. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>Parents with Hope</b> Parents With Hope is a support group at Ponte Vedra Valley for parents who are suffering from the devastating loss of an adult child. The goal is to provide a support system in an informal setting for parents who are facing each new day without their child. The group will be led by other parents in the community who have been forced to live with the unexpected loss and want to provide contact with other grieving parents. The group mission is to provide a place of comfort and strength by sharing stories, pain and laughter, as well tears with others who can relate. Sessions are planned on the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. The support group is free of charge and registration is not required. Ponte Vedra Valley is located at 4750 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>First Coast Newcomers Club card playing date</b> The First Coast Newcomers Club will host its next card playing date and dinner in a private room in St. Augustine. Arrive at 4:30 p.m. Card playing begins at 5:30 p.m. For the exact location, to join or for more information, contact the club organizer at (904) 814-9612.</p> <p><b>Kids' \$1 Tuesdays at Trasca &amp; Co Eatery</b> Take the kids out to eat and save some money every Tuesday at Trasca &amp; Co Eatery. Children eat for \$1 with the purchase of an adult entrée. The special works for dine-in, take out and deliveries. For more information, call Trasca &amp; Co Eatery at (904) 395-3989. Trasca &amp; Co Eatery is located at 155 Tourside Dr. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Men's Over 40 Basketball</b> This active recreational group meets at the Palms Presbyterian Church gym (Fellowship Hall), Tuesdays at 6 p.m., for exercise and fellowship. The group is open to all who want to play some ball. For more information, call Paul Short at (904) 626-5305. Palms Presbyterian Church is located at 3410 Third Street S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p><b>After-Hours at THE PLAYERS Championship</b> Join JAX Chamber on March 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., to celebrate THE PLAYERS Championship at this annual networking event co-hosted with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Nearly 700 Northeast Florida business leaders joined last year and expectations are for 2020 are better than ever. Cost is \$25 for Chamber members and \$30 for nonmembers. Member and nonmember can register to attend at <a href="http://www.bit.ly/AfterHoursT-PC2020">www.bit.ly/AfterHoursT-PC2020</a>. THE PLAYERS Championship is located at 5387 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Palms Presbyterian Church Fine Arts series: The Concordia Choir</b> The Palms Presbyterian Church Fine Arts series will present The Concordia Choir from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, on Wednesday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. The concert is free to attend and open to the public. Childcare is provided. Palms Presbyterian Church is located at 3410 Third Street S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>First Wednesday Artwalk</b> The First Wednesday Art Walk is a monthly event produced by Downtown Vision, Inc. (DVI), the Business Improvement District, to bring people to the cultural and historical center of the city and showcase Jacksonville's deep and energetic pool of creative talent. Open to visual and performing artists, Art Walk is on first Wednesdays of the month from 5 to 9 p.m., rain or shine in downtown Jacksonville, centering in Hemming Park. Explore Jacksonville's local art, talent and businesses and much more March 4. For more information, contact Hemming Park at (904) 515-5098. Hemming Park is located at 135 W. Monroe Street in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Caregiver support group</b> This group will meet at The Palms at Ponte Vedra on March 4 at noon and encourages caregivers to maintain their own personal, physical and emotional health while caring for a person with dementia. It also provides a needed break from caregiving responsibilities. Support groups create a safe, confidential, supportive environment. The Palms is located at 405 Solana Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p><b>Diana Ross at the Times Union Center for Performing Arts</b> Legendary singer Diana Ross is coming back to Jacksonville and performing at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts' Moran Theater on March 4, from 8 to 11 p.m. For tickets or more information, visit <a href="http://www.Ticketmaster.com">www.Ticketmaster.com</a>. The Times-Union Center for Performing Arts' Moran Theater is located at 300 Water Street in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Torah &amp; Tea</b> Join fellow Jewish women for camaraderie and refreshments as they meet for "Torah &amp; Tea," Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. This weekly study group finds relevant messages from issues discussed in the Weekly Torah portion. Reservations can be made by contacting Leah Kurinsky at <a href="mailto:lkurinsky@gmail.com">lkurinsky@gmail.com</a> or (904) 543-9301. Torah and Tea meets at Chabad at the Beaches, located at 521 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Teaching language to children with autism workshop</b> Register for a free two-day workshop March 5 and 6, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., for parents and service providers learning to teach language to children with autism. Participants will gain a greater awareness of behavior analysis as a science of learning and acquire the understanding and application of the basic principles of applied behavior analysis. A focus will be on utilizing B.F. Skinner's analysis of verbal behavior to assist in the acquisition of language skills for children with developmental disabilities. To register for the workshop or for more information, visit <a href="http://www.thejerichoschool.org/community-out-reach-program">www.thejerichoschool.org/community-out-reach-program</a>. The Saint Augustine Convention Center is located at 500 S. Legacy Trail in Saint Augustine.</p> <p><b>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to <a href="mailto:Daniela@opcfla.com">Daniela@opcfla.com</a> or call (904) 686-3939.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Compiled by Daniela Toporek</b></p>

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# Cultural Center hosts inaugural awards ceremony

By Daniela Toporek

The Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach made a splash at The Surf Club at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club when it hosted its inaugural Beaches: Celebration of the Arts awards ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 23.

Guests from around Jacksonville and the Beaches gathered to celebrate individuals and organizations who St. Johns County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker had declared, “made a significant impact on art in our community.”

The evening began with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres and was followed by a silent auction with a variety of items that included artwork from Ocean Sole, a local enterprise that upcycles washed up flip-flops found along beaches and waterways in Kenya and turns them into vibrant works of art.

To add some live-action artistry, special guest and artist Eugene Quinn was commissioned to paint serene beach landscapes outside on the Surf Club patio.

“I’m painting this piece as a contribution to the auction,” Quinn said. “I’ve been visiting the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club since I was seven years old, so it’s a bit surreal to be painting here now. It’s pretty cool.”

The awards ceremony began with vocalist Sara Gartland serenading the audience, a capella-style, followed by a live auction with emcee Toni Chrabot.

“Tonight, we celebrate individuals and organizations that share their passion for the arts and their time, talent and treasures,” Chrabot declared.



**ABOVE:** The Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach hosted its inaugural “Beaches: A Celebration of the Arts” awards ceremony Feb. 23 at The Surf Club in the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

**LEFT:** Cultural Center Executive Director Donna Guzzo (left) and Beaches Honorary Chair Irene Lazzara (center) present the “Beaches Award” to Christine Hoffman of the Beaches Museum for her dedication and contribution to the arts of all forms.



**Burnt Glassworks owners Jess and Andy Peters attended the Beaches event, showcasing their glass-blown trophies for the ceremony’s winners.**

BEACHES continues on Page 16

Photos by Daniela Toporek

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Photo provided by Jess Peters from Burnt Glassworks  
**Surf-inspired trophies were custom-made by Jacksonville’s Burnt Glassworks founders, Jess and Andy Peters.**



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

*"Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace ..."*

— May Sarton



**Kathy Esfahani**  
Columnist

### CITRUS TREES

Ever wonder what type of citrus trees thrive in Northeast Florida? Growing citrus is not only great for fresh fruit, but they are beautiful ornate trees with a wonderful scent. All citrus trees in this region require a minimum of six hours of sunlight or more. They also require more water than most trees no matter if the weather is hot or cold. Dwarf trees are suited for smaller yards and spaces, whereas a big yard may have many large citrus trees. Fertilizing with specific citrus fertilizer quarterly is key to the success of these trees growing in our zone. Here are some of the most popular in our area:

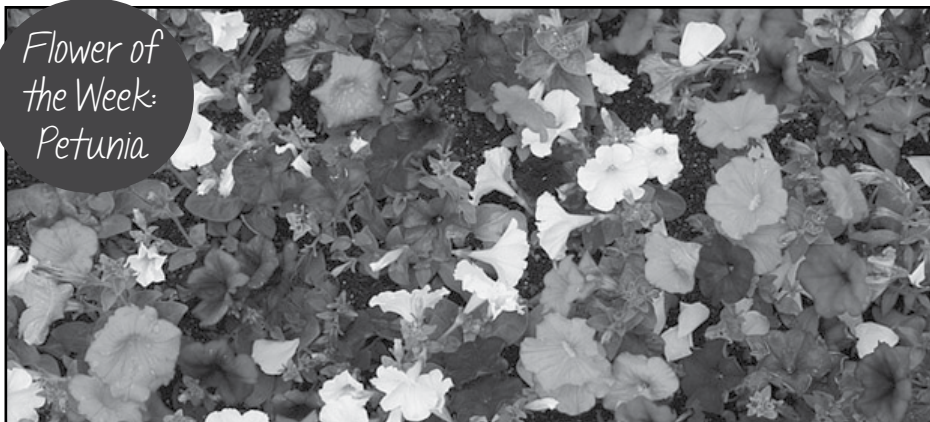
Meyer Lemon, Persian Lime, Tangerine, Valencia Orange, Ponderosa Lemon, Key Lime, Ruby Red Grapefruit, Calamondin, Mandarin Orange and Cocktail Citrus tree.

A Cocktail Citrus tree is grafted with three to five fruits, including orange, grapefruit, lemons, and limes. It's a great option if you only need one citrus tree in your landscaping but want to have multiple fruits. Fun fact: Each year, the Cocktail Citrus tree can bear different fruits than the year before.

Now that the weather is warming up, it's a perfect time to purchase citrus.

Please email Kathy at [kcg.pvr@gmail.com](mailto:kcg.pvr@gmail.com) for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future.

Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery 196 N. Roscoe Blvd., (904) 655-7373



Flower of the Week:  
Petunia

## Lions Seafood Festival returns to St. Augustine March 20-22

The annual St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival returns to St. Augustine March 20-22 at St. Francis Field.

The celebration is a three-day extravaganza of seafood, festival fare, arts and crafts, live music, kids' rides and family activities.

Each day of the festival will also include meet-and-greets for kids, featuring famous princesses, superheroes and more, along with traditional activities like face painting, balloon twisting and multiple kids' rides.

Musical acts will be featured throughout the weekend with a diverse selection of bands that will have festival goers on the dance floor.

"This year's musical entertainment is awesome," said Lion Dominic Mercurio, Festival Chairman. "We are excited to present these talented musicians on our

main stage. I encourage attendees to watch our website and social media for the final schedule."

Festival hours are 3 to 9 p.m. Fri, March 20; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat., March 21 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun., March 22. Admission is \$5 for adults; children 12 and under are free. Food is purchased from the vendors and is not included with admission.

Only service dogs will be permitted onto festival grounds.

For parking and more information, visit [www.lionsfestival.com](http://www.lionsfestival.com).

Founded in 1981, and with more than 20,000 people expected to attend in 2020, the Seafood Festival is the largest and oldest festival in the Ancient City.

Francis Field is located at 25 W. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.



Photo provided by Nease NJROTC

Nease NJROTC brain brawl champions **Elkhan Bagirov (from left), Ben Prohofsky, Brody Mongon, Isabella Rivera and Daniel Mahoney** receive their 1st place trophy at the Bishop Kenny Brain Brawl on Feb. 22.

## Nease NJROTC wins Drone and Brain Brawl Championships

Competing simultaneously in two separate championships, Nease NJROTC adopted a divide and conquer philosophy by sweeping both the academic Brain Brawl Championship and Drone Challenge Championship at Bishop Kenny High School on Feb. 22.

Brain Brawls are similar to Jeopardy contests, with teams ringing in the fastest and with the correct answer scoring points. Teams compete in qualifying rounds, with the top four advancing to the finals.

Nease topped the 20 teams vying for first place honors.

"The finals were intense," said team captain Ben Prohofsky. "We were trailing the whole time before rallying in the final minute to pull out the win."

Team members included cadets Elkhan Bagirov, Benjamin Prohofsky,

Brody Mongon, Isabella Rivera and Daniel Mahoney.

The team will next compete at the Area-12 Northern Florida-Georgia Championships on Feb. 29 at Clay High School.

Just down the hall from the brain brawl, Nease competed in its first ever Drone Challenge competition. And after the final results were posted, Nease came out on top as overall champions. Drone Challenge competitions involve four individual events maneuvering the drones with speed and precision through a series of tight obstacles.

Winning team members included cadets Dylan Dosio, Braden Holmes, Jordan Mayberry and Daniel Mahoney.

Nease is presently ranked as the #1 program in NJROTC Area 12 (59 school region that covers northern Florida and the state of Georgia).



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Photo by Daniela Toporek

**Amy Groshell, gala guest and cofounder of Peace of Heart Community, an organization that also helps those with autism, auctions off a painting created by her daughter, Gentry Gudal, who also has autism and uses art as a therapeutic way to relieve stress.**

## HEAL

Continued from 4

Bobby Weed's Golf Gig, which was sold out with 100 participants.

The total raised for the entire weekend was \$400,000.

Leslie Weed said that she doesn't like to get too analytical in speeches but wanted people to know that before HEAL was founded, one in every 500 children were diagnosed with autism. Later, after HEAL hosted its first gala, the number jumped to one in 250 and

today one out of every 40 kids are diagnosed with autism, a staggering figure.

"I went to type with Lanier yesterday," Leslie Weed said at the gala, when on stage with her daughter, Lanier, who is nonverbal and communicates by typing. "And I asked her, 'Do you want to type something that I could tell everyone? Do you have a message for them?'"

Lanier typed, "I care to say, HEAL helps us feel human," Leslie Weed said. Everyone applauded.

Then, Leslie Weed added, "Lanier said, 'Thank you for coming,'"



**ABOVE: Jacksonville Beach artist Eugene Quinn paints the beach sunset at the Beaches ceremony, auctioning off the piece to the highest bidder at the event.**



**LEFT: The Groshell-Gudal family stand on stage to accept Gentry Gudal's "Emerging Artist" award for her inspiring paintings and use of art as an outlet of expression.**

Photo by Daniela Toporek

## Beaches

Continued from 14

Winners included Gentry Gudal, for emerging artist of the year; art advocate Rod Morris, for arts education and advocacy; the St. Augustine Art Association, for community impact; and philanthropist Teresa Radzinski, for the art of giving.

The top award, the Beaches Award, was given to Beaches Museum Director Christine Hoffman, for her dedication to ensuring that arts and culture are ingrained into everyday life in the community.

Winners were awarded with a custom glass-blown trophy crafted by Jacksonville's Burnt Glassworks owners Jess and Andy Peters.

"We did a few prototypes to test the glass and ended up with some really nice bases, which are etched, and a nice blown glass award," Andy Peters said.

Betsy Cosgrove, who represented nom-



**"Deck The Chairs" founder and nominee Kurtis Loftus poses with his certificate and colleagues Betsy Cosgrove and Kara Waite.**

inee Kurtis Loftus's "Deck the Chairs" exhibition, said that regardless who won, it is important that the community continues to support the arts.

"That's all that matters," she said. "Without any of these organizations or events, we wouldn't be able to teach about art, which is so important for our youth and our community."



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# Pups and Pints event finds new homes for deserving dogs

Shearwater, a new community in northern St. Johns County, recently hosted its annual Pups and Pints event. Residents came together to support local animal shelters, while also tasting craft beers, playing games on the event lawn and connecting with one another.

Animal shelters onsite included Clay County Animal Services and St. Augustine Humane Society.

More than 500 residents attended this year and six dogs were adopted into families.



Photos provided by Shearwater



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## Business Profile

### When buying a mattress, experience is the best teacher.

When it comes to purchasing a mattress, you can count on Richard's Mattress and Wicker to know that a good night's sleep is just the beginning. Take advantage of his more than four decades in the industry to ensure that you have a positive mattress experience. It starts with a selection of the finest mattresses available from great names such as Sealy, Serta, Golden Mattress and Consolidated Bedding. You can count on notable savings when you purchase your



mattress from a locally owned location with low overhead and not a corporate big box store that deals in numbers and bottom lines.

Richard has spent most of his life in the furnishing's profession, starting with a degree in Industrial Technology and six years of teaching woodworking and furniture making at the secondary and college level. He knows what he is selling!

"I won't sell you something you don't need just to make money. A good latex mattress will last easily 20 years and it's NOT true that you have to replace your mattress every eight years – if that were true, why would the corporate stores offer 15-20 year warranties? Think about it!"

In addition to state-of-the-art mattresses, Richard is proud to provide a comprehensive selection of wicker and rattan furniture, also at reasonable prices, with a wide range of fabric samples from which to choose.



Best of all, Richard takes pride in offering fine products and services to the local community. "When you buy from a local business, that money will be invested back

into the community. I live and work in this community – and have for 38 years. I see my customers on a daily basis, so I go out of my way to treat them like neighbors. They deal directly with me, so I make an effort to keep my prices competitive with corporate box stores. I think that is why I've been in business for so long."

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# Business Weekly

PAGE 18 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Area couple's connected careers provide benefits to clients

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Photos provided by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

The Ponte Vedra Office, under the leadership of Managing Broker Holly Hayes, received the Top Office/Chairman's Cup award.

## Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR celebrates success at annual awards

Every year, the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty team turns its attention to the company's annual awards, where hundreds of real estate professionals gather to celebrate, connect and learn who earned the company's highest honors.

This year, with a red-carpet entrance and Hollywood glamour, the company celebrated its Realtors' award-winning achievements.

"Our Forever Agents are dedicated industry leaders with an enduring commitment to their clients and the community, and I am so appreciative of their loyalty and contributions to our success," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty President and CEO Christy Budnick. "Our team understands that the concept of home buying and selling doesn't start or end with the transaction. Together, our company will forever serve the lives, lifestyle and needs of our clients."

Company awards presentations highlighted the event, recognizing numerous achievements including the firm's impressive accomplishments.



Priscilla Johnson



Stefanie Bernstein



Anita Vining



Joe Collerd



Dylan Rigdon



Keith Combs



Melissa Ott



Mike Rolewicz

The company's 2019 top producers were honored for their accomplishments and success. The top company award winners include:

■ Priscilla Johnson of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office led as Top Producer with \$30 million in closed sales.

■ Stefanie Bernstein of the St. Augustine/Murabella office was named Top Listing Agent with 53 listings.

■ Anita Vining of the San Marco/San Jose office was honored

as the company's Top Transaction Agent with more than 151 transactions.

■ Joe Collerd of the Beaches/Intracoastal West/Southside office was the Top Sales Agent with 52 sales.

■ The Rigdon and Combs Team of the St. Augustine/Murabella office was recognized as the Top Producing Team with more than \$13 million in closed sales.

## Are your financial and tax advisors talking?



Karsten Jacobson  
Columnist

Now that we've closed the book on 2019, it's officially tax season. As you prepare your tax returns for the April 15 deadline, you might already start looking for opportunities to improve your tax-related financial outcomes in the future. And one important step you can take is to connect your tax professional with your financial advisor.

Together, these professionals can help you take advantage of some valuable strategies:

■ **Roth vs. traditional IRA** — If you're eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA and a traditional IRA, you might find it beneficial to have your financial advisor talk to your tax professional about which is the better choice. Generally, if you think your tax rate will be higher in retirement, you might want to contribute to the Roth IRA, which provides tax-free withdrawals (if you're older than 59½ and have had your account at least five years). But if you think your tax bracket will be lower when you retire, you might be better off with the traditional IRA, which offers upfront tax benefits — specifically, your contributions may reduce your annual taxable income in a given tax year. Your tax advisor may have some thoughts on this issue, as well as how it might fit in with your overall tax picture in retirement.

■ **Taxable vs. non-taxable income** — Turning taxable income into non-taxable income can lower your current year's tax bracket. Depending on your income, you could potentially subtract your traditional IRA contributions (or your SEP-IRA contributions if you're self-employed) from your taxable income. And even now, it's not too late to affect the 2019 tax year, if you still haven't reached the IRA or SEP-IRA contribution limits. Before you file your 2019 tax returns, your tax professional can tell your financial advisor how much you would have to contribute to your traditional IRA, SEP-IRA or similar account to potentially lower your taxable income. If you make the contribution, your financial advisor can illustrate how it would impact your retirement picture and make a recommendation on how to invest the money. (You can fund your IRA with virtually any type of investment — stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and so on.)

■ **Capital gains taxes on mutual funds** — You might think you have total control over taxes related to your mutual funds. After all, you decide how long to hold these funds before selling shares and incurring capital gains taxes. However, mutual fund managers are usually free to buy and sell new investments as they see fit, and some of these sales could generate capital gains taxes for you. If these taxes are relatively large in any one year, your tax professional may notice and could relay this information to your financial advisor. This doesn't necessarily mean these



# The eyes of Dr. Gulani



**Scott A. Grant**  
Guest Columnist

One day a friend of mine asked me to go to an event at the Cowford Chop-house. So, I went.

Walking inside, I ran into this guy from India and his wife. In a sea of rich men in golf-shirts and pretty girls in cocktail dresses, they stood out resplendent—he in a colorful double-breasted suit with a wide collar, she in a matching bright canary yellow chiffon dress. They looked as if they had just stepped off the stage of a Bollywood production, replete with sitars and tambourines. I was intrigued.

So, I approached them, as I often do, and stuck out my hand. They told me their story. They were both doctors and it turned out the man and I shared something in common — we both had a bright vision for the future of Jacksonville. He compared people to pearls, and I wondered if karma had brought us together that sunny Sunday in the heart of downtown. And that is how I met, Dr. Arun Gulani.

I kept running into him. Every time our paths crossed, he would casually



**Dr. Arun Gulani**

mention a new patient who travelled from some exotic sounding locale seeking sight. I went to see his surgical suite. It was immaculate.

“Most surgeons use ambulatory surgical centers,” he told me. “Here we have a spa-like setting. We believe in raising surgery to not just an art, but an experience.”

The next time we met was to give

**GULANI** continues on **Page 21**

# COFFEE ON THE COAST A NETWORKING SUCCESS



Photo by Ed Johnson

**Coffee on The Coast, sponsored by the Beaches Division of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, was held Thursday, Feb. 20 at Ponte Vedra Wellness Center in Ponte Vedra Beach. This event provided the opportunity to network with local Chamber members while enjoying coffee and healthy breakfast treats. Pictured are Marcelo Salcedo (from left), Lisa Tromsdorff, Dr. Erika Hamer and Ponte Vedra Wellness Center owner Janine Parker attend the event.**

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## After suffering domestic abuse, St. Augustine business owner picked herself up and followed her dream

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, Anna Rushing has spent the past few years healing from a traumatic domestic abuse situation while building her St. Augustine CrossFit gym into a community focused on helping others meet their fitness goals and achieve personal growth.

Functional, fun fitness is at the forefront of Rack City CrossFit, which features boot camp, endurance training, strength and conditioning, nutritional consulting, gymnastics, teen classes and private coaching.

“Back in 2016, I started the gym with my then-boyfriend to realize my dream of being my own boss and building a successful business that would give myself and my daughter a better life,” said Rushing, a single mother and Florida native. “My boyfriend was physically and verbally abusive and I felt stuck. One day, he choked me to the point where I thought he was going to kill me. I called the police



**Anna Rushing**

and he was taken away. With three prior domestic abuse arrests on his record from other women, he was sent to jail.” The next day, Rushing was slated to complete her CrossFit certification, which she knew would be a crucial component to her business confidence and personal growth. She didn’t think she had the strength to follow through. A good friend and business mentor convinced her to press on. Rushing passed her certification and has spent the past few years building Rack City CrossFit into the area’s premier gym focused on uncovering the athlete hiding inside regular folks.

“It didn’t seem fair for me to give up my dream because of another person’s

bad decisions and lack of control,” Rushing said. “The person who was always holding me down was now gone and I was free to create a culture and environment where I could connect with people and help them grow and transform – just as I was doing myself.”



Photos provided by Anna Rushing

**Patrons of Rack City CrossFit in St. Augustine work out at the gym.**

Armed with a degree in psychology from the University of North Florida and certified in both NASM and CrossFit Level 1, Rushing is proud of her successful gym, located at 209 Blackford Way, St. Augustine. For more information, visit [rackcitycrossfit.com](http://rackcitycrossfit.com).

## Watson Property Management Division names new executive vice president

Watson Realty Corp. has announced that Justin Garrett has been selected as executive vice president over the Property Management Division of Watson Realty Corp.

Garrett, a native of Las Cruces, New Mexico, came to Florida when he was in the U.S. Navy in 2000. He joined Watson Realty Corp. after obtaining his real estate license in 2008 and has gained a wealth of experience within the company. In 2009, he was

promoted to office manager for the Atlantic/ Neptune Beach office with Watson Property Management.

After several successful years at that location, Garrett was asked to help grow the newest office to the Watson Property Management team in St. Johns County. In 2014 he was promoted to regional manager of the Property Management Coastal Florida offices, from St. Johns, Florida to Port St. Lucie.

“We are very excited to have Justin in this important leadership position,” Chairman of the Board Bill Watson, Jr. said. Justin has demonstrated his ability and potential to grow and develop our Property Management Division to new heights, and we look forward to his success.”

During his tenure with Watson Realty Corp., Garr married his wife, Lisa, and they have two children, Isla and Skylar.



**Justin Garrett**

## Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR welcomes 2 new Realtors to Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently welcomed Realtors Andreea Light and Daren Mulhern to its Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office.

A newly licensed Realtor, Light has a strong background in business. In 2018, Light started her own business and said she is eager to take the skill she’s learned as a business owner to help her clients in buying or selling real estate.

Adopted from Romania when she was 18 months old, Light has always been extremely grateful for everything life has to offer.

“Since I was a little girl, I’ve always said I wanted to make a difference in lives,” she said. “I’m proud to say that I’ve changed



**Andreea Light**



**Daren Mulhern**

many lives and will continue to do so in my real estate career.”

Light can be reached by phone at (904) 535-1488, by email at [Andreea.Light@FloridaNetworkRealty.com](mailto:Andreea.Light@FloridaNetworkRealty.com) or visit [AndreeaLightRealtor.com](http://AndreeaLightRealtor.com).

Mulhern comes to Berkshire Hathaway

HomeServices FNR with extensive knowledge of mortgages and the First Coast.

“Daren has a strong background in mortgages with Bank of America and, most recently, was a property leasing consultant with JWB Properties,” said Holly Hayes, broker/manager of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office. “These experiences will allow him to build on his real estate knowledge to success in his career as a Realtor. Daren has lived in Jacksonville for 28 years and is excited to share his local knowledge of the area with his clients.”

Mulhern can be reached by phone at (904) 535-9985, by email at [Daren.Mulhern@FloridaNetworkRealty.com](mailto:Daren.Mulhern@FloridaNetworkRealty.com) or visit [DarensFloridaHomes.com](http://DarensFloridaHomes.com).

## Awards

Continued from 18

■ Melissa Ott of the St. Augustine/Murabella office was named Rookie of the Year with more than \$4 million in closed sales.

■ Mike Rolewicz of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office was honored as the Sophomore Slugger with 12 million in closed sales.

■ The Ponte Vedra Office, under the leadership of Managing Broker Holly Hayes, received the Top Office/Chairman’s Cup award, which recognizes success in a number of categories including client feedback, recruiting, listing sides, closed sides, per person productivity, closed volume



# Jacksonville Beach pet franchise wins award

Nick Saam and Hannah Kim, local owners of Pet Wants Jax Beach, have been recognized with the Pet Wants 2019 Franchise of the Year Award. It was presented at the company's national conference on Feb. 4.

Pet Wants Jax Beach is a mobile business — operating as both a mobile shop and a pet food truck out of a renovated 1969 Airstream. The business offers free delivery of products, including locally sourced pet products, to the Jacksonville area.

Saam and Kim go to local farmer's markets and food truck events so pets can join in on the party with single-serve meals.

"Nick and Hannah were recognized because of their outstanding ongoing business growth, as well as their overall support of the franchise system. Since coming on board in 2018, Pet Wants Jax Beach has seen phenomenal growth, achieving double digit year over year growth



Photo provided by Pet Wants Jax Beach

**Nick Saam (left) and Hannah Kim, local owners of Pet Wants Jax Beach, recently won a franchise award.**

every month. They are constantly innovating their business with an eye on growth and Nick and Hannah are always quick to help other franchisees. I'm proud of their accomplishments in 2019 and look forward to their future achievements in 2020 and beyond," Pet Wants President Scott Hoots said.

Since 2019 was Saam and Kim's first year in business, "to be recog-

nized as Franchisee of the Year was as rewarding as it was surprising," Saam said. "In large part, we owe our success to the folks around us—the community. Like-minded people dedicated to the well-being of their pets have been very responsive to our concept."

Visit [www.PetWantsJaxBeach.com](http://www.PetWantsJaxBeach.com) for more information on Pet Wants JaxBeach.

# ABC Fine Wine and Spirits to hold wine tasting during THE PLAYERS

ABC Fine Wine and Spirits will host a Premium Wine Tasting on Wednesday March 11, the week of THE PLAYERS Championship. It will be held from 6 to 9pm at 175 Village Main St. Ponte Vedra Beach. The cost is \$15 dollars a head.

The event will include:

- Heisman Trophy winner Charles Woodson, former NFL player for the Oakland Raiders and Green Bay Packers, signing bottles from his line of Intercept wines.

- American Heroes The Horse Soldiers signing bottles of their bourbon from the Horse Soldier line.

- Dan Cohn signing bottles of Bellacosa Cabernet Sauvignon.

- Hank McCrorie signing bottles from the Burly wine line.

- Mic Cripe signing bottles from the Lola wines line.

- The giant Monkey Shoulder shaker truck will provide music and lights for the evening.

The event will feature an outstanding selection of over 250 top premium wines, spirits, beer, and cigars to sample, along with a raffle of many prizes, including a chance to purchase a bottle of Pappy Van Winkle 12 year, Thomas Handy Sazerac and William Larue Weller.

# Cat cafe to open in St. Augustine

Frisky Cat Cafe is scheduled to open this month and will be the first cat café in St. Augustine. Never heard of a cat cafe? Now's the chance to experience one. Frisky Cat Café is partnering with Bold Bean Coffee Roasters and will be located at 1092 S. Ponce De Leon in St. Augustine.

So, what exactly is a cat café? Some may think it's a place to take you kitty for a coffee break or to meet up and play with other cats, but it's not. It's actually designed for people who love cats but can't have one of their own. At the Frisky Cat Cafe, people have the opportunity to cozy up with a sweet, purring kitty when they want.

Upon entering Frisky Cat Café, guests are welcomed by the scents of craft coffee, fresh baked goods and more. Guests are welcome to enjoy their favorite coffee while making new friends or even adopt one of the furry residents.

Cats are waiting beyond the café area in a room divided from the eatery by a door and windows. This creates a complete separation between the food and felines. However, guests are welcome to bring their food or drink with them into the cat lounge. Those with allergies, or who do not wish to visit the cat room, may enjoy a view of the cats through the glass panel.

"First and foremost, we're here to save lives," Carla Forrest, founder of Small Lives Matter, said. "Most cats are not able to handle the stress of living in cages at a shelter; they can shut down, become unfriendly and aggressive and seem 'un-adoptable' (a fast-track to euthanasia). We work with dedicated cat guardians to provide a quiet, interactive, free roaming and cageless environment where adult cats can thrive."

Cat café proceeds will directly support rescue efforts such as vet care, support for foster homes and the trapping, neutering and returning of feral cats.

"Our cat cafe is saving lives by enriching humans with cat interaction while providing relief for both stressed-out cats and humans," Forrest said. "We believe people become much better people when they're around animals and we believe all cats are adoptable."

Visit [www.friskycatacafe.com](http://www.friskycatacafe.com) for more information about the cat cafe. For more about Small Lives Matter Kitten Rescue, visit [www.thekittenrescue.org](http://www.thekittenrescue.org).

For more information about the cat café and nonprofit rescue, call Carla Forrest at (904) 923-7796 or email [carlaforrest@thekittenrescue.org](mailto:carlaforrest@thekittenrescue.org).

# Gulani

Continued from 19

away suits to veterans. One of those suits ended up on the cover of Folio magazine. And all the time we talked about our visions for the future and his desire to have everyone see beyond 20/20. I wanted people to see the future, he wanted them to see it with perfect vision.

Sometime later, I went back to the surgical center. I asked questions. "How long

does each surgery take," I asked?

"Seven to 10 minutes," he replied, "each surgery is unique and customized to the individual patient."

I started to ask another question, but he interrupted me.

"I don't just see eyeballs," he said. "I see their faces looking up at me saying please help me, Dr. Gulani. I trust you."

I smiled and started scribbling. I knew I was going to write something, and I loved that line. As I wrote he attempted to interrupt me with a wry smile and said, "I feel

obligated to do my best," adding, "and repay that trust with vision."

That day patients came from all over the world. One was a race car driver from Sweden, blind in one eye, which sounded sort of dangerous to me. I was glad he left with two good eyes. A patient from Egypt told me that, "many surgeons failed in my Lasik, until they all suggested I travel to Dr. Gulani."

Other patients came from London, Dubai, and Canada, as well as a doctor from Idaho, who had done her research

and decided Gulani was her only hope to fix her cataract surgery complications.

As we were leaving, Gulani shared his plan for an event to honor visionaries in our community and asked if I wanted to help. It seemed like a noble cause, so I agreed. He slapped me on the back and said "You, Scott, are a pearl."

And so, we await the next chapter, Friday, March 20 at the River Club, when the Gulani Crystal Ball Beyond 2020 Event will be held. Someone will be named a visionary.



# Couple's collaborative careers serve them and their clients well

By Maggie FitzRoy

Since he was 14 years old, Karsten Jacobson had a passion for numbers and investing, even researching financial investments on his own as a high school student in Springfield, Missouri.

During a freshman-year business class, his teacher told the students to close their eyes and imagine where they would be in the future — their careers and who they would work for.

Jacobson imagined he was a financial advisor for Edward Jones, because that's who his parents had as their advisor, and that's who he invested with.

He also imagined the car he would drive and the clothes he would wear, and later drew a picture of himself living in Florida with a wife and three kids and a dog.

He had never been to Florida, but today Jacobson said he has realized most of his dream.

He and his wife, Daysi, live in Ponte Vedra Beach, with “four kids, zero dogs and one cat.”

He is a financial advisor for Edward Jones.

And Daysi Jacobson is an accountant, with an office a few doors down from Karsten's, on the second floor of the Park Place building in Sawgrass Village.

Going beyond what he dared dream as



Photo by Maggie FitzRoy

**Daysi (left) and Karsten Jacobson in Daysi's Sawgrass Village office.**

a teen, Karsten's career meshes perfectly with Daysi's, because they are in compatible, collaborative careers.

Their jobs require different but overlapping areas of expertise in the financial services industry. Which means what they can do together, for each other and their clients, adds up to more than the sum of each part.

Especially “this time of year, when we are extremely busy, it works out really

well,” Karsten said one recent day in Daysi's office. “When she has clients who have questions that are more my wheelhouse, I can come down and answer them.”

Daysi agreed. “When they start asking questions about investments, retirements, social security benefits and financial planning, I answer—and then they start asking more in depth questions, and I'd rather they ask Karsten. I leave that to him.”

Karsten and Daysi met as students at the University of North Florida in 2015. She was majoring in accounting and finance and he was a financial services and finance major. They met during a study abroad class, while touring the wine industry in Portugal.

Karsten had come to Jacksonville with the U.S. Navy and after getting out of the service, was furthering his education to pursue his childhood dream.

Daysi, who grew up in Ecuador, came to the United States at age 21, not knowing any English but bringing along a lifelong love of numbers. She had been doing accounting since age 14 and had gone to college in her native country and majored in it.

In the U.S., she enrolled in English classes at Florida State College at Jacksonville and then set a goal to work for the Internal Revenue Service, spurred on by a friend who worked for the agency. As soon as she gained American citizenship, she applied and was accepted and ended up working for them for 10 years as a revenue

agent in Jacksonville.

“I really enjoyed working for them,” Daysi said. “The tax world is fascinating, really interesting,” and to further her education, “the IRS gave me the flexibility to go to school full time.”

They married in April 2017. Both had been married before and had children, so they created a blended family with three children, and then added a fourth.

“We always had a connection working together,” Daysi said of her and Karsten. “For me, it was important to help people. When I worked for the IRS, I worked with people who were getting audited and ripped off by their accountants. They were not being advised and that's why they were in trouble. They were scared, but there was not much I could do; I was working for the government.”

Working in his Edward Jones office in Sawgrass Village, Karsten talked to Daysi about opening her own accounting business. They talked about how wonderful it would be to have offices together—one with an espresso machine.

One day, Daysi saw a nice espresso machine at the mall and Karsten insisted on buying it, even though they didn't have their joint office yet.

“Then everything started happening,” Daysi said. A certified public accountant a few doors down from Karsten, who had been in business for 30 years, died during tax season. His wife sought Karsten's advice regarding his retirement accountants and asked him if he knew anyone who wanted to take over a CPA business.

It was perfect for Daysi, who specializes in tax returns, preparation and advice and tax planning for individuals and businesses.

“All of that is so intertwined,” Karsten said. “All investments have tax issues,” which he said he is knowledgeable about, “but I don't have the knowledge of a former IRS agent. That is not my expertise, but that's Daysi's.”

When Karsten's clients have questions more in depth about taxes than he can answer, he brings them to her.

“A lot of our clients say this is amazing,” Karsten said of the couple's collaboration. For him, life with his accountant wife is literally a dream come true.

And for Daysi as well.

“It's not about the money. It's about educating and helping people succeed financially,” Daysi said. “It's always nice that we had this vision.”

many overlaps, and by ensuring your team of advisors is working together, or at least communicating with each other, you can increase the chances of getting your desired results.

**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.**



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## Jacobson

Continued from 18

mutual funds are inappropriate for you; they still may be suitable for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. But the tax aspect may be of interest to your financial advisor, who might recommend more tax-efficient investment options.

Your investment and tax pictures have



# Womens Food Alliance to host 3rd annual Kids in the Kitchen Cooking Contest

The Womens Food Alliance is hosting its third annual Kids in the Kitchen Cooking Contest for children ages 8 to 12.

The contest also aims to launch children's creativity by having them cook something yummy for their family. Young cooks can win culinary prizes by coming up with a tasty and unique family dessert recipe.

The Womens Food Alliance believes that cooking in the kitchen helps children learn to express their individuality and curiosity about food, while at the same time growing their math, science and reading skills.

## CONTEST RULES

### Recipe must include:

- Child's name and age
- Address
- Phone
- Email of parent or guardian
- Recipe name and brief story about the favorite family recipe and a short essay on "Why I Like to Cook for My Family"

Dessert recipes and an essay about "Why I like to cook for my family" must be emailed to Womens Food Alliance

President Leigh Cort at leighcortpublicity.com. Deadline for entries is July 1 and finalists will be notified by July 8.

### The Womens Food Alliance will select the top 12 finalists based on:

- Originality and use of ingredients
- Deliciousness
- Dessert presentation
- Dessert name and story about "Why I like to cook for my family."

Finalists will be invited to attend the official dessert judging on July 20 at JAX Cooking Studio in Jacksonville. They must be accompanied by an adult and will be asked to present a minimum of six tastings on a presentation serving plate to the judges.

There will be no substitutions or transfer of prizes, and prizes will not be redeemable for cash. Winners will need to consent to use of their names and/or photographs for publicity purposes without further compensation.

Names of winners will be posted on the website [www.womensfoodalliance.com](http://www.womensfoodalliance.com) and all finalists will have a story published about them in [www.Jax4Kids.com](http://www.Jax4Kids.com).

Judges will be: Nancy Slatsky, pas-

try chef and manager at JAX Cooking Studio; Rebecca Reed, executive pastry chef, Black Sheep Restaurant Group; and Nancy Guarnieri, cook at St. Francis Inn Bed & Breakfast.

### The Grand Prize Winner will receive:

- 2-night family vacation for four at the Hilton Garden Inn in Ponte Vedra Beach
- Sunday brunch for four at the Casa Marina Hotel, Jacksonville Beach
- \$50 gift certificate to attend a kids' cooking class at JAX Cooking Studio
- Gift Jar of Amy's Amazing Chocolate Sauce

### The 1st Runner Up will receive:

- The "GyoGreens Cookbook"
- Sunday Brunch for four at the Casa Marina Hotel in Jacksonville Beach
- \$30 dining gift certificate to Taberna Del Caballo in St. Augustine
- Gift Jar of Amy's Amazing Chocolate Sauce
- The "GyoGreens Cookbook"

### The 2nd Runner Up will receive:

- Sunday Brunch for four at the Casa Marina Hotel, Jacksonville Beach
- \$30 dining gift certificate to Bull & Crown Publick House in St. Augustine



Photo provided by Womens Food Alliance

### A child competes in a past contest

- Gift Jar of Amy's Amazing Chocolate Sauce
- The "GyoGreens Cookbook"
- Every Finalist will receive:**
- Kilwins \$ 5 gift card for an ice cream treat at Kilwins Town Center in Jacksonville
- Tropical Smoothie gift card value \$5 In Ponte Vedra Beach & Fruit Cove
- Four tickets to the Pirate Museum in St. Augustine
- Four tickets to the Colonial Quarter Experience in St. Augustine

For more information, visit [www.leighcortpublicity.com/kids-in-the-kitchen.html](http://www.leighcortpublicity.com/kids-in-the-kitchen.html).

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## THEME: CANDY

### ACROSS

- Unfathomably deep chasm
- Lawyer group
- Factoid
- Non-flat area
- Loquacious person's gift
- Member of clergy
- Kitty sounds
- Mesozoic one
- All thumbs
- \*Who's Pieces?
- \*Life \_\_\_\_
- Comic book cry
- Evening in Roma
- Boar's mate
- Bank deposit
- Actress Ali or singer Tim
- Flying saucers
- Yeahs' opposers
- One of the Muses
- Ancient region of western Europe
- \*Sweet bear
- In a little while, old-fashioned
- Like a neon sign
- Fashion's "New Look" inventor
- Weasel's cousin
- Cash in credit card points, e.g.
- "Good grief!"
- The Old Man's turf
- Tucked in
- Sine \_\_\_\_ non
- \*"Gimme a break" bar
- \*Egg with a surprise

- Southwestern hut
- Step on it
- Small Asian ungulate
- What radiology and biology have in common
- Chihuahua's cry
- a.k.a. Ernest?
- Japanese money, pl.
- Blitzed
- Industrious

### DOWN

- Similar to an adder
- View from a moving train
- Yesteryear
- Shopping \_\_\_\_
- Creates disorder
- Forever and a day
- \*Hershey made the first American milk chocolate one
- Belittle
- Have supper
- Tennis serving whiz
- Memorial Day solo
- "The \_\_\_\_ of Racing in the Rain"
- Fast and lively
- Increasing
- Location of ulna
- Hindered
- \*Principal candy ingredient
- Allowed into a bar, e.g.
- Past tense of will
- Glorify

## SUDOKU

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| 34. *Famous fictional bar | 60. Not disregarded, as in a promise |
| 36. ____ gin              | 61. Marine eagle                     |
| 38. Smoke plus fog        | 62. Surprise at a speakeasy          |
| 42. Baghdad resident      | 63. *Almond-induced state            |
| 45. Not strongly          | 65. Cardinal 3                       |
| 49. CEO's deg.            | 67. Bovine hangout                   |
| 51. Fertilized            | Across                               |
| 54. C2H5                  |                                      |
| 56. "J" ____" by #46      |                                      |

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## REVIEW

# Alhambra show succeeds at skewering corporate world

By Jennifer Logue

Long before Don Draper personified the cool, corporate “Mad Men” executive of the 1960s, “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” tackled the same topic as a Broadway musical. And nearly 60 years later, The Alhambra Theatre & Dining’s production of this popular show succeeds in skewering a corporate culture that really hasn’t changed all that much from the ’60s.

“How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” centers on J. Pierrepont “Ponty” Finch, a lowly window washer who, armed only with the self-help book of the show’s title, bluffs and blusters his way up the corporate ladder of a large company. Along the way, he encounters many of the same peeves and pitfalls encountered by white-collar workers today.

Nepotism? Check out Bud Frump, the boss’s sniveling, sneaky and supremely unqualified nephew. Old school connections? Better let the boss think you went to the same college he did. Office romances and infidelities? “How to Succeed” has them in spades.

Many of the show’s songs, in fact, address some of the common corporate problems still around today. In “The Company Way,” a mid-level manager instructs Ponty in the fine art of corporate camouflage, keeping your head down and your mouth closed so that no matter what happens to the company or who gets fired, your job will always be secure. “I Believe in You” – sung by Ponty to his own reflection in the executive washroom mirror – pokes fun at the



Photos provided by Alhambra Theatre & Dining

culture of positive self-affirmations. And in today’s era of #metoo and heightened awareness of sexual harassment, “A Secretary is Not a Toy” seems positively

prophetic.

The Alhambra is known for the quality of the musical theatre talent it attracts to Jacksonville, and the “How to Suc-

ceed” cast is among the best to grace the stage at the nation’s oldest continuously operating dinner theatre. As J. Pierrepont Finch, Christopher Lewis brings just the right combination of boyish charm and bravado to the role, and his ringing tenor vocals are outstanding. Similarly, Lindsay Nantz shines as secretary Rosemary, conveying a sunny, chipper ’60s optimism with her Broadway-quality voice. Ricky Cona’s Bud Frump is the smarmy office backstabber you love to hate, while Maddie Bryan relished her role as Hedy, the boss’s mistress.

If life in the office hasn’t changed all that much since the 1960s, “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” proves it helps to at least be able to laugh about it.

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying runs at The Alhambra Theatre & Dining through March 22. For tickets or more information, visit [www.alhambrajax.com](http://www.alhambrajax.com).

# ‘Loving Beethoven’ exhibition to celebrate composer's 250th anniversary

This year, the world will celebrate Ludwig van Beethoven’s 250th birthday anniversary, and The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, in partnership with MIMMA (Interactive Music Museum in Malaga, Spain) will join in with a traveling musical installation of “Loving Beethoven,” which will be at the Cultural Center from March 6 to May 26.

An opening reception will be held on Friday, March 6. It will begin with a special preview for Renaissance members at 5:30 p.m. and then continue from 6 to 8 p.m.

The suggested donation is \$5.

Last year, in June, Cultural Center Executive Director Donna Guzzo visited the museum in Malaga, Spain

to begin discussions with the MIMMA Director, Miguel Angel Piedrola.

After the visit to MIMMA, Guzzo requested a collaboration with MIMMA, with the goal of developing a program that would showcase music-related activities and host the exhibit in the United States, in Ponte Vedra Beach. The interactive nature of the MIMMA exhibits, with galleries full of musical instruments for the public to touch and try, is one of the features the Cultural Center wanted replicate during the planned exhibit in Florida.

“Loving Beethoven” ties together the cultural center’s mission and the center’s outreach program Sound Con-



Photo Credit/The Recorder

nections Music Therapy perfectly,” Guzzo said. “We are thrilled to be working with Miguel Angel Piedrola and MIMMA on our first collaborative, international project.”





Photo provided by Palms Presbyterian Church

## The Concordia Choir to perform at Palms Presbyterian March 4

The Palms Presbyterian Church Fine Arts Series will present The Concordia Choir in concert next week at the church in Jacksonville Beach.

To be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, the concert is free and childcare will be provided.

Based at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, the 72-member Concordia Choir is considered to be one of the nation's finest a cappella choirs.

Palms Presbyterian Church is located at 3410 Third St. South in Jacksonville Beach.

## St. Augustine Community Chorus to present 'Come Travel with Me'

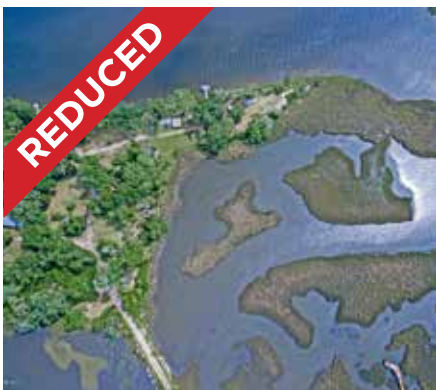
The St. Augustine Community Chorus will treat its audience to three distinct 'journeys' at its March spring pops concert.

"Come Travel with Me" will feature three musical journeys, organizers say. The first will feature songs from other countries including Italy, Japan, Spain,

Wales and Canada. The second journey will travel musically across the USA through pieces such as "Shenandoah," "California Dreamin'," "Buffalo Gals" and "Kansas Boys." The final journey will revisit the music of the 1940s and 1950s.

**CHORUS** continues on **Page 27**

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# 50

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# EMMA Concert Association to present Dance Alive National Ballet in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

The EMMA Concert Association will present Dance Alive National Ballet in a production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at Flagler College's Lewis Auditorium.

The ballet is based on the Shakespeare play, with selections from Felix Mendelssohn's "Incidental Music."

"The second-to-last performance of our 2019-2020 season, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' is an amazing, must-see, two-part ballet focusing on the power of love,"

said Joanne Everett, president of EMMA Concert Association. "And the choreography is by the extraordinary George Balanchine, one of the most influential choreographers of the 20th century."

Based in Gainesville, DANB features an international roster of dancers and choreography, with a repertoire that ranges from the quintessential classic "Nutcracker" to the cutting-edge movement of contemporary ballet. Under the direction of Artistic Director Kim Tuttle, the group continues to develop innovative arts

education programming and is involved in artist residencies, developing dance curriculum and outreach performances for public schools.

EMMA Concert Association performances are held at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada St. in downtown St. Augustine. Tickets are \$40 per person. The price for children and students with school ID is \$5 per concert. Tickets can be purchased at emmaconcerts.com, by phone at (904) 797-2800 or by email at EMMAinfo@bellsouth.net.



Photo provided by Old City Public Relations

## As if! The 90s Fest kicks off May 16 in St. Augustine

Throwback party features music, games, food and fun at Francis Field

Break out the bright Starter jackets and fanny packs and get ready to party like it's 1996. Ancient City Entertainment presents As If! The 90s Fest on May 16 from noon to 9 p.m. at Francis Field, 25 West Castillo Drive in downtown St. Augustine.

This family-oriented summer kickoff party is dedicated to the decade that was "All that and a bag of chips." Celebrate



Photo provided by Ancient City Entertainment

the first weekend of summer with an action-packed, one-day event including music, games, slime zone, a Lisa Frank selfie station, food trucks and more.

Transport back to the '90s with an all-day concert lineup featuring Salt & Pine, Kapowski, Nerd Kill Overdrive, Bad

Dog Mama, Ramona, Chillula and more. Admission tickets are \$15; children under 5 are free and children ages 5-13 are \$5. VIP tickets are available for \$25 and include a lounge area and VIP bar

90s FEST continues on Page 27

## Bestselling author Steve Berry to appear at The BookMark

New York Times bestselling author Steve Berry will appear at The BookMark in Neptune Beach at 7 p.m. Friday, March 6 to introduce his new mystery, "The Warsaw Protocol."

The 15th installment of Berry's Cotton Malone mystery series, "The Warsaw Protocol" finds former Justice Department agent Malone caught in a deadly war, following him from the tranquil canals of Bruges and the elegant rooms of Wavel Castle to deep beneath the earth in an ancient Polish salt mine.

One by one, it seems, the seven precious relics of the Arma Christi, or the weapons of Christ, are disappearing from sanctuaries across the world. After Malone witnesses the theft of one of them, he learns from his old boss, Stephanie Nelle, that a private auction is about to be held where incriminating information on the president of Poland will be offered to the highest bidder – blackmail that both the United States and Russia want, but for vastly different reasons. The price of admission to that auction is one of the relics, so Malone is first sent to a castle in Poland to steal the Holy Lance, a thousand-year-old spear sacred to not only Christians but also to the Polish people, and then on to the auction itself. But nothing goes as planned, and Malone is thrust into a bloody battle between three nations over information that, if exposed, could change the balance of power in Europe.

Berry has 23 million books in print that have been translated into 40 languages.

The BookMark is located at 220 First St., Neptune Beach. For more information, visit [www.bookmarkbeach.com](http://www.bookmarkbeach.com) or call (904) 241-9026.

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# Singer-songwriter Hayes Carll to play Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

Alternative country and folk singer-songwriter Hayes Carll returns to Ponte Vedra Beach Thursday, April 2 with a performance at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

“... It’s songwriting that doesn’t pander to mainstream country, alt-country, so-called Americana, indie-folk, or what-have you. It just tells its story,” Rolling Stone wrote about Carll.

Last year turned out to be a milestone year for Carll, who released his new album, “What It Is,” last February. “What It Is” debuted in the Top 5 on Billboard’s Rock (No. 5), Country (No. 5) and Americana (No. 4) charts. The album reached No. 6 on the Independent chart while landing in the Top 25 in the Top 200 (No. 23) and Current Albums (No. 21) charts. The album also held the No. 1 spot at Americana Radio for two weeks, while the first single, “None Ya,” held the No. 1 position for eight consecutive weeks.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Special VIP packages include one premium seat-



Photo provided by Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

ing ticket, early entry, an intimate Q&A with Hayes Carll, exclusive preshow performance and meet-and-greet photo opportunity.

Tickets are available at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices and at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Chorus

Continued from 25

“Our spring pops concert is always a lot of fun to perform, with many familiar pieces that the audience knows and loves and hopefully a few new songs that will spark their imagination of these other places that they can travel to in their mind’s eye for a few hours,” said Marie Cashat, president-elect of the chorus and one of its tenors.

Music Director Michael Sanflippo added, “We are so proud of the vocal talent we have in the St. Augustine Community Chorus and their ability to perform everything from folk to pop with equal ability and in multiple languages.”

Performances will be held Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 8 at 3 p.m. at Ancient City Baptist Church, 27 Sevilla St., St. Augustine. Tickets are available at the door or online at <https://staugcc.ticketleap.com/pops2020/> dates. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$12 for youths ages 11-17; free for children 10 and under; and \$5 for active duty military with ID.

## 90s Fest

Continued from 26

access. For vendor opportunities as well as sponsorship opportunities, contact Jeanetta Salyer at [ancientcityentertainmentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:ancientcityentertainmentgroup@gmail.com).

As If! The 90s Fest has room for 60 vendors, 20 with electricity and 40 without, and 12 food trucks. Get tickets at [www.eventbrite.com/e/as-if-north-florida-90s-fest-tickets-93202682733](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/as-if-north-florida-90s-fest-tickets-93202682733).

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# Sports

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020 · PAGE 28

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Photo provided by Ponte Vedra High School wrestling

## Ponte Vedra wrestling coach to retire

On Saturday, Feb. 22, the Ponte Vedra Sharks wrestled particularly hard for Coach Josean Gonzalez and Assistant Coach Rich Maritato, finishing third at the District Championships.

The strong showing was particularly meaningful for Maritato, who plans to retire at the end of the season after 37 years of coaching.

Maritato, 73, also known as “Pop” in the wrestling room, has done a lot for the sport of wrestling in Northeast Florida. He was first exposed to wrestling when he encouraged his sons to pick up the sport in New Jersey, where he raised his family. Then, during his sons’ careers, he went from being a father in the wrestling program to a full-time assistant coach for

almost four decades.

Maritato moved to the First Coast in 2004 with his wife Sharon to be close to his family. Over the years, he was an assistant at Nease High School and also at Florida School of the Deaf and the Blind in St. Augustine. He spent most of his coaching career in Florida, however, at Ponte Vedra High, where both his grand-

sons, Troy Maritato and Rett Maritato, have wrestled with successful careers.

During his tenure, Maritato has had district champions, state qualifiers and even a state champion.

Friends and colleagues say Maritato is best known for his old-school approach

**WRESTLING** continues on Page 30

## Tesori Family Foundation to host ‘All-Star Kids’ golf clinic for children with special needs

The Tesori Family Foundation and THE PLAYERS Championship will host a golf clinic March 11 at 4 p.m. for children with special needs for ages 8-18.

Slated to take place at Sawgrass Country Club, the All-Star Kids Clinic will provide children with one-on-one professional golf instruction and a day outdoors featuring PGA TOUR professional and 2018 PLAYERS Champion Webb Simpson.

VIP golfer All-Stars will also be joined by several PGA

TOUR players and caddies as their coaches. The clinic is one of multiple All-Star Kids clinics being hosted across the country.

Gate passes for the clinic will be distributed via email. For more information, contact National All-Star Clinic Program Director Genna Lancaster at (904) 502-1482 or genna@tesorifamilyfoundation.org.

Sawgrass Country Club is located at 10034 Golf Club Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach.



Ponte Vedra Recorder file photo

**2018 Players Champion Webb Simpson**



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## Wrestling

Continued from 28

to life and coaching and his toughness, passion and energy are well known in the wrestling community.

“Coach Maritato has spent countless hours helping kids achieve their goals on the mat for many years,” Ponte Vedra Head Coach Josean Gonzalez said. “It’s hard to imagine Ponte Vedra High School

without Pop in the corner. I have spent two solid years working with Coach and I can honestly say, he is one of the most dedicated and hard-working people that I have ever worked with. His dedication to developing young people throughout the years will never be forgotten.”

As the wrestling season comes to an end, Maritato plans to keep his wrestling shoes laced up tight. He has four more grandsons coming up through the Ponte Vedra program.



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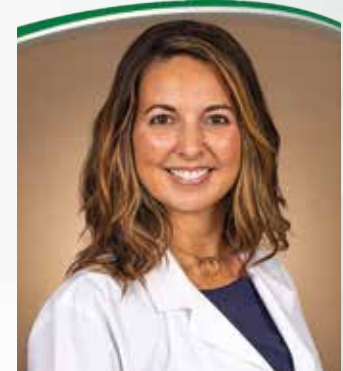
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