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July 16, 2020Volume 51, No. 37
75 cents

PonteVedraRecorder.com

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader





INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!



Nominate your favorites!



Business Weekly featuring Legal Eagles

Pages 18-25

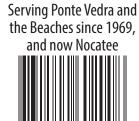
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INSIDE

One of Us

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Sports

Pages 28 and 30



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Send us your news

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

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EDITOR'S NOTES

What's This?: Because of the COVID-19 crisis, The Recorder is suspending the "Do you know what this is?" contest until further notice.

Pets of the Week: Because the St. Johns County Pet Center is closed to walk-in traffic, The Recorder's Pets of the Week feature has been temporarily suspended. The feature will return once the Pet Center reopens.

NOTES TO READERS

Don't miss an issue: In case social distancing requirements get more strict, we will email you your paper. Send your email address to don@opcfla.com.

Weekly newsletter: The Recorder offers a weekly newsletter every Monday that outlines some of the top stories of the week, as well as providing access to our E-Edition and Entertainment EXTRA! To get the newsletter emailed for free, email don@opcfla.com. We'll add you to the list.

Sends us your nominations for Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra

The Ponte Vedra Recorder has launched its second annual Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra contest, covering ZIP codes 32082 and 32081.

Readers currently have the chance to nominate their favorite businesses, professional services, organizations and more in nearly 250 categories online. From best new business to best charity event, best real estate agent to best personal trainer and best seafood to best boutique, the categories run the gamut and are sure to include your favorite things.

Nominations can be made on the website at pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2020/index.html. Nominations will go through July 24. Voting ends Aug. 31.

Anyone can nominate a business or person—there is no limit to the number of nominations each person can submit. Online voting will begin once nominations are complete. The nominees who receive the most votes will be named 2020 Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra. Nominations and voting are completely free and open to the public.

The Best Of platform on The Recorder's website will feature lists of nominees in an easy-to-use format. Nominees can participate in advertising packages that promote their entry



by expanding their listing to feature additional details on the business.

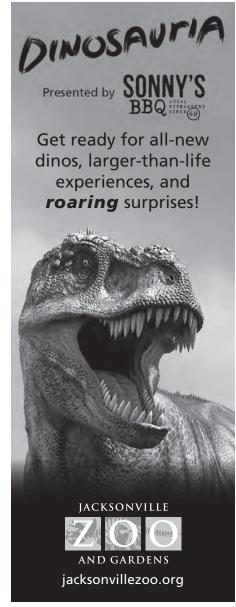
Winners will receive a free framed certificate and a Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra window cling. Each winner will also be listed in our Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra special section and on the winner's website. Winners will be notified by Recorder staff after votes are counted.

For more information or to find out how to get your nominated business or product involved in promotions that will be going on throughout the contest cycle, contact your sales representative, email susan@opcfla.com or call (904) 686-3938.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



Keep Judge Bryan R. Rendzio

Judge Bryan Rendzio was appointed by the Governor to fill a vacancy...and now he is running for election. He presides over cases in the Unified Family Court Division cases in St. Johns County and he has served us well. He is widely respected for his knowledge of the law and his judicial demeanor. Whether you

vote early, vote by mail or vote in person, please vote to keep Judge Bryan Rendzio.

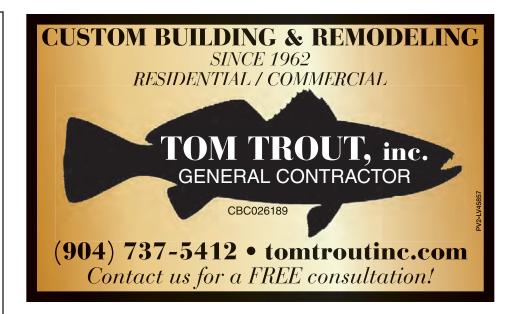
For more information keepjudgebryan.com





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4 COMMUNITY NEWS Ponte Vedra Recorder · July 16, 2020

COVID-19 cases surge out of control in St. Johns

With 587 cases reported in 7-day span, county scrambling for answers

By Don Coble

Residents and county officials took a deep breath of relief on June 5 when the state moved to Phase 2 of its reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, many of those same people are struggling just to breathe as the highly contagious disease continues to surge along the First Coast.

The numbers are alarming: 1,396 people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus since June 25. With a record of 116 positive cases reported in St. Johns County last Monday, it's only getting worse.

School openings are in doubt. High school sports are on hold. The debate on mandating face coverings has become more pronounced. Fears of a rollback to Phase 1 — or worse — has local merchants worrying about their futures. By now, everyone knows someone who's been infected.

And nobody is immune.

County Commissioner Paul Waldron is in "the most critical of conditions," according to his daughter after he fell ill with COVID-19 just a few days after he joined two other commissioners in voting down a resolution to require face coverings in all county buildings.

"My daddy, Paul Waldron, was diagnosed with the COVID virus," Ashley Waldron Zapata wrote on her father's Facebook page. "Due to complications from the virus, he went into septic shock and has many organs struggling. He is currently in

As many of you are aware, this is a very fluid situation and will likely continue to change during the school year.

Tim Forson

St. Johns County Public Schools superintendent in a letter to parents

the most critical of conditions. ... Please keep your family safe and pray for mine."

The Ponte Vedra High football team also reported some of its players have tested positive. Athletics Director Eric Frank didn't offer any other details.

Frank and head coach Jeffrey DiSandro reached out to parents on the team's website. In part, the letter said:

"We have discovered that studentathletes associated with our Football team tested positive for COVID 19. Due to the sensitively of this topic and HIPAA laws and regulations we cannot disclose any individual's medical records to other studentathletes, parents, or assistant coaches. When faced with this situation we will work with school administration, district office, and our local Department of Health to ensure the safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and their families.

Any student-athlete that had close personal contact with the individuals who tested positive has been notified and advised to self-quarantine for 14 days and to contact their healthcare provider if symptoms arise."

Conditioning workouts for fall sports started on June 15.

"Now we just take it one day at a time," Frank said.

Frank and DiSandro met with student athletes last Tuesday to talk about precautions ... and what's ahead.

"They're stressed," Frank said. "This isn't going away."

There were 623 positive cases reported in the county from March 1 to June 24. As of Tuesday afternoon, July 14, there have been nearly 1,400 since, including 587 reported in a seven-day span that ended last Tuesday.

The area in and around Ponte Vedra Beach has more than 500 of the confirmed cases. The ZIP code 32801 for Ponte Vedra, Nocatee and Jacksonville has 164 cases, while 32802 for Ponte Vedra, Jacksonville Beach, Nocatee, Palm Valley and Sawgrass has 330. The only ZIP code in the county with more cases is 32259 with 379 cases, and portions of Nocatee are represented in that area.

In response, the City of St. Augustine passed a resolution that made masks mandatory as of June 27 in public places. Neighboring Jacksonville did the same three days later.

The county and St. Augustine Beach decided against the mandate.

The St. Johns County School Board seemed to favor a two-week delay in the state's plan to reopen public schools on Aug. 10. Before deciding, the board said it needs to be sure it has the authority to go against the state.

Parents in St. Johns County had until Friday to decide whether their children would attend school five days a week, return to schools with social distancing and facemask requirements, attend virtual schools or take up home schooling.

Superintendent Tim Forson told the school board Tuesday more than 4,800 of the district's 40,000 students have decided on virtual-based learning.

He also posted a letter to parents on the school board's website. In part, it read:

"We are working to research the present data and utilize the expertise of health care professionals to determine the most appropriate response to the spread of COVID-19. As many of you are aware, this is a very fluid situation and will likely continue to change during the school year. I believe it is important to recognize these changing conditions and prepare parents, students and staff for a school year that will have to be flexible and adaptable to the current circumstances."

For high school athletes, there's even more uncertainty. The Florida High School Athletic Association is scheduled to meet on Monday, July 20, to create a sports schedule to the upcoming year. There are a lot of options, Frank said, including moving football to the spring or playing games without fans.

As of Tuesday afternoon, 1,994 residents and 25 visitors have tested positive in the county, and 12 of them have died. The age range is from infant to 98 years.

Countywide, there have been 38,241 tests conducted with 26,352 coming back negative, 9,859 coming back inconclusive and 11 awaiting further examination.

Once again, countywide mask mandate fails

By Shaun Ryan

For the second time in two weeks, the St. Johns County Commission on Tuesday failed to act on a motion by Commissioner Henry Dean proposing a countywide mask ordinance. Face coverings have been touted by experts as a defense against exposure to COVID-19.

"It's my strong belief that extreme circumstances call for drastic actions," Dean said prior to making the motion. He added that he understood the debate surrounding the issue but that he felt an obligation to propose the mandate.

The motion died for lack of a second, as did a near-identical one he made during a June 30 special meeting.

Only three commissioners were present to vote. Commissioners Jeremiah Blocker and Paul Waldron were absent. Media outlets have quoted a Facebook post by Waldron's daughter saying that the commissioner has been hospitalized with COVID-19.

At the June 30 meeting, Waldron had joined commissioners Jeb Smith and James Johns in opposing a motion by Blocker to impose a face-covering mandate for county employees at county properties. Waldron had expressed concerns over effectiveness of different types of masks, as well as their availability.

Also Tuesday, the board approved a plan to allocate \$29.5 million in federal funds dispersed as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES). The vote was 3-0.

In part, the funds will augment grants to assist businesses, individuals and nonprofits. Some of the money will go toward acquiring personal protection equipment and offsetting expenses related to decontamination and disinfectants.

The funding will also pay for expanded testing, enhanced video conferencing capabilities, acquisition and installation of touch-free entrances and restrooms and more.

The board also approved extension of the local state of emergency.

St. John County, Flagler Health+ offer free drive-thru COVID-19 testing

St. Johns County and Flagler Health+ are offering free drive-thru COVID-19 testing Monday through Friday at Flagler Hospital, 400 Health Park Blvd.

The testing site is located in parking lot B and will remain open from 7-11 a.m. or until the maximum number of daily tests are collected. Testing is available for all ages, and patients do not need to exhibit symptoms, possess a doctor's note or make an appointment. A parent or guardian must be present for children under 18 to be tested. While insurance cards are not needed, a photo ID is required.

"Due to the funds recently received by the CARES Act, we are now able to offer this testing at no charge to our community," St. Johns County Administrator Hunter Conrad said. "We're grateful for our partnership with Flagler Health+ in providing this service and hopeful the increased testing will help us all continue making the best health and wellness decisions for ourselves and our families."

The testing site is being funded through the CARES Act. Results will be provided via telephone within seven-to-10 days. To expedite the process, patients are encouraged to preregister by downloading the Flagler Health+ Anywhere app, accepting the terms and conditions, clicking on "See a Provider" and selecting the laboratory icon. Patients can then virtually "get in line" for the drive-thru test site.

"We are pleased to partner with St. Johns County to broaden testing availability for our area's residents," Flagler Health+ President and CEO Jason Barrett said. "The ongoing collaboration we continue to enjoy with our county government and other agencies truly sets our community apart. Although these are troubling and challenging times, we are well prepared, sufficiently resourced, and here to support you as we navigate through this pandemic together."

For more information, call the SJC Citizens Information Hotline at (904) 824-5550.

Ponte Vedra Recorder · July 16,2020 COMMUNITY NEWS 5



Photo provided by Old City Public Relation

St. Johns County School District bus operators got an 11% pay increase, making them among the highest paid in the state.

St. Johns County makes school bus operators among highest paid in Florida

SJCSD Transportation Department boosts pay by 11%, aims to fill 300 full-time positions

Out of 67 counties, St. Johns County School District's Transportation Department bus operators are now amongst the highest paid in Florida.

With an 11% wage increase, full-time SJC bus operators now make between \$16 and \$23.93 per hour. That's on top of benefits such as the Florida Retirement System and sign-on bonuses in the amounts of \$1,000 and \$3,000.

"We are currently hiring for nearly 300 full-time operator positions with several of those positions available immediately," said Alfred A. Pantano, director of transportation for St. Johns County School District. "Transporting our kids safely to and from school is of the utmost importance. That's why we offer our bus operators competitive compensation for a job that carries with it great responsibility."

St. Johns County School District's Transportation Department is actively recruiting new bus operators. While candidates must adhere to a strict list of requirements, a generous

bonus structure adds incentive to qualified employees. For those with a current CDL Class B with P&S ndorsements, candidates are eligible for a \$3,000 sign-on bonus after 75 days of solo driving. Other candidates are eligible for a \$1,000 sign-on bonus after 60 days of solo driving.

"One of the most exciting benefits that we offer our bus operators is that after eight years of working full-time for the school district, employees are 100% vested in the Florida Retirement System, which is one of the largest public retirement plans in the United States," Pantano said. "It's just one of the many benefits of being a SJC bus operator. There are so many positives to driving a bus, and we like to say that we are the driving force of education."

St. Johns County School District's Transportation Department is accepting applications for full-time school bus operators. Interested parties can apply at www.applitrack.com/stjohns/onlineapp/default.aspx?AppliTrackJobID=11152&ref. Training programs are held regularly throughout the year. For more information, go to www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/transportation/jobs or contact Monica Thurston at monica.thurston@stjohns.k12.fl.us or (904) 547-8814.

St. Johns County names interim emergency management director, interim deputy director

Following the recent retirement of longtime Emergency Management Director Linda Stoughton, St. Johns County announced Joseph Giammanco as the interim director of Emergency Management this week. Giammanco was named director as the county continues to address the COVID-19 pandemic and is monitoring the 2020 hurricane season.

"It was an absolute pleasure and professional joy to work with Linda over the last six months," said Hunter Conrad, St. Johns County administrator. "St. Johns County was fortunate to have her at the helm over the past several disasters and we all collectively wish her the absolute best in her retirement."

Giammanco has served as the director of Disaster Recovery and Grants for St. Johns County since 2017, following the impacts of Hurricane Matthew. He retired from the United States Coast Guard as a lieutenant commander in 2016 after more than 23 years of service. Giammanco holds a master's degree in business administration and is a current doctoral student in business administration, specializing in public administration.

In addition, Kelly Wilson was named interim deputy director of Emergency Management. Wilson began her career with St. Johns County in 2006 as an

emergency management planner. She was promoted to emergency management coordinator prior to assuming her role as interim deputy director. Previously having served as a planner for the City of Key West, Wilson specializes in comprehensive Emergency Management Planning and Mitigation, and holds a master's degree in science degree with a focus in environmental science. Her tenure within the Emergency Management Division and environmental expertise has been instrumental in seeing the county through numerous natural disasters, most recently including hurricanes Matthew, Irma and Dorian.

City Hall closes to public in effort to slow spread of COVID-19

With positive cases of COVID-19 on the rise in St. Johns County and in an effort to slow the spread of the virus, the City of St. Augustine issued Administrative Order 2020-12, which closes city hall offices to the public beginning Thursday, July 16. However, this closure will not prevent customers from conducting all necessary city business as online and telephone services will remain operational, as follows:

- Customer service/utility billing: The office at 50 Bridge St. will take payments and answer questions over the phone, via email and via the payment drop box. The drive-thru window will remain open during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Call (904) 825-1037 or email utilitybilling@citystaug.
- Parking: The office at 50 Bridge St. will take payments and answer questions via email and over the phone. Call (904) 825-1034 or email parking@citystaug.com.
- Planning & Building: The office at 75 King St., lobby B will take payments, accept plans and answer questions via email and over the phone. Call (904) 825-1065 or email buildingpermits@citystaug.com.
- Public Works: The office at 75 King St., lobby B will take payments, accept plans and answer questions via email and over the phone. Call (904) 825-1040 or email publicworks@citystaug.com.
- Utilities: The office located at 75 King St., lobby B will take payments, accept plans and answer questions via email and over the phone. Call (904) 825-1040 or email utilconnect@citystaug.com.
- City Clerk: The City Clerk's office at 75 King St., lobby B, will answer questions via email or phone. Call (904) 825-1007 or email to cityclerk@citystaug.com.
- City Manager: The office at 75 King St., lobby A, will answer questions via email and over the phone. Call (904) 825-1006 or email citymanager@citystaug.com.
- Municipal Marina: The marina will continue operating under normal business hours, including the fuel dock and marina office. Call (904) 825- 026 or send an email to mates@citystaug.com.

City-managed on-street and off-street parking will still be enforced. Additionally, parking meters, payment kiosks and the mobile parking app will continue accepting payments. The Historic Downtown parking facility will continue normal operations and will be collecting posted parking fees.

The Visitor Information Center will remain open from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., seven days a week.

Solid Waste collection services, including residential and commercial trash, recycling and yard debris, continue to remain on their regular collection schedule.

6 ONE OF USPonte Vedra Recorder · July 16, 2020

Mark Nighbor of Ponte Vedra is the vice president of marketing and communications for Advanced Disposal, which is the fourth largest solid waste collection, recycling and disposal company in the United States.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Mark Nighbor receives the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year Award from Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Renault during the Chamber's 2018 recognition and awards event in 2018.

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell us what you do at Advanced Disposal.

I manage all the marketing and communications for the services we provide to residential, commercial and industrial customers across 16 states and the Bahamas.

How long have you had that position?

I have been in my current role for over four years and have been with the company for 17 years in a variety of sales and marketing positions in the Midwest and at the corporate office here in Ponte Vedra.

What is the most satisfying aspect of your job?

The team at Advanced Disposal provides an essential service that keeps communities safe and clean. The challenge with my job is to market a service that is not "top of mind" but can become critical



if the service is not performed safely and consistently.

Tell us about your education and career path. What led you to the career you now have?

I graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in finance and

management. I started my career in the technology industry and after 20 years decided to switch to the waste industry. I know that is an unusual transition, but I just replaced selling and marketing packets of data with packets of trash.

Many people who live in the Ponte Vedra area moved here from elsewhere. How long have you been a local resident? Where did you move from?

We moved to Ponte Vedra seven years ago after spending 30 years in Chicago.

What do you like best about residing in this community?

Coming from Chicago, absolutely the weather and access to golf all year long. We also appreciate the quality of life in this community and the partnership that exists between government officials, businesses and residents to maintain and improve that quality of life.

In your free time, what kinds of activities, hobbies or volunteer opportunities do you participate in? What draws you to these?

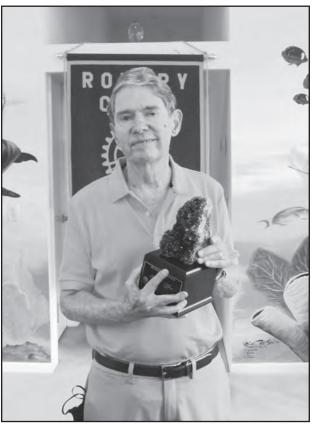
I enjoy traveling with my best friend and wife Teri, going to college football games with my daughter Casey and golfing with my daughter Ellen. I am a big sports fan rooting for my Chicago Bears, Cubs, Bulls and Blackhawks teams and, yes, there are other sports in addition to college football.

I am currently the chair of the board of directors for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the president of the board of directors for the St. Augustine/St. Johns County Habitat for Humanity. The Chamber does a great job supporting the growth of business in the county and Habitat for Humanity provides affordable housing, which is one of the challenges we need to overcome in our community.

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Marc Savy received the club's most honorable and prestigious award, Rotarian of the Year. Savy was recognized for his efforts leading the Family of Rotary committee.



Charter member Al Hammack displays his Rotary "Rock Star" award for his decades of dedication to the club as chair of membership.



Photos provided by the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach **Bethany Mathewson was named Rookie of the Year for her significant contributions to the club as a new member.**

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach closes year with awards ceremony



ABOVE: Former Rotary Foundation Chair Christine Ng presents Jim Van Horn with the Don Blackburn Award for his generous support of Rotary.

RIGHT: Beverly Flanagan received the Service Above Self Award for her efforts as chair of service projects.



The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach honored the service and dedication of its members at its end-of-year awards ceremony on Thursday, June 25.

Marc Savy received the club's most honorable and prestigious award, with President Vickie Cavey naming him Rotarian of the Year. Savy was recognized for his efforts leading the Family of Rotary committee.

Beverly Flanagan received the Service Above Self Award for her two years of dedication to the club and the community as chair of service projects. Jim Van Horn received the Don Blackburn Award for his generous support of Rotary and its mission

Charter member Al Hammack was recognized

as a Rotary "Rock Star" for his decades of dedication to the club as chair of membership and his overall values of service above self. Rounding out the awards, Bethany Mathewson was named Rookie of the Year for her significant contributions to the club as a newer member.

In addition to the awards, Cavey recognized the club's board of directors, committee heads, and several other members who contributed to the year's success. A select group of members (Paul Harris Fellows) were also recognized for their contributions to the Rotary Foundation to support its charitable and humanitarian work around the world.

ROTARY continues on **Page 9**



Incoming President Sam Hall presents outgoing President Vickie Cavey with a Rotary mallet to thank her for her leadership of the club.



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Rotary

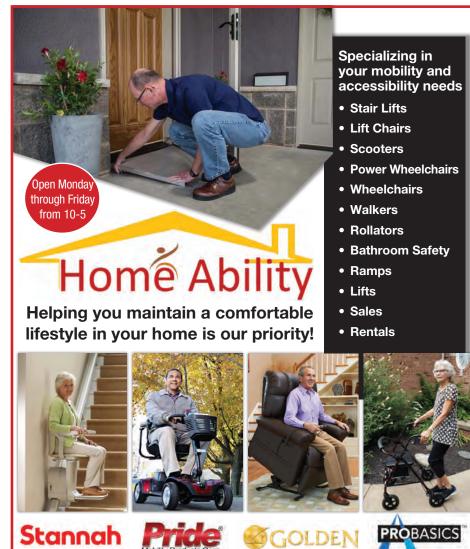
"It was another successful, albeit unique, year for the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach," Cavey said. "Even amid the pandemic and a transition to meetings via Zoom, our club didn't miss a beat. I want to thank our members for their contributions to the club and to our community this year. I've been honored to serve as president for the past 18 months."

The ceremony recognized Cavey's presidency and leadership, while also ushering in Sam Hall as the club's new president.

"I am humbled to lead the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach as its next president," Hall said. "Those who have served in this role before me, including Vickie Cavey, have set a high bar. I look forward to building upon the good work they have done in this community for so many years."

For more information about the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, go to www.pvbrotary.org.







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 \$2,450,000



Intracoastal Waterfront Condo

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7 bedrooms, 7F/ 2H bathrooms \$8,850,000



The Perfect Beach Escape

Las Mirandas / Oceanfront Condo

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

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

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10 COMMUNITY NEWSPonte Vedra Recorder · July 16, 2020

PVHS club, grocer work together to help homeless

Local DoSomething chapter, Winn-Dixie team up to donate food to St. Francis House

By Paris Moulden

Giving back to the community was a main priority for both a local grocery giant and a newly formed club chapter at Ponte Vedra High School. So it only made sense to work together to help a local charity help feed the homeless.

Winn-Dixie and the Winn-Dixie Gives Foundation partnered with Ponte Vedra High School's new chapter of DoSomething, a national youth service organization, to present \$2,000 in food to the St. Francis House Crisis Center in St. Augustine.

PVHS student representatives of the club and Winn-Dixie representatives picked up food donations at the Ponte Vedra Beach-based store on Thursday, July 9, and delivered it to the St. Francis House, located at 70 Washington St. in St. Augustine,

The mission of the 30-year-old residential program is to provide access to essential services and address the critical needs of the local homeless population. The donation will help the St. Francis House stock its pantry while it deals with added pressure stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jake Brice, president of PVHS' DoSomething chapter, said his college coordinator helped connect the club with representatives from Winn-Dixie, which has been beneficial for the club — and the grocer.

"When the DoSomenthing Club reached out to Winn-Dixie, we were inspired by their passion for helping the community, especially during the current pandemic," said Shawn Sloan, Winn-Dixie regional vice president, North Florida. "Through the Winn-Dixie Gives Foundation, we were thrilled to donate shelf-stable food to help these determined students support the good work of St. Francis House and stock their pantry for those who have fallen on hard times."

The DoSomething Club is a national nonprofit program that empowers high school students to mobilize their peers to make an impact in their schools and communities.

The PVHS chapter currently boasts three members — Brice, Oliver Jenkins and Alexis Boselli — and was formed in late May. The local chapter is working on other intiatives to help local charities, including the Ronald McDonald House Charities, and has plans for continued combined efforts with Winn-Dixie.

"This partnership was a natural extension of our continued efforts to support food-insecure families and individuals who may not know where their next meal will



Photos provided by St. John & Partners

Representatives of Winn-Dixie and the Ponte Vedra High School DoSomething Club stand outside the Ponte Vedra Beach-based grocery store during a donation food drive Thursday, July 20, to benefit the St. Francis House in St. Augustine.



PVHS DoSomething Club members load up food donated by Winn-Dixie to deliver to the St. Francis House.

come from," Sloan said. "At Winn-Dixie, we believe this responsibility expands outside our doors to help replenish food pantry shelves and provide nourishment for neighbors in need. As a community, we are all stronger together.

A sense of community was also a big factor for Brice and his reason for helping start the local chapter of DoSomething.



PVHS DoSomething Club members Oliver Jenkins, Alexis Boselli and Jake Brice present donated shelf-stable products provided by the Winn-Dixie Gives Foundation to St. Frances House Marketing and Volunteer Coordinator Robert Harris (far right) and direct care worker Beth Kuhn (back, left).

"It just feels good to give back to the community, and this community has given so much to me," Brice said, "Ponte Vedra High School is a great school, funded by the community around us, so it just feels good to give back."

National honor society selects PVHS student as ambassador



Presley Baesler

Presley Baesler, a Ponte Vedra High School student, has been selected for the Ambassador Leadership Program by the National Society of High School Scholars. A role model to peers, Presley was selected out of hundreds of applicants for demonstrating strong academic achievement and a commitment to community service.

Each year, student members of NSHSS are invited to apply for leadership roles responsible for representing the society in their schools and inspiring peers to become more involved in community activities. Participation in the Ambassador Leadership Program is an opportunity for talented scholars to enhance their leadership skills by identifying a community or social need,

actively becoming involved in volunteerism and helping others. NSHSS provides exclusive ambassador scholarships based upon their active participation in the program during their senior year.

The National Society of High School Scholars seeks to advance the goals and aspirations of high-achieving students through unique learning experiences, scholarships, internships, international study and peer networks. From attending the annual Nobel Week festivities in Stockholm, Sweden, to internships with major corporations and government agencies, pre-college summer study programs and more than \$2 million in scholarships awarded annually, NSHSS is con-

tinually seeking new ways to provide lifetime learning and growth opportunities for academically talented and accomplished student leaders, and the educators who support them.

"NSHSS pairs leadership education and skill development with community service to ensure a comprehensive experience for those chosen to participate in the Ambassador Leadership Program," said Leslie Walton, manager of Society Leadership and Engagement at NSHSS. "Ambassadors participate in groups studying various leadership styles while networking with like-minded peers who are also developing and implementing service initiatives within their high school and community."

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OBITUARIES

Roderick Charles Heath

LT COL Roderick Charles Heath was born February 26, 1938 to Frances K Bouchard and Roderick Bouchard in Hartford, Connecticut. Raised by his mother Frances and her second husband, Lawrence Heath, Rod took the name of Heath at an early age. Rod passed peacefully away on June 30, 2020 surrounded by his family.

Rod graduated from Boston College and began his career in the United States Army in 1960. During his service, he had assignments in Germany, Korea, Turkey and numerous posts in the United States. He commanded an aviation scout section and a helicopter assault company during two Vietnam tours (December 1966-December 1967 and November 1970 – November 1971). He survived being shot down twice. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal and Army Air Medal



Roderick Charles Heath

with Valor. After returning from Vietnam, he attended Army Airborne school as a Major. Lieutenant Colonel Heath was stationed in Izmir, Turkey and was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal both for his work

with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Allied Command Europe (ACE). Heath retired in 1989 after 28 years of service.

Roderick C. Heath was predeceased by his parents and infant son, Douglas Mark Heath. Rod is survived by his wife Tulin C. Heath, of Ponte Vedra Beach and her daughter Ayse Quilty, of Jacksonville, FL. He is also survived by his children, Tracy Dellasandro (Bill) of Fayetteville, NC; Christopher Heath (Gail) of Shallotte, NC; Suzanne Albertson of Asheville, NC; Jennifer Mass (Larry) of Wilmington, NC; grandchildren, Melissa Whitley(Ashley), Julia Albertson, Dominick Dellasandro, Sarah Mass, Michael Dellasandro, Anna Mass and Lauren Mass; and great-grandchild Aydin Whitley.

A private memorial and burial was held at Ponte Vedra Valley Cemetery July 9, 2020. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your local pet shelter. Rod loved his pets dearly. Please visit the Tribute online at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



William James Conover

William James Conover, 84, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died July 8, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904)249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Robert Hardee

Robert Hardee, 33, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died June 29, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www. pontevedravalley.com

Frances Ruth Huett

Frances Ruth Huett, 77, of Jacksonville Beach, died July 6, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com (904) 249-1100.

Anita Marie Morrow

Anita Marie Morrow, 84, died July 6, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Robert Edward Travers Jr.

Robert Edward Travers Jr., 90, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died July 8, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home and Cremation Centre. (904)249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

More than \$3M granted for COVID-19 relief in Northeast Florida

Florida's First Coast Relief Fund assists 87 nonprofits

Florida's First Coast Relief Fund has surpassed the \$3 million mark in grants awarded to nonprofit organizations responding to immediate needs during the



COVID-19 pandemic. More than 85 agencies are recipients of nearly \$3.3 million since grantmaking began in March.

The fund is a collaboration between The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Jessie Ball duPont Fund, Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida, United Way of Northeast Florida and United Way of St. Johns County.

"By far, the greatest need we've seen to this point is for food and financial assistance," said Kathleen Shaw, a member of the Relief Fund's grants committee and vice president of programs at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. "We have been able to make grants to some of the big regional food suppliers, like Feeding Northeast Florida and Barnabas, but we've also made grants to many smaller organizations so they can acquire food from the regional food banks and get it into their clients' hands as soon as possible."

Applications from nonprofits are still coming in, and members of the Relief Fund's grant committee continue to meet



Photo by Randy Lefko

Jaguars owner Shad Khan contributed \$400,000 to the First Coast Relief Fund.

weekly to review, approve and ensure grants go out the door quickly.

Priority is given to agencies in Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, Baker, Clay and Putnam counties that provide food; housing; financial assistance for individuals and families; child-care support for first responders and other frontline staff; medical, safety supplies and equipment; and technology support for safety net providers.

Organizations in St. Johns County that benefited from the grants included: American Red Cross, Ascension St. Vincent's Healthcare Foundation, Beaches Council of Aging, Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry, Betty Griffin Center, Blessings in a Backpack-First Coast Chapter, Catholic Charities, Center for Sustainable Agriculture Excellence and Conservation, Downtown Ecumenical Services Council. ElderSource, Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County. EPIC Community Services, EPIC Cure, Farm Share, Feeding Northeast Florida, Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County, Hart Felt Ministries, Hope Haven, Horn of Salvation Ministries,

Hugs Across the County, Hunger Fight, Jewish Family and Community Services, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Pie in the Sky Community Alliance, Salvation Army, St. Augustine Youth Services, St. Francis House, Three Grains of Rice Mission, Tom Coughlin Jay Fund, UF Health, Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Volunteers in Medicine, YMCA, Yoga 4 Change and Youth Crisis Center.

"We're continuing to see requests from the organizations serving our most vulnerable neighbors and are grateful to the coalition of public and private donors answering the ongoing call to help," said Katie Ensign, vice president for Placemaking and Administration for the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. "Florida's First Coast Relief Fund is working closely with local systems addressing these critical issues including homelessness, food insecurity, mental health services, small businesses resilience, and emergency response services — to ensure that grants are helping to build a more effective community infrastructure to quickly and efficiently get assistance to those who need it most."

Fortunately, generous donors continue to support Florida's First Coast Relief Fund. Recent gifts of \$1 million from the City of Jacksonville and \$500,000 from The Humana Foundation bolstered the fund to more than \$5.4 million — more than was raised for relief following hurricanes Matthew and Irma.

The City of Jacksonville (\$1 million), The Humana Foundation (\$500,000), Jessie Ball duPont Fund (\$500,000), Shad Khan (\$400,000), The Jim Moran Foundation (\$250,000), J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver (\$250,000) and the Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock Foundation (\$250,000) were among those to contributed to the fund.



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NOCATEE HAPPENINGS



Photo by Susan Griffin

Prince Pele's Polynesian Revue will perform at the Nocatee Farmers Market on July 16.

Experience the islands at the Nocatee Farmers Market

Get your Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts ready for the Nocatee Farmers Market: Island Experience, happening from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, July 18.

The Farmers Market will boast performances by Prince Pele's Polynesian Revue, including a variety of Polynesian dances, costumes, music and more. Shows are 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Along with the fun and interactive

theme, the Farmers Market features more than 70 local vendors every month, selling fresh produce, crafts, jewelry, herbs, unique foods and more. The bar will also be open for beer and wine purchases. However, Paradise Park Playground will not be open for market attendees.

The Nocatee Farmers Market is open to the public, and the event is weather permitting.

PAVORITES NOW! 2020 SIST of the BEST of Ponte Vedra Recorder Ponte Vedra Recorder is holding its 2nd annual BEST OF THE BEST OF PONTE VEDRA contest. Readers will have the chance to nominate their favorite businesses in various categories online. Online voting will begin once nominations are complete. www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2020

Operation New Uniform and K9s For Warriors host veterans appreciation event July 20



Photo provided by Operation New Uniform

Operation New Uniform and K9s For Warriors will host a Veterans Appreciation Night on Monday, July 20, at Brewhound Dog Park + Bar in Neptune Beach.

Several veterans organizations will be in attendance at the event, which takes place from 6-9 p.m. The event will also feature \$2 tacos, a bar and some adorable adoptable dogs. Attendees can also bring their dog to play at the dog park and mingle with new friends.

The event is free, but registration is required. Register online at onuvetnight.eventbrite.com. A waiver also needs to be signed if bringing a dog.

Brewhound Dog Park is located at 1848 Kings Circle South in

2020 ELECTION DATES

PRIMARY ELECTION

August 18th

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November 3rd
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Photos provided by Kathy Esfahani

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

The Recorder's garden columnist Kathy Esfahani, of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, shares her tips for growing gorgeous gardens in Northeast Florida.



Kathy Esfahani Columnist

"I am more myself in the garden that anywhere else on Earth." – **Dough Greene**

COLEUS AND CALADIUMS

Need a break from this sun? Although these are

shade-loving plants, they still don't mind the heat. Now is a great time to add coleus and caladiums into your gardens for a lush — and sometimes colorful — look.

COLEUS

This plant is considered a tropical/subtropical plant and is native to from Southeast Asia to Australia. Depending on temperatures in the area, coleus can be an annual or a perennial. Most the time in Northeast Florida, it will grow back as long as winters are not harsh. There are approximately 60 different species of coleus and all different colors!

CALADIUM

Caladiums go by a few different common names — elephant ears, heart of Jesus, and angel wings. They are a tropical plant that is native to South and Central America. They are a perennial that comes back year after year in Florida with vibrant greens and color. There are over 1,000 different species of caladiums, but not all can grow in our area.

Both of these plants are shade-loving. It's a very important part of keeping them healthy and happy! Try finding shade in your garden where the sun does not hit directly, such as under a large tree canopy. Some indirect sunlight shining through is OK, if the majority is shade. Both will grow large and create a beautiful fullness in your landscaping!

Email Kathy at kathys.creative.gardens@ gmail.com for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future.

Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery is located at 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. (904) 655-7373



CHRIS

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF

Strickland uniquely qualified to be our next sheriff

By Tom Verri

St. Johns County, FL

Based on my 34 years of experience in law enforcement, working for two of the country's largest police agencies as well as the US Department of State, in command-level and supervisory positions I would like to announce that I am supporting Chris Strickland for St. Johns County Sheriff.

I have compared the qualifications and experience of the two current candidates:

Chris Strickland and Rob Hardwick. This county needs proper administration of our sheriff's office. It is our primary law enforcement and public safety agency. With that in mind, I find that Strickland far and away exceeds his opponent. Sheriff Neil Perry appointed Strickland a deputy sheriff when he was only 19 years old. Perry saw Strickland's dedication and realized Chris had great promise. Strickland rose through the ranks as the agency and the county grew. He advanced from deputy to sergeant to detective, lieutenant, to commander and finally to the highest-ranking uniformed career position, Director of the Office of Sheriff. As Director, he oversaw operations at the highest level of the agency. Strickland earned a Master of Public Administration degree and is a graduate of Georgia Command College.

Chris Strickland is uniquely qualified to be our next sheriff. In recent years, our sheriff's office has been plagued with scandals. Under outgoing Sheriff Shoar, we have witnessed the national embarrassment of mishandling in the Michelle O'Connell death investigation as well as the embezzlement of nearly a million dollars by Shoar's handpicked Director of Finance. After 16-years of no accountability for his actions, Shoar and his backers have donated hundreds or thousands of dollars and are aggressively promoting Harwick, who oversees an agency made up of about 21 officers, to be Shoar's handpicked successor. That is disturbing. Chris Strickland has been for openness and honesty since day one. Last year, he promised to equip all deputies with body-worn cameras. In fact, during his tenure as chief of the 21 officer St. Augustine Police Department, he has never equipped his officers with them. Why?

Chris Strickland will restore excellent police and community relations by reviewing and reforming use of force training, setting up strong protocols for budgetary and fiscal management insure accountability of taxpayer dollars and move the department into the future with innovative platform for the agency and for all residents of the county.

Strickland4Sheriff.com

Paid for by Chris Strickland, Rep. for St Johns County Sheriff

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Paugas

Photo by Shaun Ryan

Jennifer and John Teneyck stand inside the van they bring to their customers' homes. The van contains everything they need to provide grooming and other services.

Dog groomer driven to launch mobile service

By Shaun Ryan

The owners of a new dog grooming service have discovered that they can drum up business by simply driving around the Ponte Vedra area.

That's because the address for Pawgrass Mobile Dog Spa is wherever the large van happens to be, whether on the road or parked outside a customer's home.

"We've been driving down the highway from one call to another and somebody calls and says, 'Hey, I'm riding alongside you; I need to make an appointment,'" said John Teneyck, who maintains the mobile spa while his wife Jennifer performs all the grooming.

In fact, the business, which just got off the ground June 5, is already making its presence felt. Among its clientele are four recurring customers.

While the front-door service gives the spa its own niche in the market, the primary factor of the business's early success may be Jennifer Teneyck's experience, skill and abil-

ity to put her canine clients as ease.

Sometimes a customer will warn her about a particular dog's triggers. But she will work slowly, giving the dog a chance to acclimate, and successfully complete the service.

"You've got to be able to read them," she said. "You don't know what their past was."

"I call her the dog whisperer," said John, laughing.

Another factor may be the van itself. There are no cages, and the service is one-on-one. Also, dogs can simply look out the window and see their home, which may help to put them at ease.

In fact, after they're finished, "most of them turn around and just look at the van like, "That was fun," Jennifer said. "I love it!"

The van has its own electricity and water and is outfitted with a bed, bathtub and more. John works to keep the interior clean and sterile between appointments.

"Every time we pull up to somebody's

MOBILE continues on Page 17

New bill aims to curb illegitimate emotional support animals

K9s For Warriors aids in effort to rein in 'wild west of unregulated dogs'

By Amber Lake

Back in January of 2019, a woman traveler on American Airlines made international news for being denied boarding for an "emotional support peacock."

The peacock, named Dexter, belonged to a Brooklynbased artist who regularly posed for photography and performance art in addition to emotionally assisting its owner.

The story brought along with it national debate as to the legitimacy of emotional support animals and eventually a new Florida law that passed in early July. The bill makes it more difficult for individuals to verify the therapeutic value of their animal companions.

Currently, there are websites online that charge just \$22 dollars to "certify" an emotional support animal. The sites advertise online "doctors" who offer same-day approval and "no hassle" registration.



Photos provided by K9s For Warriors

K9s For Warriors announces its effort to create a legitimate credential to verify trained service dogs called a "Service Dog Pass."

The new bill amends Florida's Fair Housing Act by requiring pet owners to have their emotional support animals authorized by real doctors and even goes as far as to penalize those attempting to falsify their pets with a second-degree misdemeanor. It aims to empower hous-

ing providers with the ability to deny accommodation for those attempting to use the animals to circumvent animal related fees or regulations.

Many are saying the bill actually protects those with

"They think that no one is harmed by it," said Rory Diamond, CEO of K9s For Warriors. "They think they are clever and cheated the system. But there really is a victim and the victim is someone with a legitimate service dog."

Diamond said the presence of untrained emotional support animals in spaces reserved for animals servicing those with actual disabilities can have disastrous consequences.

"If an emotional support animal walks by and lunges at a trained service dog, the dog will react," Diamond said. "Anyone with a legitimate service dog is always on the lookout for a fake service dog."

K9s For Warriors is a non-profit dedicated to training rescue dogs for service animal work, providing canines to veterans suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury or

Resort caters to canine clientele

By Shaun Ryan

If envy exists in the canine world, the dogs that spend their days at Sawgrass Pet Resort surely have their contemporaries seeing green.

The new facility, located at the extreme end of Sawgrass Village Circle, offers both dog daycare and overnight boarding, plus various a la carte items.

Dogs may stay overnight or over a period of weeks in the regular boarding area or one of the luxury suites. The latter come with daycare, which can also be added to the former.

The luxury suites, which measure 5½ by 8 feet, are furnished with either toddler beds or large, comfortable donut-shaped cushions. The canine guests are served ice cream or some other treat and are read a bedtime story at the end of the day.

For daycare, the dogs mingle with their assigned group for five- or nine-hour stays. From noon to 2 p.m., they are provided blankets for nap time and a movie is shown on a 60-inch flatscreen TV.

"We kind of treat our daycare like a kindergarten class, where they come in and they go and do different activities in different areas," explained resort owner Kate Wagner.

There are balls and other toys, a splash pad, pools and miniature picnic tables to climb.

"There are just endless activities for them to be doing," said Wagner. "It's a lot of fun."

At the end of the day, all of the dogs are integrated.

The Sawgrass Pet Resort is Wagner's brainchild. She has long run a dog rescue and saw a need for such a facility.

But it was a long road from concept to fruition.

Completing the paperwork, meeting all the county's requirements and constructing the building took more than two years. And then, not long after the resort opened its doors on March 9, the governor ordered a statewide stayat-home-order.

But Wagner sees the silver lining in this turn of events. "I'm glad we had the ability to have a slow open," she said, "because now we've figured out really how to make it work better."



At the Sawgrass Pet Resort front desk are Christina Dorman (from left), business owner Kate Wagner and Gena Loveless.





FAR LEFT: Sawgrass Pet Resort has a large outdoor area for the dogs to play during daycare.

LEFT: Luxury suites are furnished with a toddler bed or large, donutshaped cushions.

Photos by Shaun Ryan

She expressed gratitude that the new business has been embraced by the community.

"We've had great support," she said. "It's very humbling. They're so excited we're here."

In return, the staff members of the Sawgrass Pet Resort show their support of local businesses by patronizing them

Wagner said she wants her business to be a community

asset, a place where quarterly adoption events, fundraisers and pet food collections can be held.

"That's how I see this place being," said Wagner.
"A place to help all the animals in need and to educate people on how they can help."

Now that the Sawgrass Pet Resort has reopened, its hours are: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Sundays are reserved to boarding pickups.



Ril

military sexual trauma. The organization says their "service animals" are not to be confused with untrained emotional support animals.

"(The difference) is something that we are really passionate about at K9s For Warriors," Diamond said. "Service dogs are for people with a disability. An emotional support animal could be for just about anyone. I think every single dog in the world is an emotional support animal."

Currently, the nonprofit is working on launching its own "Service Dog Pass" which will serve as a legitimate credential for airlines, businesses and hotels. The pass is being developed in conjunction with the American Kennel Club and is due to debut in 2021.

"The number of fake or untrained service dogs is definitely going up very quickly," Diamond said. "It's a wild west of unregulated dogs out there."

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Photo by Shaun Ryan

Jennifer and John Teneyck stand beside the large van they use for their business, Pawgrass Mobile Dog Spa.

Mobile

house, they need to have that impression," he said. "I want people to open that door and say, 'It's immaculate."

Jennifer completed grooming school in New York in 2006 and, at the encouragement of her husband, opened her own grooming shop, which she ran successfully for several years.

Then, a visit to Florida inspired the Teneyck family to pull up roots and move here.

"We fell in love with the Ponte Vedra

Beach area," Jennifer said. "We love the people. We love the community."

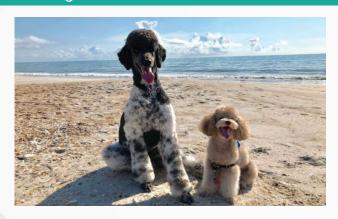
The idea for a mobile service grew out of the grooming expos Jennifer regularly attends. There, she discovered companies that convert large vans into mobile salons. Moving to the Sunshine State, the Tenevcks realized that the weather here is more conducive to mobile services than in the North.

Pawgrass Mobile Dog Spa offers haircuts, hydro-massage baths, blueberry facials, ear plucking and cleaning, feather fur extensions, nail clipping and painting and more.

Go to pawgrassdogspa.com to learn more.



Pawgrass satisfied customers.



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My Mission:

"At Pawgrass Mobile Dog Spa it is our mission to provide a healthy and positive grooming experience for your dog in a friendly and clean environment."

f o







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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Judge John column: Show respect for Beaches by picking up trash

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Guest Columnist

5 ways your will can become useless — or close to it

Is having an out-of-date will better than having no will at all? While wills do not have expiration dates, certain changes can render them useless. When this happens, having an out-of-date will can be the same as having no will at all. It is important to review your will periodically to ensure it still does what you want. The following are five ways your will can become out-of-date:

Your beneficiaries have died. What happens if your will leaves your estate to your two siblings, but both siblings die before you? If your beneficiaries predecease you, your will is still technically valid, but it will have no effect on who will inherit from your estate. Instead, your estate will be distributed according to the law in your state, just as if you had died with no will at all.

You have potential new beneficiaries. A will that was written before you got married or had children will be of little assistance in distributing your estate. States have provisions that protect spouses and children that come after a will is written. In most states, spouses are entitled to a certain

ARMSTRONG continues on Page 24



Two employees of Zula Surf Company staff a table of food made available to members of the community in need

Surf shop feeds hungry during COVID shutdown

By Shaun Ryan

In normal times, Zula Surf Company is a popular place to seek out clothing and accessories for surfing, skating and the beach-going lifestyle. But in March the COVID-19 outbreak forced Zula, like so many other businesses, to temporarily suspend

During the hiatus, however, owner Dan Safra and his team demonstrated what it means to be a good neighbor.

At each of the store's two locations, they set out a table of food for anyone in the community to, as their sign read, "take whatever you need; give whatever you can."

Their efforts meant that people thrown out of work by the shutdown would still be able to eat. And it inspired others to contribute to the cause.

It all began when Safra's employees, some with young children, reported their inability to get unem-

Estate planning during a pandemic: steps to take



Karsten Jacobson Columnist

The coronavirus pandemic has certainly caused havoc and concern for many people, particularly in regard to their health and their finances — and these two areas intersect in estate planning. So, if you haven't drawn up your estate plans yet, or you think they may need to be revised, now may be a good time to act.

This suggestion is not strictly based on issues of morbidity — after all, the vast majority of people who contract CO-VID-19 will survive. However, even if

you never become ill or need to be hospitalized, wouldn't you be glad to know your affairs are in order? If you already have estate plans, you may need to revisit them if your family situation has changed because of marriage, divorce, remarriage, new children, new financial goals, and so on.

Of course, estate planning can be complex, so there's not a "one size fits all" approach. Nonetheless, here are some of the most commonly used documents and arrangements:

Financial power of attorney: A financial power of attorney is a legal document that gives someone the authority to conduct your financial affairs - pay bills, write checks, make deposits, sell or purchase assets — if you were unable to do so yourself. You can establish the financial power of attorney without giving your representative any ownership in your assets.

Last will and testament: With a last will and testament, you can choose how you want your assets distributed, appoint an executor to oversee the distribution and name a guardian to take care of minor children. If you don't have a will, a court might assume these functions, with results you might not have

Living trust: A living trust allows you to leave assets to your heirs without going through the time-consuming, public and often expensive probate process. Also, a living trust gives you significant flexibility in dispersing your estate. You can direct your trust to pass your assets to your beneficiaries immediately upon your death or to distribute the assets over time and in amounts you specify.

Health care surrogate: A health care surrogate, sometimes known as a health care proxy or health care power of attorney, is a legal document that appoints a person to act for you if you Ponte Vedra Recorder · July 16,2020





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McGarvey Residential Communities breaks ground on its new Park Ridge community in St. Johns County.





Photos provided by Old City Public Relations

The new Park Ridge Townhomes will offer two-and

Developer announces presale of new townhomes in St. Johns County

McGarvey Residential Communities, which has developed multiple neighborhoods in the St. Augustine area including Sea Colony, SeaGrove, Ocean Dunes and Anastasia Dunes, recently announced the kickoff of presales for its new Park Ridge Townhomes community.

Located on Old Moultrie Road, one mile south of State Road 312 and close to historic downtown St. Augustine and the Atlantic Ocean coastline, Park Ridge will offer 66 townhomes situated on 10 acres of scenic Old Florida terrain.

"For more than four decades, we have been known as a significant steward of St. Johns County's natural features, which we carefully design into each community," said Sean McGarvey, managing partner of McGarvey Residential Communities. "Park Ridge offers affordable luxury for everyone from retirees and first-time homebuyers to families and young professionals."

Park Ridge townhomes start at \$215,000 and feature open floorplans, fully equipped kitchen, and modern design. Buyers can choose between two units; a two-bedroom, two-anda-half-bath townhome that is 1,244 square feet and a threebedroom, two-and-a-half-bath unit boasting 1,505 square feet. Each townhome includes an open patio and one-car garage. Park Ridge will feature a swim club and several park areas, which will be maintained by a resident-managed HOA.

A limited number of Park Ridge Townhomes are now available for presale. For more information, email Jacque Watson at jacque@mcgarveycommunities.com, call (904) 595-2500 or (904) 608-1001 or go to ParkRidgeStAug.com.

Food

ployment payouts due to the overwhelmed state system. "At first, I was just trying to do something nice for my employees," said Safra.

He went to a restaurant supply store in Jacksonville and purchased a bunch of food.

"I texted everybody, and I said, 'Come to the store, and take whatever you need," he said.

His gesture was a success, and he purchased more food. This time, he set up tents in front of his stores, offering the goods to anyone in need. He also contacted local farmers and food banks in hopes of adding to what he had to offer.

Soon, others wanted to help and before long, they were buying canned goods at The Fresh Market to drop off at the tent. Others drove up and delivered a box of groceries. Some thoughtful people remembered to contribute baby food.

The effort ballooned and Safra brought in some of his employees to help run it.

"I saw how many good people surround us," he said, adding, "Good people are attracted to the good that you do, and they want to be a part of it."

Eventually, people began to go back to work and the need fell off. The effort concluded near the end of June, though Safra said he still has a box of goods in his back room should anyone still need something.

One thing Safra said he learned from the experience was how people who were used to working for a living were uncomfortable going to a food bank. The Zula food distribu-



DeAnna Baldacci, who models some of the fashions sold at Zula Surf Company, stands next to a table of food set out by business owner Dan Safra to help members of the community in need during the COVID-19 shutdown.

tion tables allowed them to remain anonymous while getting what they needed. It helped some people to preserve their sense of dignity.

Zula Surf Company is open again and back in the business of surf, skate and beach merchandise. Its stores are located at 840 State Road A1A, Ponte Vedra Beach, and 4720 Town Crossing Drive, Jacksonville.

You said what?



Harry Pappas

They say if you want to master something, teach it, so with this idea in mind the following dispatch is as much for me as it is for you. We have all heard it said, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Wrong, wrong, wrong!" The truth is words are powerful! They have the power

to build up or to tear down and the muscle to influence people for better or worse. When someone criticizes, taunts, ridicules, accuses, judges, shames or blames us, the pain seldom goes away. Of course, vice versa. Just as being mean-spirited often has lasting consequences not using words of encouragement to inspire others can be just as problematic.

To underscore this notion, consider arguably one of the greatest artists in history, Barbara Streisand, who is only one of two performers in the world that has an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony and a Peabody award. Ms. Streisand had a very difficult childhood. Her father died when she was just 15 months old and she had an unhealthy relationship with her mother. At the height of her career in 1994, she performed a world tour that many consider the best ever. Before Ms. Streisand was able to utter a word at the opening of her last show in Anaheim, California, to a sold-out audience, the place erupted with an ear popping standing ovation that lasted for several minutes.

During the entire applause, the legendary performer glared at one person in the second row. When the ovation silenced, Ms. Streisand looked at this elderly frail woman in a wheelchair and in perhaps a state of brokenness said, "Are you proud of me now mama?"

Here at this very moment and perhaps her lifetime, one of the greatest performers in history was looking for words of encouragement from her. In 2018, she did an interview and was asked about this event. She said not one time in her life did her mother tell her that she loved her or was proud of her. Streisand said that she worked her entire life trying to prove to her mother that she was worthy of being somebody.

I recently finished reading a thought-provoking book by Donna Cameron titled, "A Year of Living Kindly: Choices That Will Change Your Life and the World Around You." The reading painfully reminded me how the "younger me" was incredibly impatient, snarky, judgmental, indifferent and often oblivious to the words that came out of my mouth. I was often too darn quick to point to negativity in situations and people. In fact, my associate of 20 years, Casey, referred to me as the "referee of life."

In other words, I had my yellow penalty flag ready to toss as soon as someone did something that I did not approve. To make the situation worse, I would speak harshly and sarcastically when someone had the audacity to question my delivery. In retrospect, my behavior was rude and boorish, and it descended on me like an

Maybe like you, I have always admired kind people. I wanted to be more like them, but for

Pappas

some reason it was much easier to write and speak about kindness than it was to put into practice. I suggest that author Donna Cameron says it best about kindness, "Being kind means caring. It means making an effort. It means thinking about the impact I'm having in an interaction with someone and endeavoring to make it rich and meaningful — giving them what they need at that exact moment, without worrying about whether I get anything in return. It means letting go of my judgments and accepting people as they are. Kindness requires me to do something my upbringing discouraged — it demands that I reach out and that I take a risk.'

I am certainly not the Dalai Lama or Mother Teresa in word or deed, but my world has changed very much for the better since my Eureka moment (divorce) in 2017. I have now learned to let go of my righteousness, while giving people the benefit of the doubt. I learned that the satisfaction of being kind is remarkably greater than being right! There is a quote of unknown origin that says it well, "Our past mistakes are meant to guide us, not define us." It is never too late to revert to kindness regardless of how ornery you were in the past.

Allow me to end this narrative with two quotes. The first comes from author and successful businessperson, Steven Covey,

who wrote the best-selling book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People." "Words sell and words repel; Words lead and words impede; Words heal and words kill."

The second quote comes from the wisest person that ever lived, King Solomon. "Words kill. Words give life. They are poison or fruit. You choose" (Proverbs 18:21).

Yes indeed, our words create our world!

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Judge John: Observations on laws that affect living at the Beaches – 'pick it up and pitch in'



John Miller Guest Columnist

Regularly, Judge John encounters trash destroying the beauty of our Northeast Florida Beaches. In fact, Judge John has often commented that July 5 is his least favorite day of the year. Why our fellow American citizens would visit one of our most beautiful natural resources, our beaches, on Independence Day, or

any other day, and desecrate it by leaving waste is beyond Judge John's comprehension. We have observed whole families leaving behind trash on the beach in near sight of a trash

Not only is leaving trash on our shoreline morally and ethically reprehensible, it is also absolutely illegal.

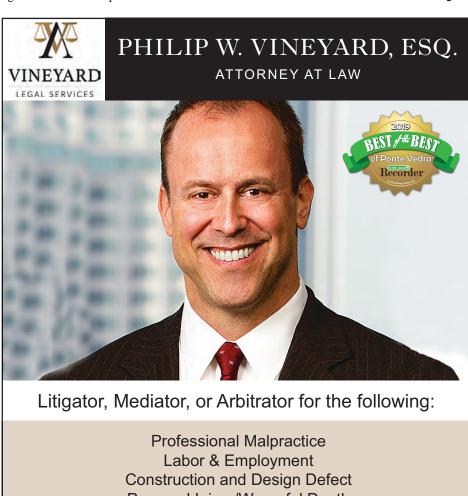
The best example of the view of our local governments of littering is the Duval County "Zero Tolerance for Littering" Law, Jacksonville Florida Code of Ordinances, Chapter 742. This law states our public consensus that litter is wrong and that those who cannot pick up after themselves should be punished. This law includes

\$300 for the second offense and \$500 for the third and subsequent offenses.

Judge John would propose an expansion of the Citizens on Patrol program to allow certain officers to assess littering fines for anyone

JUDGE JOHN continues on Page 23





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THEME: DR. SEUSS

Judge John

placing trash on our beaches. It is Judge John's hypothesis that the amount of litter left on our beaches in popular areas on weekends and holidays indicates that there will be sufficient funds collected from this program to pay for it. Judge John suggests that officers only be appointed to patrol the beaches in this regard during high volume beachgoer time.

Litter is a big problem environmentally the world over. On the shoreline, litter has a special negative affect. The litter, which is carried out to sea with the tide, has a significant negative impact on marine life. Sea turtles are regularly choked to death on plastic bags, confusing them for jellyfish. There have been reported dissections of large marine animals with huge amounts of human garbage clogging up their digestive systems. It is simply inconceivable that the mammalian species which claims to have the highest level of evolution cares so little about others in the circle of life.

Judge John is old enough to remember the Crying Native American ad, "Keep America Beautiful," and environmental movements of the 1960s and 1970s. These were watershed moments in changing the psychology of littering in America. Prior to that time, it essentially had been socially acceptable to throw waste on the ground. Psychological studies show that most litterbugs actually realize that what they're doing is wrong, but that it is just too much of a hassle for them to properly dispose of their waste.

Studies have shown that placing additional trash receptacles cuts down on litter. Judge John has observed that the Jacksonville Beaches have placed additional trash receptacles on the beaches in recent years. It will be interesting to learn whether this has a positive effect. Judge John would further suggest that it is up to all of his fellow citizens to (A) encourage/ shame others not to desecrate our beautiful beaches; and (B) to simply pick up a little extra trash each time you visit our fabulous beaches. Judge John carries trash

Living will: A living will, also known

as an advance health care directive, lets

you specify what end-of-life treatment

you do or don't want to receive if you

become terminally ill or permanently

All these estate planning tools can be

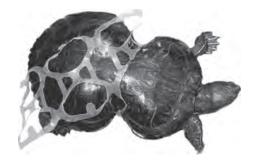
complex, so before taking action, you'll

need to consult with an attorney and pos-

sibly your tax and financial advisors, too.

However, during a pandemic, you may

encounter a special challenge: Documents



bags with him when he visits the beach and offers them free of charge to beach goers who appear likely to leave their trash

Judge John wishes to acknowledge the Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol for their annual July 5th beach cleanup, and for all of their efforts in keeping our beaches clean, as well as all other organizations who sponsor beach cleanups.

Judge John has a hypothesis that if we painted our trash receptacles with bright, attractive beach art, people might be more inclined to pitch in and put their litter in the trash can. Could we devise a plan to allow students to submit proposals to paint these cans in bright colors? A second thought is to more regularly place signs, such as the "keep off the dunes" signs, in the highly touristed areas, encouraging people not to litter, perhaps in a humorous and good-natured way. Judge John challenges his fellow beach citizens to contact their local government officials with other good anti-litter ideas.

Conclusion: Do not litter anywhere, but especially on the Jacksonville area Beaches. Why? 1. Litter left on beaches significantly negatively impacts sea turtles, dolphins, whales and all manner of marine life. 2. It's the law and you could be fined from \$150-\$500. 3. Beach people need to lead by example.

John Miller is the Special Magistrate for the City of Neptune Beach. His law firm, Rock Solid Law, focuses on Estate Planning, Real Estate Closings and Title, and representing entrepreneurial small Business Owners.

Do you have any questions of law or custom that are of particular interest to those living the Sand Life on our beautiful island? Please submit them to Judge John for consideration for a future article. john@rocksolidlaw.com

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9. Sheltered, nautically

10. BBQ side

12. "Zip it!"

Christmas

20. Inbox item

11. Toupee spot

15. Countdown to

22. Chowed down

25. *"A person's a

27. Dine at home

29. *"You're on your

own. And you know

31. Pipe smoker's tool

24. Middle of a torso

person, no matter how

26. Capital of Vietnam

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ACROSS

- 1. On a cruise, 2 words 6. Horse poker
- 9. Deadly slitherers 13. Way to curl hair
- 14. *Today is gone. Today was fun. Tomorrow
- is another. 15. Islam's Supreme Being
- 16. Subway coin 17. Salve for Tin Wood-
- 18. Grim Reaper 19. *"A _
- Something-That-All-People-Need." 21. *"Christmas Dav will
- as we 23. Structure named for 31st President 24. Indoor allergy trigger 25 Ship pronoun
- 28. H. H. Munro's pen name 30. Something or
- anything 35. Madam, to a
- cowboy 37. Dr. Jones, to his
- friends 39. Best not mentioned
- 40. Not in favor of 41. Myths and legends, e.g.
- 43. Maître d's list always be. Just as long

44. France's longest river

- 46. *"I Can Read My Eyes Shut!" 47. Use a beeper
- 48. In direct line of descent
- 50. Italian car maker
- 52. Equinox mo. 53. Coral barrier
- 55. Not a friend 57. *"From there to
- here From here to there, Funny everywhere.
 - 60. *"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better.
- 63. Canine foe 64. However, poetically
- 68. Up and about
- 69. Porridge grain 70. Say something
- 71. Start of a conclusion 72. Parental involvement org. 73. Popular garden

DOWN

- 1. *"Step with care and great tact. And remember that life's A Great Balancing __
- 2. Turkey dance
- 3. Punjabi believer 4. Correct
- 5. Pause in breathing, pl 6. *"If you never did, you should. These things are fun and fun
- 7. "Wheel of Fortune" request, 2 words 8. Indian metropolis

32. Letter-shaped girder 33. Polynesian kingdom 34. *"Today you are you, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is ____ than you." 36. Bog down

what you.

- 38. Sasquatch's Himalayan cousin
- , 42. Elevator passage
- 45. Breadwinner 49. Race part
- 51.50-50
- 54. Bar by estoppel 56. Related on mother's side
- 57. Baloney 58. Rwanda's majority 59. a.k.a. The Islamic
- State 60. Itty-bitty bit 61. ____ von Bismarck
- 62. Not quite an adult 63. Latissimus dorsi, for short 65. *"It's a shirt. It's a
- sock. It's a glove. It's a
- 67. Wine quality 66. Garden cultivator

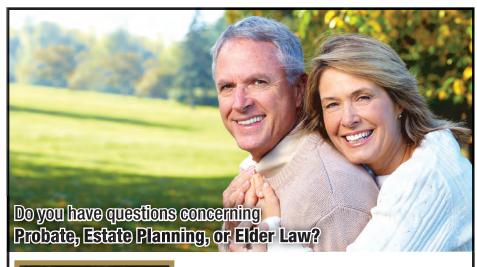
such as wills and powers of attorney typi-Jacobson cally need to be notarized and witnessed – and that may be difficult during a time of social distancing and self-imposed become incapacitated. Your surrogate has quarantines. But this problem may be solvable because many states have now the authority to talk to your doctors, manage your medical care, and make medical enacted executive orders or passed laws decisions for you if you cannot do so. that permit "virtual" notarization and

witnessing of legal documents. In any case, if the coronavirus pandemic has raised your concerns about the legacy you'd like to leave, take the time now to launch or update your estate plans - you'll be glad you did.

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

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percentage of an estate. In addition, many states have laws that protect children born after a will was written, allowing them to inherit from the estate. It's possible that under the laws of your state, a spouse and children not named in your will may not receive as much as you would have wanted them to. In both of these circumstances, state law is dictating where your estate is going, not you.

Your executor is dead or unable to serve. The executor (also called a personal representative) is the person named in your will who oversees the distribution of your property. If the person you named as

executor is unable to serve, the court will have to appoint someone else. Beneficiaries may have a say in who is chosen, but it may not be someone you would have wanted in the position.

You no longer own property named in the will. Suppose your will attempts to divide up your estate equally by giving cash to your daughter and property of equal value to your son. If the property is sold before you die, your son will receive nothing. In this case, your will is no longer ensuring your estate is divided equally.

The law changes. If your estate plan was designed specifically to avoid estate taxes and the estate tax law changes, your will may no longer serve its purpose.

Contact your attorney to ensure your will is still up to date.

Janet E. Johnson, P.A.



Criminal Defense Attorney

[anet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL "Blood, Breath & Tears" annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson has been awarded the AV preeminent rating $^{\text{\tiny{TM}}}$ from Martindale-Hubble $^{\text{\tiny{(8)}}}$ and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America[™], as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys. She also appears as a legal commentator on CNN and HLN.

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26 IN THE ARTS

Ponte Vedra Recorder · July 16, 2020

Cultural Center welcomes visitors back with ongoing exhibits



ABOVE: Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach Executive Director Donna Guzzo demonstrates one of the interactive displays in the "Loving Beethoven" installation.

RIGHT: Huge spheres in the "Loving Beethoven" installation allow visitors to feel the vibrations of the composer's music, much as he had to do because of hearing loss.

Photos by Shaun Ryan



By Shaun Ryan

Even in the time of pandemic, art finds a way.

After a nearly four-month closure in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach reopened to the public July 6. Picking up where it left off when the doors were shut in March, the center continues to exhibit the works of Susanne Schuenke, a celebration of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday and more.

"The arts are vital to a vibrant community," said Executive Director Donna Guzzo. "If you start taking all of that out, what do you have?"

In fact, the shutdown forced artists to seek new ways to connect with the public

Master artist Ellen Diamond has been offering her class online. Meanwhile, several artists responded to the center's "Put Art In Our Yard" initiative, exhibiting their work in the courtyard where the public can stop by and safely view it. A virtual spring exhibition has been made available on the center's website.

And the center's quilters group has created hundreds of stylish masks in all sizes, which are available for a donation in the facility's Marketplace.

But state mandates and social distancing norms have had an impact.

"Our main revenue here at the center is programming — offering classes," said Guzzo. "And there have been no classes since March 13."

Returning visitors will find some changes at the center to help curb potential exposure to the virus.

When visitors enter, a staff member will take their temperatures, ask them questions related to possible exposure and give them hand sanitizer to use. In fact, hand-sanitizer dispensers have been installed throughout the building.

Throughout the day, volunteers constantly sanitize surfaces that may have been touched by members of the public.

Precautions have also been instituted for the center's summer camps. Children are given frequent breaks to wash their hands and must wear masks. The campers know this and are good about maintaining social distancing, said Guzzo.

"Loving Beethoven," an interactive installation celebrating the life and work of the renowned composer, was originally scheduled to close in May. But it has been extended through Sept. 25.

The show, presented in partnership with the Interactive Music Museum in Malaga, Spain, features enormous spheres through which visitors can feel the vibrations of Beethoven's music.

CENTER continues on **Page 27**

COVID-19 fails to interrupt art

Gallery owner Hillary Whitaker opens doors with a collection of 'hope'

By Amber Lake

When the Hillary Whitaker Gallery closed its doors during the state-wide shutdown, the climate was one of fear, uncertainty and apprehension. COVID-19 seemed to strike with a sudden force and the aftermath unfolded in isolation.

What Whitaker didn't expect was not only the resilience of the artists, but the communitywide desire to keep art a part of their lives.

"It's been really evident that art really does have a healing effect on people," Whitaker said. "We also realized it was serving as a respite to a lot of people in this chaotic state (of the world)."

Although the shutdown period was different for many, interacting with art seemed to stay consistent. Some people were reevaluating their interior spaces, looking to surround themselves with art by hanging it directly their walls and others were simply finding comfort in looking at emerging work on social media and other digital formats.



Photo provided by the Hillary Whitaker Gallery

Hillary Whitaker Gallery director and co-curator Courtney Tinnesz Hill (left) and owner and curator Hillary Whitaker aim to uplift visitors to the Ponte Vedra Beach gallery with vibrant displays of "hope" amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We just wanted to uplift in some sort of way and do what we could from afar," Whitaker said. "We posted (content) a few times a week, and we were getting a good response. Instead of coming in and seeing what we have there was virtual interest."

GALLERY continues on **Page 27**

CARES ACT approves \$50,000 award to First Coast Opera as part of COVID-19 relief efforts

First Coast Opera has been approved for a \$50,000 award as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This grant will help the nonprofit opera company maintain and strengthen its administrative staffing over the next two years. Located in St. Augustine, First Coast Opera is the only professional producing opera company in Northeast Florida, offering an annual series of performances and events featuring visiting guest artists as well as local and regional performers and technicians. FCO was one of 33 arts organizations in Florida to receive a CARES Act award.

"We are honored and thankful to receive this support," Artistic Director Curtis Tucker said. "While we are anxious to sing again, this grant will help us continue operating and preparing for when it is safe for artists and audiences to gather for performances."

Administered by the National Endowment for the Arts, CARES Act funding was awarded to 855 nonprofit arts organizations — located in every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico — totaling \$44.5 million in non-matching funds to support staff salaries, fees for artists or contractual personnel, and facilities costs.

The National Endowment for the Arts received more than 3,100 eligible applications requesting \$157 million for the \$45 million available in direct assistance.

Arts and culture are key components of the U.S. economy that contribute \$877.8 billion, or 4.5%, to the nation's gross domestic product in 2017 and employ over 5 million wage-and-salary workers who collectively earn \$405 billion. This funding will help support those jobs and those nonprofit organizations during this time of need so that arts and culture will persevere as a significant contributor to the American economy.

First Coast Opera plans to resume its performances in January 2021 with a new production of Verdi's "La Traviata." For more information, see www.firstcoastopera.com.

INTHEARTS 27 Ponte Vedra Recorder · July 16,2020



ABOVE: Susanne Schuenke's large paintings dominate the gallery at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.

RIGHT: Schuenke's painting of a turtle is one of the most popular pieces in her exhibit.

Photos by Shaun Ryan





Photo provided by the Hillary Whitaker Gallery

Color, joy and a message of hope emerge on canvas at the Hillary Whitaker Gallery.

Center

Other stations grant visitors additional means to learn about music.

"Stories with a Brush: Inside the Mind of a Painter," featuring Schuenke's unique paintings — some of which are nine feet tall — will be displayed for seven weeks.

"It's just amazing, amazing work," said

Guzzo, "but unfortunately, because of COVID, I can't do an opening night."

Opening night, a staple of art exhibits, would have meant a lot of people standing within close proximity to one another.

Visitors to the center will also see the work of young patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

The center is currently open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Guzzo said the best days to visit are Tuesday through Thursday.



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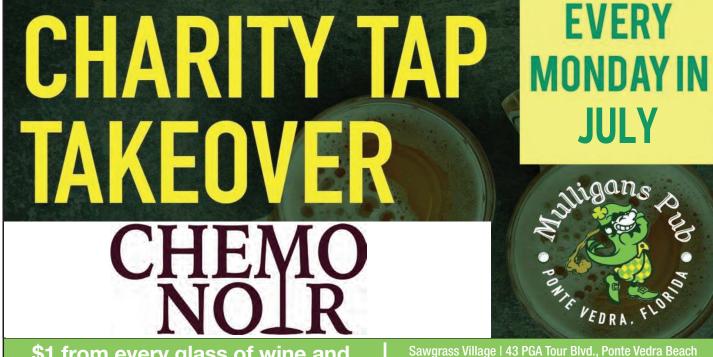
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When the Hillary Whitaker Gallery finally did open its doors after Phase I, it did so to a full collection of various work from artists creating during that time period.

"Some artists hit their studios full throttle," Whitaker said. "We thought with the fear-laden climate with what was going on that maybe that would be projected in some of work, but literally every single piece we hung was a new product of this COVID-19 downtime, and instead of being emotional or brash they were all beautiful and happy. They were calming and joyful. They were all initiating hope."

A stark contrast to the pandemic, the walls of the Hillary Whitaker Gallery were suddenly bright and inviting.

"It was a very rewarding to see how art does serve the purposes we so believe in," Whitaker said. "It does more than just adorn walls. It has an intrinsic value."



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28 SPORTS



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Ponte Vedra's Suri wins APGA tournament in sudden death at World Golf Village



Photos by Don Coble

Ponte Vedra Beach resident Julian Suri poses with the first-place check after he won the APGA Tournament in sudden death last Friday at World Golf Village's Slammer & Squire.

By Don Coble

Julian Suri wanted to make sure his wrist and mindset were ready for a six-week grind on the European Tour later this month by playing in the Advocates Pro Golf Association event at World Golf Village's Slammer & Squire.

He learned quickly both are in great

Suri birdied his second hole in a playoff with Patrick Newcomb on Friday, July 10, to win \$7,500 of pocket money for his upcoming trip to England.

"It's been awhile," the soft-spoken professional who lives at Ponte Vedra Beach said. "But it was good golf. I made a bunch of putts when they counted."

Suri, who turned professional in 2013, tied the Slammer & Squire course record on Thursday with a 10-under 62. He closed with a 5-under 67, which included a wild final three holes. He eagled the par-5 16th and bogeyed No. 17 after hitting his second shot in the water. A birdie at 18 forced a playoff with Newcomb, who birdied the

(LEXUS

Florida A&M teammates Mulbe Dillard (right) and Mahindra Lutchman finished first and second, respectively, in the low amateur.

Both finished at 15-under 129. They halved the first hole in sudden death with a par, and Suri won it with a 12-foot birdie on 186-yard, par-3 second hole.

"I came out on Friday with the same plan [as Thursday's 62]. I knew I had to make birdies," Suri said. "Pars weren't going to get you anything. There were a million birdies out there."

The APGA is backed by the PGA TOUR, and it provides playing opportunities for aspiring minority golfers. Suri is an American with Indian and Mexican heritage.

Suri, a fomer Bartram Trail standout, had bone spurs removed from his wrist in December. He worked through months of rehabilitation, only to have his return derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.

Tim O'Neal (64-67) finished third, while Tommy Schaff (67-65) was fourth, followed by Domenico Geminiani (69-66) in fifth and Kamaiu Johnson (69-67) and Kelby Burton (68-68) were tied for sixth.

APGA continues on Page 30



Fifth-place finisher Domenico Geminiani lines up his putt during the APGA Tournament.



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State Rep. Cyndi Stevenson presents an award to the Bartram Trail girls soccer team, which won the Class 7A state title last season, during a year-end celebration held in June. From left: Mia Staley, Jessica Parker, Paige Hunt, Rep. Cyndi Stevenson, Alex Horton, Victoria Stachowiak, Ella Dudley, Logan Henley and Julie Arciprete.

Photo provided by Cyndi Stevenson

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APGA

Continued from 28

Mulbe Dillard (72-74) was the low amateur, while his Florida A&M teammate Mahindra Lutchman (76-71) was second.

The APGA was created by former PGA TOUR player Adrian Sills and Ken Bentley, a retired vice president of community affairs and workforce diversity for Nestle USA. The mission of the tour is to develop players with professional tournaments,

mentoring sessions and the Charlie Sifford Player Development Program.

Former APGA players include Tony Finau, Harold Varner III and Joseph Bramlett.

J.P. Thornton, who was tied for 14th at 3-under-par at Slammer & Squire, won at TPC Sugarloaf three weeks ago when the tour made its return following the pandemic shutdown.

O'Neal won the two-day APGA tournament on Monday and Tuesday at Dubsdread Golf Course in Orlando.

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