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PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

July 30, 2020  
Volume 51, No. 39  
75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

**sports quiz** by **ANDREW BOONE** **player profile** by **ANDREW BOONE**

**Work stoppages**  
The NFL's first season of action since Super Bowl LVII, this fall, will be a historic one for the league. It will be the first time since 1982 that the league will have a full season of games. The NFL's first season of action since Super Bowl LVII, this fall, will be a historic one for the league. It will be the first time since 1982 that the league will have a full season of games.

**Verdugo has big shoes to fill in Boston**  
The Boston Red Sox have a new shortstop. The team has signed prospect Gleyber Torres to a four-year, \$100 million contract. The team has also signed prospect Gleyber Torres to a four-year, \$100 million contract.

**CRUISE**  
The Cruise Industry has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. The industry has lost billions of dollars in revenue. The industry has lost billions of dollars in revenue.

**CONGRESS**  
The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill to fund the federal government through September 30, 2020. The bill also provides for the continuation of the federal government's operations.

**BASEBALL**  
The MLB season is set to begin in late September. The league has agreed to a new CBA with the players' union. The league has agreed to a new CBA with the players' union.

## INSIDE Check it Out!

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



Vote for your favorites now!

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*Sand Castles*  
LUXURY \* LIFESTYLE \* REAL ESTATE

Inside this section:  
Market Watch: How local realty survived pandemic.  
Real Estate: Great outdoor living spaces.  
Local charity: How to fight season isolation.  
Column: Space X launch great for U.S. Florida.  
Legends: Keeping the legacy of Frank Kline.  
Time for Teaco - and other teas.  
Click on some amazing local listings.

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**Sand Castles**  
Pages 13-28



# CANDIDATES TAKE THE STAGE

Local voters turned out July 23 to hear from the candidates for St. Johns County offices during a forum at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. The event was sponsored by the Ponte Vedra and Nocatee Republican clubs, and candidates running on the GOP ticket took to the stage to discuss their visions and plans for the county.

Read more on Page 4.

Photos by Susan Griffin

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## Send us your news

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

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:don@opcfla.com). We'll add you to the list.

# Voting is now open for Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra contest

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

Readers currently have the chance to vote for 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.

Votes can be made on the website at [pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2020/index.html](http://pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2020/index.html).

Voting will take place until Aug. 31, during which each person can vote once per day in as many categories as he or she wants. 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.

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.

Nominees can participate in advertising packages that promote their entry by expanding their listing to feature additional details on the business. 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, email [susan@opcfla.com](mailto:susan@opcfla.com) or call (904) 686-3938.

**Vote for your favorite business, service, person, restaurant or product now at [www.pontevedrarecorder.com/BestOf2020](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com/BestOf2020).**

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

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**BRIEFS**

**St. Johns County mandates use of face coverings in all county facilities**

In an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19, a face covering mandate for all St. Johns County-owned facilities went into effect on Monday, July 27. All employees and any person working, doing business or visiting a county facility are required to wear a face covering when social distancing of six feet or more cannot be maintained. For a full list of exemptions and enforcement policies, go to [www.sjcfl.us](http://www.sjcfl.us). This emergency order will remain in effect through the duration of the St. Johns County Emergency Proclamation 2020-1, unless otherwise

rescinded by the county administrator or his designee. For more information, call (904) 824-5550.

**SJC CARES Act funding program for residents, businesses and nonprofits**

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners approved Phase I of a \$46 million CARES Act funding program in response to COVID-19. The program focuses on assistance for small businesses, residents, nonprofit organization, and other COVID-19 response-related projects. Grant criteria for each category are currently under development and will be posted on [www.sjcfl.us](http://www.sjcfl.us) with applications in the coming weeks. For more information related to the CARES Act and funding programs, call (904) 209-6050 or

email [sjccares@sjcfl.us](mailto:sjccares@sjcfl.us).

**JTA provides St. Johns Express Select route from St. Augustine to Jacksonville**

The Jacksonville Transit Authority has established the St. Johns Express Select bus route to provide a convenient connection between St. Johns County and downtown Jacksonville. The route begins at the St. Johns County Government Center, 4010 Lewis Speedway, and makes a stop at the Pavilion at Durbin Park before arriving in downtown Jacksonville. Service is offered from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and is not available on weekends or holidays. One-way passes are available for \$3, one-day passes for \$5 and 31-day passes for \$90. For more information, including bus stop

addresses and pass fees, go to [www.jtafla.com/schedules/regional-services/st-johns-express-select](http://www.jtafla.com/schedules/regional-services/st-johns-express-select).

**St. Johns County garbage, recycling, and yard debris collection delays**

Due to an increased demand for solid waste collection services, St. Johns County's garbage, recycling and yard debris collection schedules may be delayed in some neighborhoods. Residents are asked to continue following regular schedules on standard collection days. The Tillman Ridge and Stratton Road solid waste scale houses are open during standard business hours. Call (904) 827-6980 or email [solidwaste@sjcfl.us](mailto:solidwaste@sjcfl.us) for more information.

BRIEFS continues on Page 5



**COLLECTION**



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**TWENTY MILE VILLAGE | \$373,900**

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**RESERVE AT GREENBRIAR | \$429,900**

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[PattiMohr@WatsonRealtyCorp.com](mailto:PattiMohr@WatsonRealtyCorp.com)



**ST. JOHNS FOREST | \$454,900**

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# Forum in Ponte Vedra features GOP candidates

By Shaun Ryan

Voters had an opportunity to hear from several office-seekers Thursday, July 23, during a candidates' night at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

The event had been originally scheduled as a debate between two St. Johns County sheriff candidates, but the focus was changed after it was learned one of the presumed debaters would not be participating. The event was sponsored by the Ponte Vedra and Nocatee Republican clubs.

Much of the forum was devoted to the sheriff race, though only St. Augustine Beach Police Chief Rob Hardwick attended. He will face former Sheriff's Office director Chris Strickland in the Aug. 18 primary.

Hardwick touted his experience as a law enforcement officer and as a 25-year member of the U.S. military, as well as his service on the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. He also recounted how he saw the St. Augustine Beach Police Department through its accreditation process.

Asked how he would recruit and retain quality officers, Hardwick pointed to success he's had in hiring young men and women who grew up locally as well as experienced officers who have "retired" to the county from points north.

He said he holds his officers accountable by demonstrating leadership.

"You start at the top," he said. "You lead by example. I wear a uniform every day. I answer calls for service."

Hardwick scored one of the loudest rounds of applause after being asked what he would do if asked by the governor or a mayor to stand down.

He pointed out that the sheriff is an elected official who can't be told to stand down.

"So, when you tell me to go into the houses in St. Johns County and take people's guns ... that's not going to happen," he said.

The closest thing to a debate came later at the event as county commission candidates James Johns and Christian Whitehurst answered questions.

Neither candidate favors imposing a countywide mask ordinance.

Johns agreed that wearing a mask was important and said he wears one when he cannot observe social distancing, but he stopped short of requiring face coverings.

"I don't know what your personal healthcare needs are or whether you are capable of wearing a mask or not," he said, "but you do."

"Your rights start where my rights stop," said Whitehurst. "I'd never mandate masks for the general public."

Asked about managing growth, Johns said he wanted to hear from his constituents find out what's important to them. He called the county's different areas unique and said he wants to maintain their "special



Photos by Susan Griffin  
St. Johns County Sheriff candidate Rob Hardwick addresses the audience at the July 23 candidates forum at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.



St. Johns County Commission candidate Christian Whitehurst (right) listens as Ponte Vedra Republican Club Vice President Michael Daugustinis reads a question during the candidates forum.



Erick J. Aguilar, a candidate for the District 4 seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, speaks during the candidates forum at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.



St. Johns County Commission candidate James Johns answers a question while opponent Christian Whitehurst listens during the candidates forum.

CANDIDATES continues on Page 11

# Hardwick receives endorsement of Brevard County sheriff

By Shaun Ryan

Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey has endorsed St. Johns County sheriff candidate Rob Hardwick, citing his support of the Second Amendment.

Ivey joined the St. Augustine Beach Police chief and several supporters Wednesday, July 22, at the Ancient City Shooting Range for the announcement.

"Right now, more than any time before, we need sheriffs that are going to stand strong — stand strong in support of their citizens, stand strong in support of their law enforcement officers and certainly that are going to stand strong in support of the Constitution," said Ivey.

Ivey pointed out that Hardwick has received an "A" rating from the National Rifle Association.

"He is a huge Second Amendment supporter," Ivey said. "He understands the importance. The Second Amendment protects all of the other amendments within the Constitution."

After the presentation, Ivey explained his decision to



Photo by Shaun Ryan  
St. Johns County sheriff candidate Rob Hardwick, left, looks on as Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey endorses him Wednesday at the Ancient City Shooting Range.

back Hardwick.

"For me, I vet the candidates myself," he said. "I look at: What do they stand for, what have they done? His

military service certainly is important, but more importantly is what I believe in my heart he will do when the time comes."

Hardwick expressed gratitude for the endorsement.

"For him to drive all the way up here and then to turn around and drive back down to Brevard — he's got a big fundraiser tonight for his campaign — so, it was humbling when the sheriff said he wanted to come up here today," Hardwick said.

He added that Ivey himself is considered a Second Amendment sheriff in Florida.

"He's been such a big advocate for the NRA," Hardwick said. "And not just an advocate, but making sure the educational piece is out there."

Hardwick's opponent, Chris Strickland, has cited his own membership in the NRA on his campaign website.

Voters will choose between Hardwick and Strickland during the Aug. 18 primary election. Both candidates are running as Republicans. The winner will face a write-in candidate at the general election in November.

# More retailers requiring masks

By Shaun Ryan

St. Johns County does not have a mask requirement. It has many.

With several retailers now requiring masks, mandates in St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach and a face-covering requirement in all county-owned buildings, there are few public places left where mouths and noses may be exposed.

Last week, a slew of national retail chains imposed their own mask policies, drawing praise from some local customers.

“I think it’s a marvelous idea,” said one woman who declined to give her name. “I’m compromised immune-wise, and I really didn’t feel safe until the masks were required.”

Standing outside the Publix Super Market at Sawgrass Village, customer Kim Voss said she was glad the stores had taken the initiative.

“I think it’s important to wear a mask during this time,” she said, adding that the county should mandate masks “at least for indoor use.”

Outside the Pet Supermarket in Ponte Vedra, a woman who asked not to be named agreed with that but was not certain that such a mandate could be enforced.

“I just wish everybody would wear a mask,” she said. “I don’t think the government can do it, but we can do it.”

Another customer putting his groceries into the trunk of his car outside Publix held a different view. He said that only a county mandate would ensure that people follow the rule.

“Everybody ought to wear a mask,” he said.

The Board of County Commissioners has been resistant to imposing a mask requirement countywide, though it did vote Tuesday, July 21, to mandate face-coverings for all county-owned facilities.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

A sign outside the Publix Super Market at Sawgrass Village reminds customers to wear their masks.

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## Briefs

Continued from 3

### Encompass Health expanding to St. Johns County with new rehabilitation hospital

St. Johns County Administration and the St. Johns County Economic Development Office have worked with Encompass Health to expand its network of state-of-the-art rehabilitation hospitals and bring high-quality, inpatient services to St. Johns County. Encompass Health recently announced the purchase of land at the northwest corner of Silver Lane and State Road 207 for the future development of a 40-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital. “We are proud to be working with Encompass Health to bring this critical service to an area of the county where there is a need,” said Joy Andrews, St. Johns County deputy county administrator. “This project also benefits our residents by bringing many new impactful jobs in the healthcare industry to the area.” Once construction is complete, the 47,000-square-foot rehabilitation hospital will provide up to 119 full-time jobs. The Encompass Health rehabilitation hospital will work closely with acute care hospitals in the area to assist patients recovering from debilitating illnesses and injuries. The opening date of the rehabilitation hospital is to be determined.



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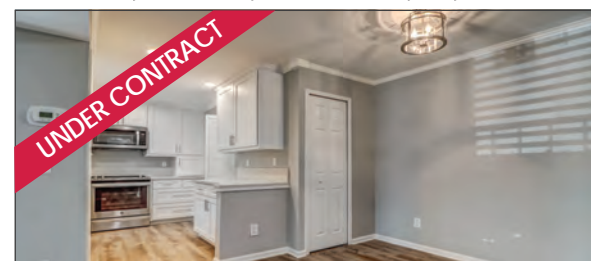
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#### Intracoastal Condo + Boat Slip

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*Robert Peek grew up in Orange Park and spent 18 years gathering quotations from Socrates to Virgil to Anne Frank to Yoda with one single purpose: to provide a roadmap for his daughter's life. Now living in St. Augustine, as she approached graduation from Ponte Vedra High, he put those blogs into a book called, "Inside Peek: A loving father shares his wisdom" that he presented to his daughter, Alexandra, two months ago.*

## Robert Peek

As told to Don Coble

### Why did you decide to write this book?

I did not start out with an intent to write a book. This really goes back to when my daughter was born. When my daughter was born and I held her for the first time, I had this overwhelming desire to impart to her whatever wisdom I had learned in the world. I wanted to instantly transfer this knowledge to her. I realized I wanted to protect her. But I knew while I could guide her, she would have to find her own way in the world. I decided to start an online blog of life's lessons that I hoped she would read. That is the genesis of this. Over the years, people started finding my blog. Some of them were my friends. Some were my work friends. It was actually picked up by a couple of newspapers. They would run it as a column – one in Chicago. I was getting visitors to my blog from all over the United States, in fact from all over the world. People were leaving very positive comments. All along, my audience was one person, and that was my daughter. When she was early in high school, I decided then I would bundle the best of the blog posts into a book and present it to her at her high school graduation, which is what I did. The genesis of the book goes all the way back to the day she was born, the content, I should say, goes back to the day she was born. The idea to make it into a book started when she was a freshman in high school.

### Did she have any idea that you were collecting years of blogs for a book?

I never told her about the book. I surprised her the day she graduated.

### One of the chapters in the book is entitled: "Find Your Pelican of Tranquility." You said when the stresses of everyday life threaten to overwhelm you, you find peace by remembering a pelican. Can you explain that post?

I remember that day. I remember needing a mental day and going out to the beach, where there weren't many people around, sitting down, starting to feel a little peaceful. The beach has always been my happy place. I made eye contact with this pelican. I've never done that before. The pelican had little eyes, but I could tell I disappeared in the eye of that pelican. It became the focal point of meditation. My whole body just relaxed. It's almost like that pelican knew what it was doing. Eventually, it flew away. To me, the lesson there was we have it within ourselves to find peace within ourselves and sometimes we find it in some of the simplest things in the world.



Photo provided by Robert Peek

Writer Robert Peek with his daughter Alexandra, for whom he wrote his book "Inside Peek: A loving father shares his wisdom."

### What is the one message you hope your daughter can take from your book?

I think it's to make good decisions, to know herself and to find balance in all things. That goes back to the Greek philosophers talked about know thyself and everything in moderation. I really think it's about her finding her own way in the world and using the lessons within this book as a guide along the way. I realize she'll have to make her own mistakes, and that's OK. That's how we learn. There's no experience like experience. I wanted this book to be a guide for her to help point her in some of the right direction, give her some guidance on key lessons.

### Were there influences that helped shape you before your daughter was born?

My mom taught me to think for myself. I remember I was about 11 years old and I was talking with my mom. I remember

telling her that if I ever had a tough decision in life, I would just as her. I was very close to my mother. She was a wonderful, wonderful mom. She had great common sense. I sensed that at an early age. I remember my mom saying, "What if I'm not here?" She told me she wouldn't always be here. My mom knew, even when I was very young, she would be gone one day. I didn't fully understand that at that age. Eventually, I got it. I had to make my own decisions because my mom wouldn't be there. My mom passed almost 20 years ago. My mom was right. She wouldn't always be there. I will always be there for my daughter when I can, but there will be a time when I won't be there.



### Why is this book so important?

Hopefully this book is one small part of a legacy of something I can leave her and guide her. Hopefully she can read it now and help her guide her through life. I wrote this for her. When I published it, I thought I'd make it available to more young people. That was my audience. What I found is, people of all ages are reading it and commenting on it — even people of retirement age are saying there are things they picked up in the book, just reminders, things they probably picked up themselves along the way.

*"Inside Peek: A loving father shares his wisdom" is available at [blurb.com](http://blurb.com).*

# Local author's book seeks to help readers succeed

By Shaun Ryan

Dr. Robert Head wants people — especially young people — to know success is attainable even amidst disadvantage.

A lifetime in the making, Head's new book, "Playing From Behind," imparts insights gained from the local author's life experiences and what he learned along the way.

"I thought that I would, in my retirement years, document those lessons for others who might find themselves with either real or perceived disadvantages and provide for them — let's just call it a bridge," he said — a bridge, he explained, "from the dreams that they might imagine to the dreams that they might fulfill."

Part memoir, part motivational book, part self-help guide, "Playing From Behind" demonstrates how even limitations imposed by either society or self can be turned to advantage and aid the reader in realizing prosperity.

Head knows whereof he speaks. Growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, during the Civil Rights Era, he experienced racism firsthand, just as many still do today. But he didn't let that or difficult financial realities stand in the way of realizing his goal: to become the first in his family to attend college.

He went on to earn his doctorate, secure



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Dr. Robert Head holds up a copy of his book, "Playing From Behind," which provides insights on overcoming obstacles and achieving success.

a successful career in the banking industry and then serve two universities as president.

"One of the things that is shared in the book is that the American dream is attainable to those who are able to navigate the nuances of our society and work hard and are committed to their own personal

success," he said.

The book's title was suggested by a friend after Head described his concept for the work. It reflects the central theme, which is based on a study finding that 60% of college basketball teams trailing at halftime came back to win the game.

"So, what is it about being behind early that motivates you to perform better after that?" Head asked rhetorically. "A part of it is, it does just create some higher-level motivation. Many of us have a complete fear of failure. That kicks into a higher gear for us to perform, as well."

In fact, he titled one of his chapters "Playing From Behind Can be an Advantage."

Head retired in 2016 and began writing his book two years later. It was published in March. From the start, it was clear the book would have a wider appeal than readers seeking a path to success.

Teachers, counselors and ministers are finding it useful in their work. A company in Ohio is using the book to talk about diversity with its management team and seeking ways to motivate the diverse staff. A corporate board is using it to address challenges in serving diverse populations.

That's probably because Head devotes some passages to improving leadership and understanding one another.

He hopes to hold some book signings in areas where he has lived once the COVID-19 situation subsides and businesses open up more.

"Playing From Behind" is available on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble. For a personalized copy, contact Head by email at roberthead1@comcast.net.



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Dr. Heinz is a Jacksonville native, former starting pitcher for The George Washington University Colonials, and currently resides in the Nocatee community.



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# Masks

Continued from 5

Commissioner Henry Dean has repeatedly made motions to require face coverings throughout the county. But each time, his motion died for lack of a second.

Meanwhile, retailers have not waited for local governments to impose restrictions. Last week, Publix and Pet Supermarket joined other national chains in requiring masks for anyone stepping through their doors.

Stores that required face coverings already included The Fresh Market, Starbucks and Panera Bread. They were joined by Walgreens, Walmart, CVS and Lowe's on Monday, July 20. Home Depot

followed suit on Wednesday, July 22. Target announced that it will implement its own mask mandate beginning Saturday, Aug. 1.

On Monday, July 27, Winn-Dixie Stores parent company Southeastern Grocers also began requiring customers to wear masks. In a written statement, the company endorsed action by state and national officials.

"We believe that the enforcement should be placed upon our state and federally elected officials," the statement read, "and we will continue to work with our peers in the retail industry to advocate for this sensible mandate to be passed into law to remove the burden from employers and their heroic frontline associates."



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# There's a new family doctor in South Ponte Vedra.



A resident of Ponte Vedra, **Lynsey K. Schlotzer, MD**, is a family physician at Baptist Primary Care's new location at 832 A1A North. She is now accepting adult and pediatric patients age 13 and up. Patients find Dr. Schlotzer's office to be a comfortable setting for personalized care with a focus on their specific health and wellness needs. She also is happy to connect with patients via virtual appointments!

With a straightforward, collaborative approach to treatment, Dr. Schlotzer is motivated to help her patients prevent illness and injury.

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**OBITUARIES**

**Marie C. (Smith) Ruffalo**

Marie C. (Smith) Ruffalo, loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother died at the age of 89 on July 22, 2020, in Jacksonville, FL. Marie was born in Evanston, IL on May 3, 1931, the youngest of three children to Philip J. Smith and Rose M. (Fish) Smith. Her paternal grandfather, John P. Smith, was a prominent Chicago-area official and businessman. Smith Park in Evanston, IL is named after him. The Smiths were early settlers of northern Chicago dating to the early-to-mid 1800s. Marie's maternal grandmother immigrated from Luxemburg and settled in Kenosha, WI.

Marie grew up and was married in Kenosha, WI to Vincent J. Ruffalo. They were married for 67 years. Vincent was a senior sales executive for Prudential Insurance Co. and Marie was the matriarch of the family. As Vince's career advanced, they moved several times while raising four daughters.

In retirement, they lived in Old Ponte Vedra Beach for over 30 years where Vincent passed away in 2018.

Marie, as the granddaughter of a Parks Commissioner and the daughter of an auto repair shop owner, carried these considerable talents into the next generation. She made custom furniture, was handy around the house, and managed the home. Its landscape and gardens.

She was an active doubles tennis player at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club until very late in life as well as a devoted member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

She is survived by her four children. Linda Mercer, St. Augustine, FL; Cathy Callahan, (John), Herndon, VA; Sharon Hoover, Ponte Vedra, FL; and Lori Casazza (William), High Point, NC. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was pre-deceased by a son-in-law, James Hoover Jr.

A private graveside service was held Wednesday, July 29, 2020, through Quinn-Shalz Funeral Home at Ponte Vedra Valley Cemetery, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.

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



**Edith "Edie" Rasch**

Edith "Edie" Rasch, 79, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died July 23, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com)

**MaryEllen**  
OSTERNDORF  
VOTE AUGUST 18

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Circuit 7, Group 14  
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**VOTE on August 18th**

**CHRIS**

**Strickland** (Rep)

**for 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 Beach Police Department, Hardwick 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



ABOVE: Dick Williams (from left), Dave Howie, Lois Remolde, Zeke Paxton, Melissa Nelson, Janeene Hart, Horton Hickerson, Susan Goldring, Pat Hutton, Paula Roderick and Waine Banyas participated in a community shredding event to help support local food pantries.



RIGHT: Williams (from left), Nelson, Howie and Remolde  
Photos provided by Carol Maurer

## Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset holds shredding event to support local food pantries

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset recently held a community shredding event to raise funds for locals most adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Rotary Club partnered with United

Way of St. Augustine, who will use the money to help restock nearby food pantries. Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church donated the use of its parking lot for the event, and UltraShred worked with the club to ensure a successful event.

**Christian** ★ ★ ★ ★  
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for St. Johns County Commissioner, District 1

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Paid for by Christian Whitehurst, Republican, for St. Johns County Commission, District 1.

## Candidates

Continued from 4

qualities” as the county grows.

Whitehurst said he was in favor of “smart-managed growth.”

“Do we have the infrastructure to support it?” he asked rhetorically. “Do we have the roads? Do we have the schools? Do we have the beach access points? ... That’s the filter through which my decisions will pass.”

Other candidates who spoke at the forum included District 4 congressional candidate Erick J. Aguilar, 7th Circuit judge candidate MaryEllen Osterndorf, school board candidate Nick Graham and Matt Metz. Republican Executive Committee candidate Tamara Renuart and Anne Marie Gennusa for public defender. George Burden, another candidate for public defender, could not attend and was represented by his campaign manager, John Terhune.

*“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”*

—Martin Luther King

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

### KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

"Plant dreams, pull weeds, and grow a happy life!"



Kathy Esfahani  
Columnist

#### GARDEN DECOR

A fun way to spruce up your landscaping aside from plants and flowers is with gardening decor. From store-bought, to DIY, there are many ideas and themes to create around your garden landscaping.

Many popular ideas for garden decor can be created from materials you have at home and can be a fun weekend project!

**Planters:** We touched on planters a few weeks ago and how to create them. You can use all types of vessels for a planter, such as an old pallet for an herb or succulent garden, or spare colored tires built up and arranged for display. You can also use planter boxes under windows to create



Photos provided by Kathy Esfahani

a beautiful look. Planters can be added within your garden or framing a front door, driveway, and more.

**Decor to attract:** Many types of decor and feeders can attract animals to your garden. Bird feeders and houses can attract a variety of birds and hummingbirds. They will keep coming back as you are a consistent source of food. You can also use



Flower of the Week  
Heliconia

a birdbath to bring flying friends into your yard. Butterflies will also be attracted to bright colors in the gardens, in addition to planting their favorite-smelling flowers.

**Ornamental:** Garden ornaments can add vast color and uniqueness to your garden. From stepping stones and lawn gnomes to wind chimes and sundials, let your personality shine through with your ornamental decor!

**Structures:** Some of the most popular

enhancements are paver pathways and firepits, pergolas growing with flower vines, koi fish ponds and waterfall fountain features to add a relaxing vibe to your back patios, creating your own personal oasis.

**Email Kathy at [kathys.creative.gardens@gmail.com](mailto: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**

# PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 18TH

OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY

### VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Vote by mail ballots CANNOT be turned in at the polls on Election Day.

Due to a law change, the Drop Boxes will only be available in Early Voting locations during the hours of early voting.

Your ballot must be in the Elections Office by 7 PM on Election Day to be counted.

## VOTE EARLY

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AUGUST 6TH THROUGH AUGUST 15TH

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| Supervisor of Elections Office<br>4455 Avenue A #101<br>St. Augustine, FL 32095    | Southeast Branch Library<br>6670 US 1 South<br>St. Augustine, FL 32086     | <b>NEW</b><br>Shoppes of St. Johns Parkway<br>(Earth Fare)<br>120 Shops Blvd.<br>Saint Johns, FL 32259 |
| Ponte Vedra Branch Library<br>101 Library Boulevard<br>Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 | St. Augustine Beach City Hall<br>2200 A1A South<br>St. Augustine, FL 32080 | <b>NEW</b><br>St. Johns Convention Center<br>at WGV<br>500 S. Legacy Trail<br>St. Augustine, FL 32095  |
| Julington Creek Annex<br>725 Flora Branch Boulevard<br>Saint Johns, FL 32259       | Hastings Branch Library<br>6195 South Main Street<br>Hastings, FL 32145    |  |

**Vicky Dakes**  
St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections

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## Obituaries

Continued from 10

### Margaret Taylor

Margaret Taylor, 90, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died July 26, 2020.

Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com)

### JoAnn Walton

JoAnn Walton, 87, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died July 20, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com) (904) 249-1100.

### Francis Grove White, Jr.,

Francis Grove White, Jr., 83, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died July 23, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com) (904) 249-1100.

### Annamae M. Young

Annamae M. Young, 88, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died July 23, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com) (904) 249-1100.

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# Sand Castles

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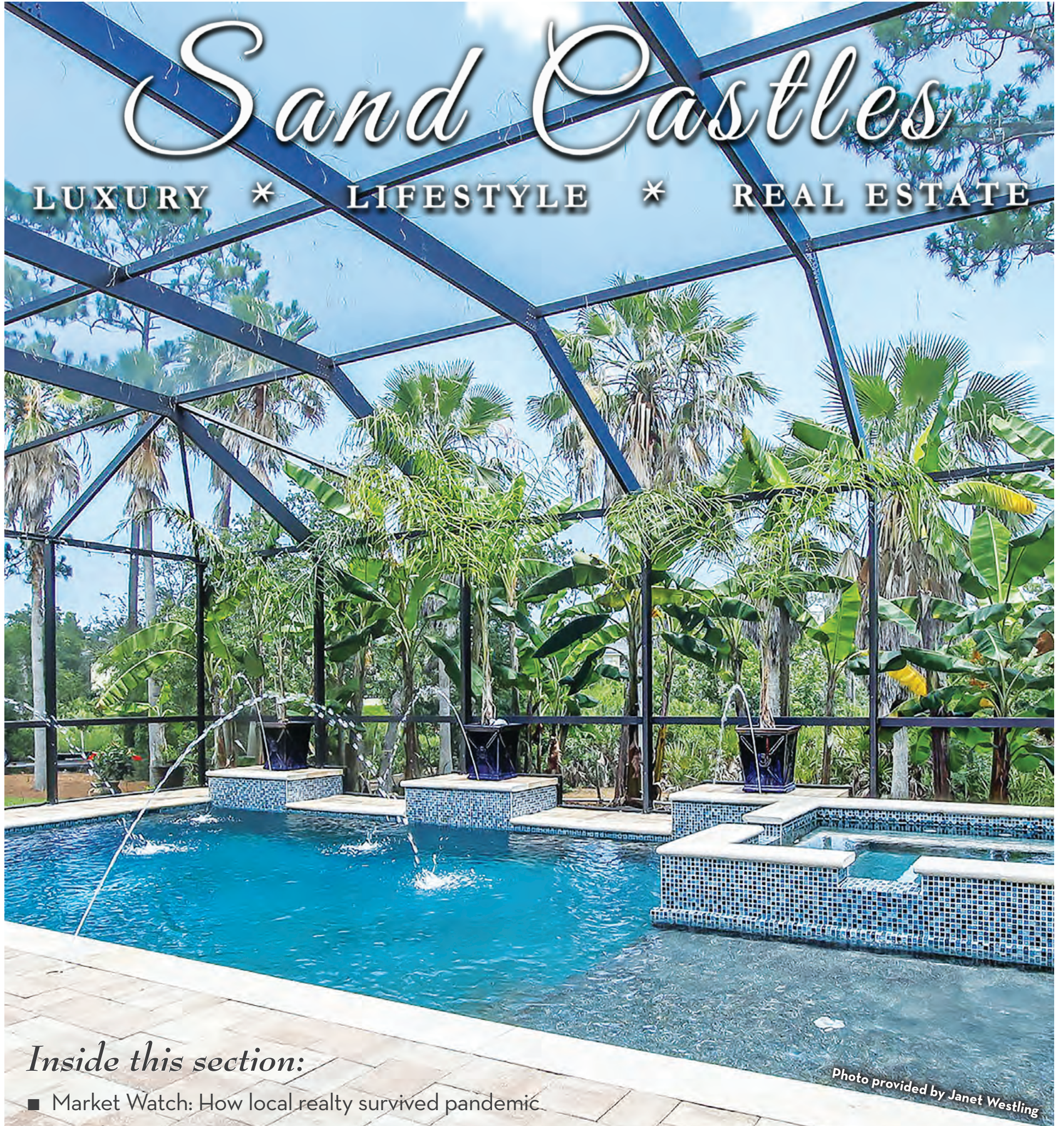


Photo provided by Janet Westling

## *Inside this section:*

- Market Watch: How local realty survived pandemic
- Tips for creating a great outdoor living space
- Local charity uses art to fight ocean pollution
- Column: Space X launch great for U.S., Florida
- Legends Among Us: Revisiting the legacy of Fran Kinne
- Time for tacos ... and margaritas
- A look at some amazing local listings

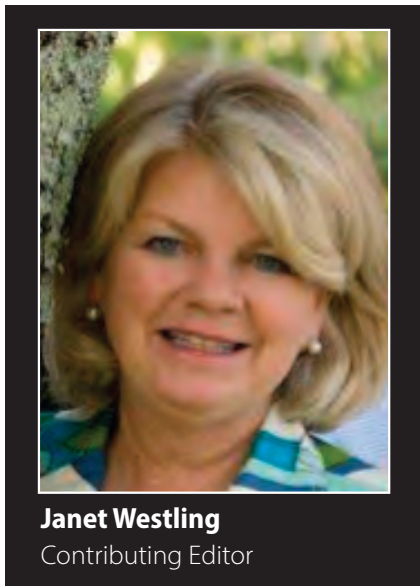
JULY 30, 2020

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**PONTE VEDRA**

# Recorder

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

# Welcome to the summer issue of Sand Castles – a luxury, lifestyle and real estate seasonal section



**Janet Westling**  
Contributing Editor

Welcome to the summer issue of Sand Castles, a luxury, lifestyle and real estate seasonal section. A year ago, I wrote about the dog days of summer, which runs from July 3 until Aug. 11. Webster defines those days as “a period marked with lethargy, inactivity or indolence.”

This year, summertime, while still very

hot, is definitely not inactive when you are talking about real estate, space launches and food.

Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR President Christy Budnick, in a recent memo, shared great insights into the current state of the real estate market. According to Budnick, “The volume of real estate sold so far this July is up 25% over the same period last year. Looking forward, our pending inventory is up 37% in volume and 28% in units over this time last year, ensuring a strong third quarter.”

This data clearly indicates that real estate will continue to help lead the economic recovery. We will recover, and before the pandemic, we had the best economy in history before COVID-19, which originated in Wuhan, China in 2019, shut us and the whole world down.

Nine First Coast realtors share their properties currently on the market. David Johnson with Ameris Bank shares his insights about lending during a pandemic.

“Resiliency, along with economic interest, and courage won the day. Today the Ponte Vedra Beach housing market

thrives after bouncing back from the fear,” Johnson said.

In this issue, U.S. Rep. Michael Waltz contributes a story about the recent Space X launch in Florida. It was an amazing achievement with a collaboration from the private sector and our government with a successful launch in over 10 years.

According to our contributing food writer, Alice Hickox, “I don’t know what it is about summertime that makes me crave tacos and margaritas — I’ll be sharing one of my favorite shrimp taco recipes, and my latest new favorite margarita ... muddled blueberry-lime!”

One of the best venues for enjoying Hickox’s menu is entertaining in your backyard, and design team Kelly Canada Leland and her husband, Jim Leland from Abode Interiors share their beautiful designs for creating an outdoor living space.

An amazing company, Ocean Sole, with Ponte Vedra Beach ties is one of the bestselling items in “Coastal Elements,” which recently opened in Sawgrass Village. Ocean Sole is a remarkable

venture that marries taking care of the environment with a profitable business model. Ocean Sole takes recycled flip flops and turns them into beautiful creations that are unique, pleasing and whimsical. Not only the perfect gift but a great design feature for many spaces!

In 2014, I interviewed and wrote a three-part series about one of Jacksonville’s most-loved and revered citizens, Dr. Fran Kinne, in “Inside the Legends that Lie Amongst Us.” In this issue and the next, we reprint two of the articles as a tribute to her remarkable life.

In closing, our home is our castle, and at the beach it is our castle in the sand.

From palm trees to sand dunes, golf courses to resort living, Ponte Vedra Beach and the Beaches communities offer the most desirable real estate in Northeast Florida!

**Janet Westling, REALTOR, GRI, CIPS**  
**Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices**  
**Florida Network Realty**  
**Sand Castles creator and contributing editor**  
**Award-winning section**  
**[www.janetwestling.com](http://www.janetwestling.com)**

## MARKET WATCH

# Lending in a pandemic: A story of how 1 local industry survived

By David L. Johnson

Residential mortgage financing has been impacted during the pandemic. Through no fault of our own, our community, families and careers have been affected as a result of medical concerns. However, local residential lending has overcome this challenge.

We all remember the anxiety of early March. The one-two punch of coronavirus and declining investment markets sent shudders through our lives. In one way or another, everyone was affected.

Early in the pandemic it was possible residential lending would end. Industry players asked themselves whether title attorney offices would remain open? Would appraisers be allowed access to homes? Is the bank or mortgage company operations department able to function with employees working from home? Will banks be open?

Not to mention whether federal, state or local governments would allow essential residential lending businesses to remain open, such as title companies, banks, mortgage brokers, appraisers, title insurance companies, city and county recording offices, notaries, Realtors, Northeast Florida Association of Realtors, home inspectors, builders, sub-contractors and surveyors. A long list of small, medium and large local businesses contributing to the housing market were at stake.

If one cog in the lending process stalls, it can potentially bring the entire process to a halt, further contributing to a downward spiral of the local housing market. This applies to new and existing home purchases and refinances.

Close partnership between local, state and federal leaders helped maintain the local lending industry. This approach benefitted the Ponte Vedra housing market along



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

with Northeast Florida and the overall state. Compared to other local and state governments that took a heavier-handed real estate shutdown approach, our market was able to sustain the early stages of the pandemic with a free market approach.

I am relieved to report the mortgage lending industry has worked through the issues it confronted early in the pandemic. It did not fold under the pressure. Subsequently, thousands of local homeowners have been able to take advantage of historically low interest rates by refinancing, lowering monthly principal and interest payments and saving money at a time when it is especially appreciated. Families relocating for work purposes to Ponte Vedra Beach have been able to purchase a home for their family, moving on with their lives and careers. Sellers have been

able to sell their homes.

How has this been possible in a safe way? Lending institutions have supported employees working from home. Loan processors, underwriters and closing coordinators are working efficiently from home. Bank branches are making appointments instead of allowing walk-ins. Drive-through banking and ATM usage has increased. Video conferencing between management, board members, customers and departments has increased. Email continues to thrive, along with texting and phone calls. The latter three forms of communication were available before the pandemic, but now are especially appreciated.

Title companies responsible for insuring mortgages have provided clear title restricted access to their offices. Only buyers, sellers and homeowners were allowed to attend the closing, reducing the possibility of exposing others to the coronavirus, while protecting their staffs.

In certain instances, drive-by appraisals are allowed instead of in-home inspections. Homeowners with special health concerns were allowed to sign waivers removing the appraisal requirement. Property inspection waivers are being granted in certain mortgage situations, saving homeowners hundreds of dollars and exposure that otherwise would be spent on the appraisal.

Back in March, the residential lending industry was in the corner, struggling to see a way forward. Resiliency, economic interests and courage won the day. Today, the Ponte Vedra Beach housing market thrives after bouncing back from fear. Mortgage lending continues with historically low interest rates. Loans are still closing. Many folks from congested U.S. cities around the country are buying in the area. The boating, outdoor, beach lifestyle has never looked better.

# Creating a great outdoor living space

By Jim Leland and Kelly Canada  
Abode Interiors

Ever want to feel like you're on a European vacation and dining alfresco? Or just extend the usable living area of your home? With a well-designed outdoor living space, you can have all of this and more!

Hey, we live at the beach where the weather is awesome, so let's make the most of it.

Oftentimes designing an outdoor space is not limited by rooflines and walls, so you are permitted to really use your imagination. Start with all the things you'd like to have in an outdoor space and dream. An outdoor kitchen, fire pit, lounging area, alfresco dining, landscaping, pool ... make your wish list!

Next, you will want to settle on your style. Your outdoor space has its own purpose and personality, but it should seamlessly integrate with the exterior AND interior of your home. As with any project that begins with such a blank canvas, you should always work with a designer who can help you visualize the finished space. This also helps to keep from feeling overwhelmed by the amount of options available. A designer can help compartmentalize and create unique "spaces," much like how you would approach an interior.

Lastly, you will need to prioritize. Since most my clients' wish lists generally exceed their budget, you will need to decide where you will splurge, where you will save and also what you may not incorporate at all. For many projects, we will work with the exact same sub-contractors we partner with when building or remodeling, but, when creating an outdoor space, we always want to call in a landscape professional. There are very creative ways to use

plants for walls, privacy or faux hedges.

I often approach the outdoor space exactly as I would the interior, starting with, how does the family live and play? Do they cook extensively? Entertain? Children and pets? This not only guides the "what" we want to create, but also the "how" it will be used. There are so many ways to be creative with outdoor spaces, possibly even more so than an interior! I'm a fan of having some organic "statement" pieces in an interior, however, there is more creative freedom with material in an exterior space. Imagine using repurposed shutters, drop cloths or garage doors as partitions or for privacy. Or using windscreens and sunscreens to create space, provide shade and give great pops of color.

Also, unlike an interior, you can create distinct sections of your outdoor space that are more seasonal. Obviously, a fantastic pool with amazing deck chairs and loungers screams warm weather days, but a unique fire pit with custom seating can be a great lounging (or eating) space when the temps turn cooler. Another key to getting the most out of the space is to use some multifunctional furniture and possibly some easy store ground pillows to supply extra seating. Another design feature that adds incredible personality and utility to the space is using creative lighting. There are countless fun options for each section of the outdoor space, and great lighting also allows you to get the most out of every inch of your new playground!

Similar to an interior, creating an exterior space takes some vision. It also takes a well-thought-out plan to implement that vision. A beautiful, inviting outdoor space not only adds value to your home, it adds more space to live life ... in Florida, outdoors!



Photos provided by Jim Leland and Kelly Canada

## VACATION AT HOME!



Step inside 4314 McGirts Blvd. and experience a Spectacular coastal traditional that is completely renovated on the river in Ortega. With .81 acres this 100 ft x 354 ft flat riverfront lot has beautiful views of downtown Jacksonville. The main house with 3600 sf features 4 bedrooms and 3 and one half baths, two living areas and open formal dining room to great room. Kitchen has white cabinets with beautiful granite tops and full back splash, double sink and disposer. Gas stove with double oven, refrigerator/ freezer and dishwasher are all Thermador. An additional 720 sf detached guest house behind the two car garage with a full bath, bedroom, kitchen, living room and wood deck. **Offered for \$1,650,000**

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Photos provided by Jennifer Sexton



## A prestigious private estate with incredible views

By Jennifer Sexton

If you've ever dreamed of having your own private island, this exclusive property isn't too far off! Custom-built by Bryan Lendry, this five-bedroom, 5,474-square-foot home, located at 459 Royal Tern Road South, was designed to capture the most magnificent sweeping views of the marsh, Intracoastal and beyond.

This is only one of two expansive properties located at the tip of the North Island community in Marsh Landing Country Club. Get fully immersed in the unspoiled nature surrounding this property and enjoy some of the most glorious sunsets in Jacksonville. The enchantingly quiet atmo-

sphere is present year-round, but whenever you feel like exploring, all the action is conveniently a short drive away.

Enter through the guard gate of this prestigious community, enjoy the drive as the road leads you to the exclusive North Island gate. As you pass over a quaint bridge, your eyes are immediately captivated by this home, which could be straight out of Southern Living magazine. Located at the end of the cul-de-sac with an impressive circular drive entry and an additional driveway leading to the three-car garage, the architecture exudes Southern charm. Greeting you are meticulously manicured hedges, a grand, double staircase front entry, tall, white columns, wrought-iron

railings and a large, covered front porch perfect for a line-up of rocking chairs.

The overall ambience inside is understated sophisticated luxury with a laid-back attitude. The three stories are easily accessed with an elevator running from the garage-level to the top floor. The ground level is home to a three-car garage, a storage area, a sitting area with access to a covered patio and the outdoor space, powder room, elevator access and a second staircase. The main living level will certainly impress with warm oakwood flooring, expansive views, formal and informal dining, study, living and family rooms, open kitchen with island seating, master suite, one en suite guest room,

laundry room/butler's pantry, and second powder room. The top level has three additional guest bedrooms, two full bathrooms, a second family room or loft space with a kitchenette and a porch with fantastic views. A few of the homeowner's special upgrades include a whole-house generator with its own separate gas tank, garage doors that are reinforced for hurricane protection and window film for hurricane and UV protection.

This is an ideal property for hosting guests or extended family members!

This home is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Jennifer Sexton and offered for \$1,779,000.



Photos provided by Gwinn Volen



## Renovated Fiddlers Marsh home is aggressively priced

By Gwinn Volen

Inventory in the under \$500,000 market in Ponte Vedra Beach is incredibly low with just two months of supply (six months is a balanced real estate market), so the home located at 109 St. Emilion Court in Fiddlers Marsh is one of the few homes available in this price point. It is aggressively priced at \$429,900.

Why should you buy it? Fantastic location; beautifully renovated; and increasing property values in the 32082

ZIP code with ample future demand for homes in this price point.

Fiddlers Marsh is located across from the Sawgrass Village Shopping Center. It's an active neighborhood where you'll see lots of dog walking, as well as neighbors biking to the beach. There is a community pool and tennis court, and the homeowners' association fees are very reasonable.

109 St. Emilion has Eastern exposure and you can hear the ocean in the distance. It has a smaller yard, which is

perfect for the person uninterested in a lot of maintenance. The exterior of the home is also low maintenance, with composite siding and 2-year-old roof.

The home's interior is bright and warm, and the current owner has put close to \$50,000 into the property, renovating the kitchen, purchasing new appliances, adding new flooring, painting and landscaping.

This three-bedroom, three-bath home has the owner's suite upstairs to take advantage of the vast preserve views in

the back. There is another bedroom and bath upstairs, and an additional bedroom and bath downstairs.

One of the nicest features of the home is the oversized, two-story screened porch on the back. It's pleasant and breezy — perfect for a cup of coffee, watching the sunrise or that afternoon cocktail after a long day.

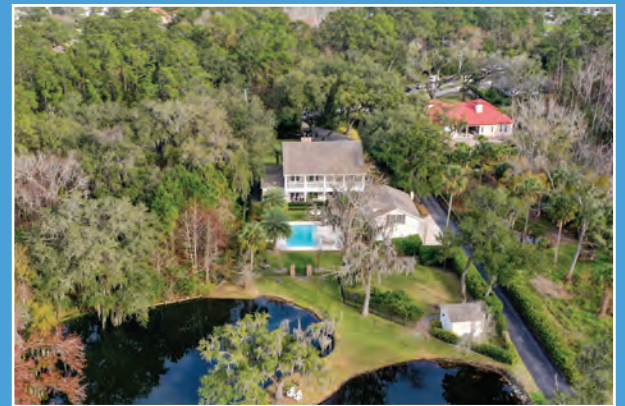
This property is listed by Gwinn Volen and Karen Tyrrell of Keller Williams Luxury International in Ponte Vedra Beach.



# Jennifer White SELLS Ponte Vedra!



8977 Lake Kathryn Drive  
**Sold in 13 Days & Above List Price**  
**Sold at \$3,900,000**



3896 Palm Valley Road  
**Sold The Day It Was Listed**  
**Sold at \$1,860,000**



2100 Oak Hammock Drive  
**Cash Sale**  
**Sold at \$1,160,000**



10 Ponte Vedra Circle  
**Sold In One Month**  
**Sold at \$2,150,000**



3120 Timberlake Point  
**Sold in 14 Days**  
**Sold at \$1,125,000**



2110 Oak Hammock Drive  
 4 Bedrooms | 3.5 Baths | 3,110<sup>±</sup> SF  
 Offered at \$995,000



751 Spinnakers Reach Drive  
 1 Bedroom | 1 Bath | 704<sup>±</sup> SF  
 Offered at \$399,000



Jennifer White, REALTOR®  
*Selling Lifestyles*

904.446.0495  
 JenniferWhiteSellsPVB@yahoo.com  
 JenniferWhiteRealEstate.com





Photos provided by Clare Berry

## A home that celebrates our Florida lifestyle

By Clare Berry

Just down the street from The Lodge and Club in Ponte Vedra Beach, the palm-surrounded, stately Spanish-style home at 548 Ponte Vedra Blvd. catches the eye and the imagination.

What lies behind those arched wood doors? Let's go on a tour.

From the paver-accented driveway, you'll notice space for four cars (or more in tandem) to park outside the courtyard-entry garages. Inside the heavy solid-wood front doors is a world of surprises. Inside is an atrium of about 1,300 square feet, floored in pavers. The focal point is the saltwater

swimming pool with its beautiful fountains. This area hosts a pool table, dining space, gas fireplace, casual seating and a summer kitchen. What a secluded spot to relax!

This home is all about bringing in the outside. Every room has windows with views — of the pool, the lagoon behind the property or the ocean. Every room fills with natural light.

This design emphasizes privacy, openness, energy efficiency and low maintenance, built with attention to details by Aurora Builders. The walls are poured concrete, which the sellers say creates the quietest and most energy-efficient home they've lived in. Almost all flooring is a

durable hard surface (stone, wood, cork). Triple-locking patio doors are at most openings.

Weathershield windows provide good insulation.

The floorplan is exciting. Each bedroom has its own bath except the owner's suite, which has two separate baths and dressing/closet rooms. All bedroom suites are isolated from one another for total privacy. The central shared space includes the open kitchen, which features stone counters, a gas range, pot filler, large walk-in pantry and elevated dishwasher, the butler's pantry with icemaker, refrigerated drawers, wine cooler and sink. The family room boasts

a gas fireplace and custom surround and mantle and the oversized breakfast space. This area opens to the atrium through pocketing, sliding glass doors.

This oversized lot includes a terrace and spacious yard, fenced and bulkheaded, on a peaceful Ponte Vedra lagoon. There's plenty of room for play as well as relaxation!

This property can accommodate at-home private offices like no other home with private entrances to the suites. One suite, currently used as an office, is a double room with walk-in closet and en suite bathroom.

This unique property is listed by Clare Berry and priced at \$3,350,000.



Photos provided by Jim Zeller

## Transcend to the tropics at Jacksonville Beach property

By Jim Zeller

Located at 39 33rd Ave. in South Jacksonville Beach, this is the ultimate beach house.

It can be your amazing getaway or your permanent refuge from the chaotic world we live in.

More than 2,700 square feet built on two lots and only 66 steps from the beach. When you arrive home, you immediately know you are now on island time.

Things are more relaxed here. This is the perfect place to call home and entertain family, friends or the neighborhood

surfers club. With a large pool and the beach only steps away, plus an oversized lawn for outdoor games, life becomes more tranquil.

The main floor boasts a large great room, dining room, kitchen and office. The defined rooms flow aimlessly from one to the other, so everything is open. There is a useful pool bath with direct access to the pool deck and terrace. The master bedroom is large with huge windows facing east, overlooking the pool and morning sun. A second bedroom completes the rooms on this level. There are so many places in this home to relax,

including a secluded patio on the north side with grassy lawn and a beautiful custom water feature with a babbling brook. This space is perfect for morning coffee or cocktail time.

On the second floor, there are two spacious (over 490 square feet) bedrooms with a large Jack-and-Jill bathroom. The landscape for this home is covered with incredible flowers, tropical plants and palm trees. It was professionally designed by Kathy's Creative Gardens of Ponte Vedra Beach. The handy shallow well provides all the water needed to create this tropical oasis.

Personal privacy is assured with proper fencing and large tropical plantings. The two-car garage is oversized and there is a great workshop attached.

When was the last time you saw that feature in new construction?

Overall, this is a one-of-a-kind beach property with a new room and HVAC, including four zones so every area can be set at the correct temperature. The original owners have been here since 1994.

This property is represented by The Luxury Leaders Team at Watson Realty Corp. and listed by Jim Zeller and Linda Ostoski.



Photos provided by Michelle Mousin

## Remodeled penthouse home is a waterfront masterpiece

By Michelle Mousin

This breathtaking penthouse located at 14402 Marina San Pablo Place is positioned on the ninth floor, Southeast corner of a classic Mediterranean tower, with a wrap-around balcony taking in the sweeping views of the Intracoastal Waterway to the South and the Atlantic Ocean to the East.

The owner of this property worked closely with an interior designer and contractor to create a space that is nothing short of spectacular. Walls were opened to create a living, dining and kitchen space that blends seamlessly with the views through oversized windows and glass sliders. Eleven-foot, smooth ceilings add to the expanse.

The kitchen features custom-crafted cab-

inets, as well as 5-by-15-foot quartz island that boasts a large farm sink, Waterstone faucet system and seating. The kitchen also has a custom hood over a Wolf six-burner gas cooktop, walk-in pantry, double ovens, Sub Zero refrigerator/freezer and an Asko dishwasher. An adjoining area features a coffee/beverage bar with a built-in Miele coffee/espresso machine, U-line ice maker and two refrigerated drawers with a KitchenAid wine chiller. The living space is large, but intimate. The dining area has ample room for a large dining table. Entertaining a large group would be perfectly comfortable, as well as a hosting small, intimate dinner party. The balconies act as another open-air living space and total 795 square feet.

The comfortable den, located off the living area, is a quiet alcove to read or watch television. The master suite occupies the west end of the home and is your personal sanctuary, with a private balcony, a sitting area and a spacious spa-inspired bath, which boasts double vanities, a free-standing tub and a huge, seamless, glass walk-in shower with a towel warmer. An extensive, custom walk-in closet includes an island with drawers and shelving by the same craftsman responsible for all the other cabinetry in the home. All guest rooms are located on the north side of home and are oversized, complete with remodeled en suite baths.

This condominium lives like a home at 4,145 square feet. It has four bedrooms,

four bathrooms and an office/den. Those with the most discerning eye will appreciate all the detail and top-of-the-line materials and finishes. A 50-foot boat slip is available and within viewing distance of the balcony

Marina San Pablo is a gated condominium tower on the Intracoastal Waterway with a private marina, clubhouse, fitness center, pool, walking trails and a community dock for fishing or enjoying the water view.

The location off San Pablo Road is close to everything, including minutes from the Jacksonville Beaches and the world-renowned Mayo Clinic.

The property is represented by Engel & Voelkers and listed by Michelle Mousin.



## Harbour Island home offers prime location, tranquil lifestyle

By Newman Rossie

Located on desirable Harbour Island in Marsh Landing Country Club, 24652 Harbour View Drive is a traditional home with new Pella architectural floor-to-ceiling windows and doors that offer a panoramic view of Cabbage Creek and the peaceful marsh that is home to our colorful native birds.

If you are a boater, a 60-foot boat slip in the Harbour is included with your purchase. No other community in Ponte Vedra offers the convenience of country-club living minutes from the beach, with the ability to dock your boat steps away

from your home, so you can be cruising the Intracoastal in minutes.

This residence is perfectly sized, and the floorplan offers spacious privacy for every member of a busy family. Designed for today's lifestyle, the kitchen, with new stainless-steel appliances, opens to a casual living and dining area. The casual and formal rooms flow to the spacious outdoor living space, affording easy and convenient entertaining for small or grand celebrations. There is a large study with built-ins and plenty of storage, tucked away for quiet privacy, and a full guest bath that also services the pool.

The first-floor owner's suite has two

huge walk-in closets, a gas fireplace, morning bar, new flooring, and a gorgeous fully renovated bath. The master bedroom offers easy access to the pool and views of the marsh. There is also a separate first-floor guest suite. Upstairs you will find three large en suite bedrooms, all offering walk-in closets. If you still need extra space for visitors, a detached guest house overlooking the marsh and the pool fills the bill. The multi-purpose room with a private balcony overlooking the marsh is designed as a media room and includes a screen and comfortable seating. You can watch movies or convert the space to suit your lifestyle.

With gentle breezes off the marsh, the

Northeast exposure allows you to enjoy your summer kitchen and outdoor festivities year-round, including relaxing in your heated spa or swimming in the oversized screened pool that has a new heater and will also cool the water in the summer. With the large circular driveway and two oversized two-car garages, there is plenty of parking for everyone in the family.

If location, boating, tranquil views, a livable floorplan, tons of storage and fabulous outdoor living are on your list, this home checks all the boxes!

This property is represented by Marsh Landing Country Club Realty, listed by Newman Rossie and offered at \$1,695,000.

# Local charity tackles global ocean pollution problem through art

Ponte Vedra is renowned for its pristine, unpolluted beaches. Now, one local family is harnessing its passion for clean beaches and ocean conservation by tackling the global marine pollution problem – through art.

Ocean Sole Africa, a local charity, is raising awareness of the ocean pollution problem by making colorful art from recycled flip flops. Each week, the organization recycles one ton of abandoned flip flops into art, providing economic empowerment to communities in Africa. “Chief Solemate” Erin Smith oversees operations in Kenya, and her family in Ponte Vedra has become fully engaged in the charity’s operations stateside.

“I have been to Kenya and seen the devastation of trash washing ashore,” said Jackie Smith, Erin’s mother and the

Ocean Sole Africa’s secretary. “We are lucky in Florida as our beaches aren’t polluted, but we can’t ignore this big global problem. We can all do a little to help.”

## A PONTE VEDRA-KENYA CONNECTION

Erin Smith followed her parents, David and Jackie, to Ponte Vedra Beach. While she owned a home here, her work in finance took her first to London and eventually to Kenya, where she fell in love with the continent and its people.

Like Florida, Kenya is situated on an ocean — the Indian Ocean. Used to Ponte Vedra’s pristine beaches,



“Chief Solemate” Erin Smith poses with an artful grizzly. Smith oversees operations in Kenya, and her family in Ponte Vedra has become fully engaged in Ocean Soul Africa operations stateside.

Photo provided by Ocean Sole

OCEAN SOLE continues on Page 27

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**Florida Network Realty**



### PONTE VEDRA BEACH LIFESTYLE

The very spacious unit with approximately 2,200 SF belongs to one of the original owners & has a split floorplan with 3 large bedrooms & 3 baths. The 2nd floor location has spectacular views of the ocean & a quick back door access offers direct beach access. Entertain a crowd with ample guest parking as well as your own private parking under the building.

Offered for \$1,350,000



Call Allison Steilberg  
904-252-5181

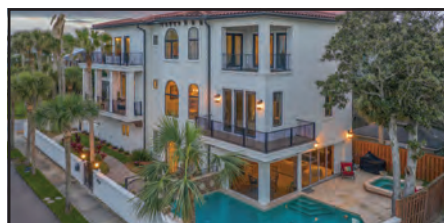


### 161 BEACHSIDE DR., PVB

Enter this newly renovated home nestled in coastal oaks greeted by expansive views of the marsh. An elegantly appointed paradise is ready for your next chapter. Whether it is sitting on the back-deck bird watching, preparing a meal in the chef’s kitchen or enjoying time with loved ones around the fire pit on the screened lanai you are certain to find peace in this paradise. Offered for \$709,000



Call Cyndi King  
904-687-8000

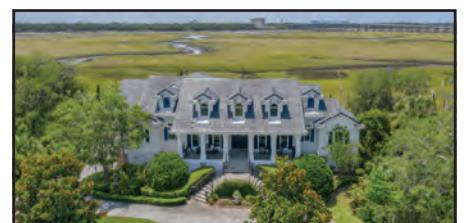


### OCEAN VIEWS ON BEACH AVENUE, ATLANTIC BEACH

Live in the center of this vibrant community at 1238 Beach Avenue. Across from the beach access & offering ocean views, this luxury pool home is on a corner lot & has 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, and 4,348 sqft of modern living. Completely renovated, 2 living rooms, 2 laundry rooms, 2-car garage, a heated pool & hot tub plus 4 east facing balconies to choose from. Offered for \$2,500,000



Call Jennifer Sexton  
904-463-3326

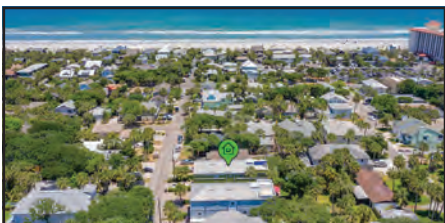


### PRESTIGIOUS PRIVATE ESTATE IN MARSH LANDING COUNTRY CLUB

Located on the exclusive North Island in Marsh Landing CC, 459 Royal Tern Road S was designed to capture sweeping views of the marsh & intracoastal. This 5,474 sq ft property offers 5 bedrooms plus an office & a loft space, 4 full baths, 2 half baths & an elevator to easily access all levels. The open kitchen has magnificent views with 2 islands, Sub Zero, Wolf & Miele appliances plus a butler’s pantry. With room for a pool, this property will not disappoint. Offered for \$1,779,000



Call Jennifer Sexton  
904-463-3326

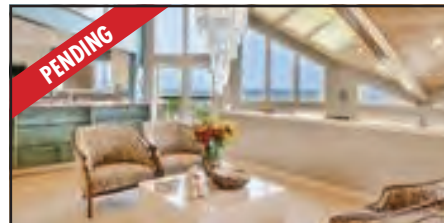


### BEAUTIFUL TOWNHOME IN THE HEART OF ATLANTIC BEACH

Only 3 flip flop blocks to the sand and 2 blocks to The Beaches Town Center, the location of 330 2nd St couldn’t be better. With 3 bedrooms plus a loft, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, at 2,959 square feet, you can ditch the lawn mower since the yard has artificial turf and is maintenance-free! There’s a 1 car garage, a carport, and large driveway to fit cars, boat, jet ski or whatever toys you bring. Offered for \$765,000



Call Jennifer Sexton  
904-463-3326



PENDING

### 1123 PONTE VEDRA BLVD.

This stunning oceanfront 4 bedroom, 5 bath, 3940 SF home sits on 1.38 beautiful acres on Ponte Vedra Blvd. Offered for \$3,000,001



Call Lisa Sandifer  
904-254-5462



### 1033 PONTE VEDRA BLVD.

Architect Paul Rudolph designed this stunning 6,800SF beachfront masterpiece known now as simply The Milam House. Located on a high 28’ oceanfront bluff in Ponte Vedra Beach, this 5BR/7BA home has 200’ of ocean frontage with lush vegetation, a large pool and detached guest house. See the plans for a total transformation. Offered for \$4,200,000



Call Wally Sears  
904-610-9771

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**PONTE VEDRA BEACH LIFESTYLE**

Live the dream every day from this beautiful 4BR/3.5BA custom-built home. The extraordinary detail found throughout the 4,266sf home from the moment you enter the driveway truly sets it apart from all others. Extensive and incredible views of the golf course can be seen from most rooms. Mornings will be enjoyed on the screened lanai as you hear birds chirping and watch the wildlife as it swoons by. Relax in the hot tub/spa and catch an evening sunset. Offered for \$1,295,000



**Call Anita Vining  
904-739-1626**



**ELEGANCE ON THE ST. JOHNS**

Step out of the private elevator entrance into a spacious foyer. You will forget you are in a condo as it lives like a home. 3BR/3.5BA, 2,805sf. Designer features and finishes by one of Jacksonville's well-known Designers with hardwood floors & high ceilings. Enjoy the open floor plan in living spaces offering panoramic views of the river. The kitchen features center island plus breakfast bar, top of the line appliances and abundance of gorgeous cabinetry. Offered for \$1,100,000



**Call Anita Vining  
904-739-1626**



**SAN MARCO RIVERFRONT**

Architectural Digest was impressed, you will be too! An unexpected surprise as you drive through the private iron gates and brick paved entrance. No doubt the original owner when selecting this location near San Marco realized its beauty and surroundings. Situated on a high bluff & widespread bulkheaded lot that spans 218 feet along the river's edge.



7 Bedrooms | 7 Full Baths | 2 Half Baths  
11,625 Sq Ft | Offered for \$5,200,000

**Call Anita Vining  
904-739-1626**



**PERFECT IN PALENCIA!**

5 BR 4 Bath plus 2 spacious bonus rooms. This home is situated on a quiet cul de sac with preserve views. Exceptional schools, tennis courts, pools, fitness center and playgrounds await you in this great golf course community. Offered for \$664,500.



**Call Nancy Massengill  
904-910-7000**

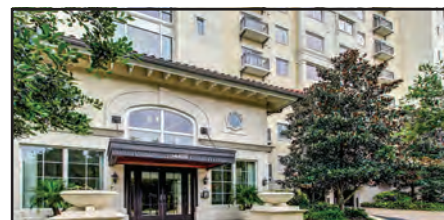


**TWENTY MILE IN NOCATEE**

Live the Nocatee lifestyle in this move-in ready beauty! Open floor plan with 4 BR 3 BA + office, screened lanai, gorgeous landscaped backyard. Perfectly maintained and convenient to PV Academy and only 10 minutes to the beach! Offered for \$505,000.



**Call Cheryl Dolan  
305-509-1396**



**LUXURY CONDO ON INTRACOASTAL**

Move right in and enjoy the lock & leave lifestyle in this light-filled 3 BR 3.5BA + office home with open floor plan, tile and wood floors, plantation shutters, custom designed closets & built-ins in office. Marina San Pablo offers resort-style amenities in a private, gated community setting. Minutes to Mayo Clinic and the beach! Offered for \$735,000



**Call Cheryl Dolan  
305-509-1396**



**SOUTH PONTE VEDRA BLVD.**

Experience luxury living at the Ocean's doorstep in this stunning 5BR/3BA, 3089sf home on the Boulevard. Panoramic ocean views from almost every room. Elevated deck wraps around the master bedroom past the great room and kitchen. North portion is covered & screened-in, south is open to the sun. This property is a high/dry 90ft lot, 22.7ft elevation all protected by 20 ft. bulkhead! Offered for \$1,298,000



**Call Lew Walters  
904-806-3047**

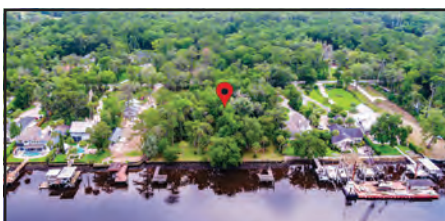


**432 IREX RD. - ATLANTIC BEACH**

Enjoy the Atlantic Beach Lifestyle for under \$400,000. Affordable paradise on a large lot just 12 blocks to the beach! 1,485 square feet with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Offered for \$369,900



**Call Rosemary Kristoff  
904-333-4841**



**INTRACOASTAL WATERFRONT LOT**

Build the waterfront home of your dreams on this large lot located on Intracoastal Waterway- 3 parcels being sold as one property with a total of 225' of water frontage. Ideally located in the St. Johns County A-rated school district and offers easy access to JTB, TPC, and the beach. Total Acreage: 2.06. Offered for \$2,500,000



**Call Sarah Alexander  
904-334-3104**



**OCEANFRONT OASIS**

Stunning 210 ft oceanfront estate on private gated 2-acre lot with 27 ft elevation. Impeccable, quality home with spectacular views throughout. This gated paradise offers unrivaled privacy in the heart of Ponte Vedra with easy access to all local amenities. 5 bedrooms, 6 full / 2 half baths. Offered for \$5,900,000



**Call Elizabeth Hudgins  
904-553-2032**



**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. Offered for \$2,450,000



**Call Elizabeth Hudgins  
904-553-2032**



**SPECTACULAR RIVERFRONT HOME**

Gorgeous coastal traditional that is completely renovated on the river in Ortega. With .81 acres this 100 ft x 354 ft flat riverfront lot has beautiful views of downtown Jacksonville. The main house with 3600 sf features 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, two living areas & open formal dining room to great room. An additional 720 sf detached guest house behind the two car garage with a full bath, bedroom, kitchen, living room and wood deck. Offered for \$1,525,000



**Call Janet Westling  
904-813-1913**



Photos provided by Elizabeth Hudgins and Sarah Alexander

## Nature lover's paradise nestled in Ponte Vedra Beach

By Elizabeth Hudgins and Sarah Alexander

Nestled amongst lush landscaping, 308 Three Island Court is a nature lover's paradise situated on 8.2 acres within the secure community of Marsh Landing. Located in Swift Creek Island, this secluded property offers the perfect place for homeowners to escape from everyday life yet is conveniently located to all the local amenities and allows for easy access to the surrounding community.

Originally purchased by the developer, this property was built high and dry and designed for sustainability and permanence. Surrounded by tropical vegetation and crafted landscaping, the property features boarded walkways and trails, mak-

ing it easy to navigate the homes three separate islands. This property is truly unique to the area, with no other home in Marsh Landing offering three islands with private gated access.

Marvel at the stunning natural scenery as you make your way down the winding driveway to the property's main residence. Entailed initially to be the property's guest house, the 1,989-square-foot home features two bedrooms along with two bathrooms and custom details throughout. The home's low country aesthetic will remind you of simpler times, while the large front porch invites you to sit back and enjoy the serene environment.

Hand-cut by a local craftsman, the rough-hewn oak front door offers a wel-

coming entry into the home's spacious family room featuring immaculate hardwood floors and a wood-burning stone fireplace encased in custom, wood bookcases. Enhanced by its 12-foot ceilings and expansive windows, the home offers an open feel and showcases captivating marsh views. Featuring large paved rustic stone, the back porch is surrounded by natural beauty and is ideal for outdoor entertaining.

Connected to the main home by a breezeway is an air-conditioned, single stall garage and can be used as a flex space. Further up the driveway is the three-car detached garage, which features a finished room above currently utilized as an art studio. Should you desire a more substantial main house, the property of-

fers ample room and is preapproved to build your dream waterfront home.

Explore this peaceful paradise and enjoy the abundance of natural beauty found at 308 Three Island Court. From deer to ospreys, nature lovers will enjoy the entertainment provided by the wildlife that frequent the property. Enjoy fishing off your dock or kayaking through the brackish creeks and marshes that surround Swift Creek Island. This property truly features the best of both worlds; serene seclusion on your private island yet is conveniently located to everything that Ponte Vedra Beach has to offer!

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway Florida Network Realty, listed by Elizabeth Hudgins and Sarah Alexander and offered at \$2,850,000.



Photos provided by Debbie Kopp

## Amenities abound at Palencia community condominium

By Debbie Kopp

Do you love St. Augustine?

Come see this beautiful two-bedroom and two-bath condo located in Palencia, one of St. Johns County's most desirable communities.

It's only a short drive from historic downtown St. Augustine and I-95 with easy access to the beaches and some of the best dining, shopping, and entertainment

Northeast Florida has to offer.

Stunning wood floors and plenty of natural light flow throughout the entire second-floor unit. The kitchen features solid wood cabinets, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, only steps away from your screened-in lanai.

Residents of Avila at Palencia can enjoy their own private pool or any of the amenities offered by the Palencia lifestyle, including the shops of Market Street.

Palencia features a full range of world-class amenities for residents including three pools, clay tennis courts, a fitness center with childcare, athletic fields, pocket parks and as a 30-acre park system interconnected by a series of boardwalks and trails.

Residents of the community also have the opportunity to join the private Palencia Golf Club with an 18-hole Arthur Hills-designed championship golf course, a private clubhouse, which offers dining and

hosts frequent dances and parties, a "Family Night" and has a wine club with wine tastings.

If you are looking for an active lifestyle, low-maintenance living and a wonderful location, look no further! Schedule a private showing so you won't miss out on this perfect condo.

This property is represented by the Kopp Group RE/MAX Unlimited and listed by Debbie Kopp.



## NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

# Villa Calissa highlights attention to detail and breathtaking views

By **Edmundo Gonzalez**

When the opportunity to re-develop an existing industrial waterfront site with views of St. Augustine's city center and deep-water slips became available, my business partner and I knew we had a chance to develop something really special.

While the property would be considered small by most new development standards, we knew that it lay in the heart of an area that was beginning a true transformation — along the Sebastian River on the western end of St. Augustine's city center. Diane's Marketplace had been recently built around the corner, the TAG! Children's Museum was close to breaking ground and we were hearing rumors of something catalytic happening to the 60 acres to the south.

Sitting 14 feet over the river, the property was stunning. With beautiful oaks, mangroves and incredible city and water views, we knew we had to hire the right architect to capture the essence of timeless St. Augustine while preserving this site's natural beauty. We selected

Cronk Duch Architecture and we worked together to give our homeowners the best blend of sophisticated coastal architecture, modern functionality in its interiors, an emphasis on each unit having water views and a deep-water slip on the back porch.

Due to our location on the banks of the Sebastian River, we knew the materials used would need to stand up to the salt-air environment. We upgraded our metal roofs to aluminum with a Kynar finish, so that we could offer our homeowners a 35-year warranty. Exterior components such as Hardi-board for siding, soffits and shutters along with all-weather railings would become our standard to relieve homeowners of future problems. On the interior, we made sure to use natural gas for our water heaters, ranges and dryers. Cable rails along the stairs and second floor hallway accentuate the modern coastal feel as do the use of quartz counters and high-end stainless appliances. Along with these touches of modern style, we made sure to include ship lap accents and crisp, white wood trim throughout, so you don't

SPOTLIGHT continues on **Page 27**

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**PONTE VEDRA**  
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Olivia and Brent Seaman



**MARSH LANDING CC**  
4/3 • \$679,000  
Suzanne Schinsing



**OCEANFRONT**  
Homesite • \$3,999,999  
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**HILLIARD**  
Acreage • \$2,750,000  
Earl Parker



**PONTE VEDRA BEACH**  
4/3 • \$539,000  
Suzanne Stephens



**PONTE VEDRA BEACH**  
Homesite • \$329,000  
Suzie and Rory Connolly



**MONTURA**  
4/3/1 • \$1,049,000  
Suzanne Stephens



**EPPING FOREST**  
3/2/1 • \$865,000  
Patti Armstrong



**MARSH LANDING CC**  
6/7/1 • \$2,275,000  
Suzie and Rory Connolly



**MONTURA**  
4/4 • \$979,000  
Patti Armstrong



**DEERWOOD**  
5/4 • \$749,500  
Olivia or Brent Seaman



**MARBELLA**  
4/4/1 • \$2,600,000  
Pam Henry



**MARINA SAN PABLO**  
2/2 • \$619,000  
Susan Fort or Tyler Ackland



**PONTE VEDRA BEACH**  
Homesite • \$329,900  
Suzie and Rory Connolly



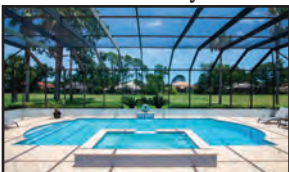
**PLAYERS CLUB**  
5/4/1 • \$999,000  
Suzanne Stephens



**CAMPFIELD**  
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Patti Armstrong



**PONTE VEDRA BLVD**  
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**THE PLANTATION**  
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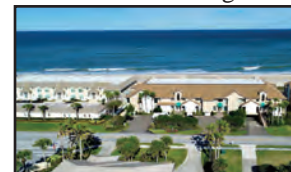
**PLAYERS CLUB VILLAS**  
3/3 • \$475,000  
Valerie Shaw/Ginny Bowen



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Suzie and Rory Connolly



**JACKSONVILLE BEACH**  
3/2 • \$450,000  
Susan Fort or Tyler Ackland



**OCEANFRONT**  
3/3 • \$1,200,000  
Earl Parker



**ATLANTIC BEACH**  
72' x 282' • \$3,950,000  
Susan Fort or Tyler Ackland

Preferred Membership Initiation Fee pricing for the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, The Lodge & Club, Epping Forest Yacht Club and The River Club is available exclusively through Ponte Vedra Club Realty! Call us today to see how to qualify.

# The perfect Ponte Vedra lifestyle in Marsh Landing

By Janet Westling

How do you describe a home that has a dock, boat lift, with tidal access to the Intra-coastal, sensational outdoor entertaining with a large pool, spa, summer kitchen and alfresco dining that is also beautifully designed inside and out in the heart of Marsh landing Country Club?

It is simple. Step inside 4427 Royal Tern Court and experience a re-designed coastal traditional home that is move-in ready, with more than 4,400 square feet of spacious living. The home includes five bedrooms and five bathrooms, with first-floor master bedroom and office/sitting room. Upstairs offers three bedrooms with a fifth en suite bedroom /bonus room. The foyer opens to a private office and a sophisticated light-filled dining room that opens to the large screened-in lanai. With vaulted ceilings, light porcelain tile floors and floor-to-ceiling windows, the great room overlooks the luxury pool/spa, which offers outdoor living in a private setting and amazing access to the estuary of the Intracoastal Waterway. This house has function, flow and style!

Located in Marsh Landing in Ponte Vedra Beach, this unique home has a Jacksonville Beach property line, yet is grandfathered into the St. Johns County school district, which is a plus.

The Ponte Vedra lifestyle in Marsh Landing Country Club was created in 1985 by property

brothers Jerome and Paul Fletcher. The brothers placed a huge emphasis on the conservation and preservation of the environment that included tidal marshes, natural lakes and a wide variety of native trees. They executed their plan beautifully and today, 35 years later, this pristine environment is host to wildlife such as ospreys, egrets, herons, deer and, of course, residents. Believed by many to be “the best neighborhood connecting Jacksonville to the Atlantic Ocean,” Marsh Landing Country Club features a private, 18-hole golf course designed by Ed Seay of Arnold Palmer Course design. The par-72 course winds through some of the most scenic marshes and groves, connecting sport to nature in a nod to the biodiversity of the environment. A beautiful enclosed lanai overlooks the heated pool and terraced private lawn, with sweeping vistas in a tranquil setting. Welcome home to a completely re-designed coastal traditional in Marsh Landing and staged by Re-designed to Sell.

Ponte Vedra Beach, a community on the Atlantic Ocean is convenient to Jacksonville, close to the Mayo Clinic and the University of North Florida. Just minutes to the beach, golf, tennis and fitness center, experience the best of Marsh Landing Country Club and enjoy vacation living year-round!

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, listed by Allison Ferebee and Janet Westling, and offered for \$1,199,000.



Photos provided by Janet Westling

## FIVE SPECTACULAR WATERFRONT PROPERTIES FROM THE BEACHES TO ORTEGA – THE PERFECT RETREAT TO CALL HOME!



Whisper Lake Lane sold for \$1,950,000



Coastal traditional home at Royal Tern Court is listed for \$1,199,000



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Spectacular Ortega River front home, completely remodeled



Simply stunning home on the estuary to the Intracoastal in Marsh Landing

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**Janet Westling,**  
REALTOR®, GRI, CIPS  
President's Circle Award Winner,  
Sand Castles Contributing Editor

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# SpaceX launches America's, Florida's greatness once more

By **U.S. Rep. Michael Waltz**

R-Florida, 6th Congressional District

On May 30, America witnessed history as we launched two astronauts beyond our atmosphere and into the stars. This was a culmination of hard work and innovation between Elon Musk's SpaceX and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) — and it all took place just a short drive away at Florida's Kennedy Space Center.

This day marked the first time the United States had sent a man into space in nearly 10 years — and I was beyond honored to be there to see the launch firsthand.

This relaunch had been a long time coming. The loss of our American-launched human spaceflight program in 2011 meant sliding behind our global competitors like Russia and China — but that's all changed, thanks in large part to President Trump, private sector innovators and NASA.

Not only was this launch important for our country but it's also important for Florida, which has played a huge role in America's space exploration.

NASA's human spaceflight program is hard-wired into our state's DNA. For more than 40 years, Floridians gathered to watch launch after launch. We heard the roar of rocket engines and saw that bright beam of rocket light towards a world beyond our own.

Some of the fondest memories I have as a kid were watching launches from the beach or my backyard with my mother in Jacksonville. Whenever I speak to Floridians, they recall some of those same memories. They bond us together.

The excitement of new launches faded in 2010, when then-President Barack Obama retired NASA's space shuttle fleet, effectively dismantling our human space-



Photo provided by Michael Waltz

**U.S. Rep. Michael Waltz poses with two astronauts ahead of the space launch May 30 at Kennedy Space Center.**

flight program. America leading in space would become a blip in our history. We would instead focus on a destination further off — Mars — and we would wait until 2030, nearly 40 years later, to get there.

When the decision to cut human spaceflight was announced, Neil Armstrong and many other American astronauts were quick to condemn it, urging President Obama not to leave NASA's low orbit plans and investments behind.

Without investment in rockets to send our astronauts to space, many astronauts like Armstrong feared the once-leading United States would lag in space development, ultimately resulting in an extreme delay in the mission to Mars and perhaps more concerningly, the U.S. falling

second or third to countries like Russia and China.

Despite the promise of investing millions of dollars to offset the economic impact of the Space Shuttle program's retirement, Obama's decision devastated Florida's Space Coast. Thousands of engineers, technicians and others were laid off, as their work was no longer necessary.

When President Trump took office, he pledged to revitalize the space industry and put America first, not only on this earth but in space as well. For Floridians, this is another opportunity to show our country and the world what we're capable of. Once again, we can help skyrocket our country to the leaderboard of the 21st-century space race.

May 30 marked the official launch of this great period of exploration and innovation with human spaceflight. For Floridians, this not only means a return to seeing rocket launches from our coast but also means new jobs at aerospace companies, investments in our area and economic development, which couldn't come at a more critical time.

When speaking with space program workers before the launch, Trump noted America is always in the process of transcending great challenges. We're seeing that today as our country faces challenging times, with a global pandemic and civil unrest.

"The same spirit of American determination that sends our people into space will conquer this disease on earth," Trump said. "Nothing, not even gravity itself, can hold Americans down or keep America back."

These words ring true today, now more than ever. These launches remind us of the greatness of our country. America — and Florida — are more than ready to meet the challenge ahead and embrace it with open arms.



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HOMES™  
BY ARTHUR RUTENBERG

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**AR** HOMES™  
BY ARTHUR RUTENBERG

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## LOOKING BACK: INSIDE THE LEGENDS THAT LIE AMONGST US

## The remarkable life of Dr. Frances Bartlett Kinne

By Janet Westling

(Note: This article originally ran in *Sand Castles* on April 24, 2014 as Part 2 of a three-part series. Frances Kinne passed away on May 10, 2020 at 102 years old.)

*“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I — I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.” — Robert Frost*

**THE LONG ROAD TO CHINA**

Col. Harry Kinne received his next assignment as advisor to Chiang Kai Shek's Chinese Nationalist Army in Hankow, China. Frances left on her first transatlantic voyage from San Francisco on the General Blackford to join her new husband. The seas were rough at times, yet Frances never became sick and was able to entertain the soldiers on board with the ship's piano.

The General Blackford's first stop was Yokohama, Japan. The ship was met by a friend of Col. Kinne who gave Frances a condensed tour of Tokyo. Occupied Japan was in the throes of re-building and Frances was an eyewitness to the destruction of a former war zone.

After 22 days at sea and a brief stop in Korea, the General Blackford reached its final destination Shanghai, China.

**REUNITED IN SHANGHAI**

“What an amazing paradox in China,” Frances said. “It is such an incongruous combination of charm and culture as well as filth and poverty.”

For nine days, Harry and Frances toured Shanghai, were entertained by Maj. Gen. Sinju Pu Hsiao and, upon leaving, had no idea they would be back so soon.

Assigned to Hankow, Col. Kinne, as the senior officer, was housed in a temporary apartment located in the Norwegian consulate building with four servants and no furniture. A strike in San Francisco delayed the delivery of all their household goods including Frances' beloved piano.

China was in turmoil, challenged by communist rebels fighting to overthrow the government. Wherever Frances went she was accompanied by her “No. 1 boy,” named Ching. He was assigned to protect her. Frances had hoped to lecture and attend the university just across the river, but, given the situation, that was never to be.

**ANOTHER NEVER IN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES**

Frances and Harry were instructed to never eat the local food or, as it was called, “on the economy.” This meant never eating at local restaurants or buying ingredients at local shops, due to the quality of the water and threat of poisoning. American rations were scarce because Hankow was at the end of the line to receive authorized food.



Photo provided by Janet Westling

Dr. Frances Bartlett Kinne poses with some photos documenting her extraordinary life.

Frances became sick. Because Hankow had no American doctors, Frances left for Nanking to see an American doctor who diagnosed her as anemic, gave her vitamin shots and instructed her to eat more.

**SHOCKING NEWS IN NANKING**

After her visit to the doctor, Frances received shocking news that all Americans were ordered to leave China. With Harry in Hankow, Frances took matters into her own hands, called a friend, a pilot stationed in Nanking, and made plans to get back to Harry instead of following orders to evacuate.

**THE LAST BOAT FROM CHINA**

The C-47 arrived in Hankow safely. With turmoil all around them, Harry and Frances packed quickly for their departure for Shanghai, at dawn the next day. Shanghai was the last bastion of defense and two weeks later Frances left on the last boat from China to Japan.

**GEN. MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS**

Col. Kinne followed Frances to Japan and was reassigned to the G2 (intelligence) in Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff. Frances was thrilled to be able to have the freedom once again that she did not have in China. They settled into the Imperial hotel, Harry commanded the Allied Translator Service and Frances returned to teaching at the public girls' school and Tsuda college in Tokyo.

**BRINGING DEMOCRACY TO JAPAN**

The Japanese Ministry of Education distributed a pamphlet on the subject of democratic government and non-democratic government specifically for the returning POWs who were held for many years as laborers in the forest of Siberia.

Frances experienced her own educational journey, touching on the subject of democracy with her students. Whether Frances was talking about equality, or our republic's respect for the individual and our belief that all men are created equal, she began to develop a deep understanding of two very different cultures.

**RETURN TO STORY CITY**

When word reached Frances that her father was dying, she wished to return home. At first the request was denied due to military policy but Gen. MacArthur interceded with these assuring words: “Get Fran whatever she needs to get back to her father's side.” She arrived in time to be at his side and see her dad's smile one last time.

**THE KOREAN WAR ALMOST SIDETRACKS FRANCES**

The return trip to Tokyo almost did not happen. When Frances arrived in San Francisco to board the ship she was told the ship was not accepting any dependents.

War was declared in Korea and the ship was filled to capacity with soldiers on their way to the Far East.

Undaunted, Frances requested to see the port commander who listened as Frances gave her pitch for troop morale and the need to entertain the troops at sea. The piano again opened the door for Frances, this time to secure a spot on a president liner where she entertained 2,000 troops for 21 days.

Upon her return, Harry was sent to Formosa to be a part of Gen. MacArthur's mission. Back in Tokyo, Frances entertained the wounded men in the Tokyo hospitals. Frances returned to her war-time field in special services as director of music and assistant entertainment director for the Far East command that included Japan, Korea, Guam, the Philippines and Okinawa.

**HOME AGAIN IN THE USA**

After three years in the Far East, the colonel and his lady returned to the United States as Harry had contracted a fever and was treated for a month at Walter Reed Hospital, released and assigned to the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk. From there they went to Fort Bragg, where Col. Kinne was a member of the Joint Tactical Air Support Board. Three years later, they left for their last assignment overseas.

**A SECOND OCCUPATION: ASSIGNMENT GERMANY**

The year was 1955, and the Allies had divided Germany into sectors that were occupied for the purpose of restoration. Col. Kinne commanded the 4th Armor group and one of their concerns was our ally Russia.

Located at strategic locations throughout Germany, the 4th Armor Division presented a strong military defense during the peak of the Cold War. The time spent in Germany fulfilled not only Harry's ambitions and accomplishments but Frances' as well. She continued to work on her doctorate. As the first American student in Germany following the war, she was sometimes met with resistance.

Never giving up, Frances resolved to work hard and see it through. She graduated with honors and became the first American woman since World War II to receive a doctorate in a German university. It created a lot of interest and was covered by newspapers in Frankfurt, The Army-Air Force Journal and the New York Times.

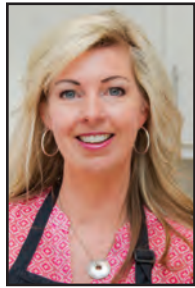
This quote appeared in a local German paper, “The Frau Doktor brings us all together in peace.”

Before their return home to the states, the German American Society honored Frances with a day-long celebration. Maj. Gen. Robert Porter and his 3rd Armored Division had a review in her honor bestowing upon Frances the first honorary member of the 3rd Armored Division.

**MORE TO COME**

*In the next Sand Castles: Harry's last assignment before retiring — as senior regular Army advisor to the Florida National Guard, and Frances heads to Jacksonville University.*

# Tacos and margaritas? Yes, please!



**Alice Hickox**  
Lettuce Do Dinner

I don't know what it is about summertime that makes me crave tacos and margaritas — it just seems like the RIGHT thing to do! Seriously, who doesn't love tacos? I'll be sharing one of my favorite shrimp taco recipes and my latest new favorite margarita — muddled blueberry-lime!

You heard me.

Why are these spicy shrimp tacos so good? Aside from being absolutely delicious, they are quick! These tacos take about 25 minutes from start to finish. The shrimp is fast-cooking and the slaw is super easy to make. It's the perfect quick-and-easy weeknight meal. The shrimp is coated in a spicy seasoning before being sauteed on the stovetop. They are topped with a fresh homemade slaw. The end result is the perfect balance of spice and zesty freshness.

Lastly, these are so easy to customize. You can take this taco seasoning and literally use it to season everything from shrimp, fish, chicken, ground beef or even jackfruit for a vegan/ vegetarian spin. If you've never heard of jackfruit, don't fret as it's pretty new on the scene and I won't be using it in my recipe, but you totally could. You can make these tacos more or less spicy, depending on your tastes. You can make them gluten-free by using corn tortillas instead of flour, or grain-free by using a lettuce cup. We all know tacos are about toppings, so it's easy to add all your favorites. Think sliced avocados, pico de gallo ... whatever angle you love. Trust me, tacos are your friend!

And let's not forget about those margaritas — they are so delicious and refreshing! You can take advantage of the fresh berries in season now, or you can totally use frozen as well. Blackberries are also a perfect substitute if you prefer. I particularly love the little frozen, wild Maine blueberries in this recipe. If you happen to have some fresh basil or mint on hand, go for it. They make a delicious add-in to your muddle as well for the perfect summertime sip.

So, let's get on with it!

## BLACKENED SHRIMP TACOS WITH GARLIC CILANTRO LIME SLAW

**Serves 4 (2 small tacos each)**

### Garlic cilantro lime sauce:

- ¼ cup avocado or olive oil
- ¼ cup water
- ½ cup chopped green onions
- ½ cup cilantro leaves
- 2 cloves garlic
- ½ tsp salt
- Juice of 3 limes
- ½ cup sour cream or full fat Greek yogurt

### Shrimp taco spice mix:

- 1 Tbsp. Chili powder
- 2 tsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. sea salt



### Shrimp tacos:

- 1 lb. fresh Mayport shrimp (preferably), peeled and deveined; tails removed
- 2-3 cups bagged or hand-shredded coleslaw/cabbage

- 8 small tortillas (corn or flour)
- Avocado slices, Cotija or Mexican cheese blend, and lime wedges for serving

### Instructions:

- For sauce: Pulse all ingredients in a food processor or blender until mostly smooth.
- Slaw: Toss some of the sauce (not all) with the cabbage. Reserve leftover sauce to drizzle on top.
- Shrimp: Pat shrimp dry with paper towels. Toss shrimp in a bowl with the spice mix to

get it coated. Heat a drizzle of oil in a large skillet over med-high heat. Add shrimp to hot pan and sauté 2-3 minutes per side until shrimp are cooked through. These are also excellent grilled 1-2 minutes per side; preferably on skewers to make cooking/ flipping easier.

■ Assembly: For the prettiest and easiest-to-eat assembly, go in this order: smashed avocado, slaw and shrimp. Finish with a drizzle of Garlic Cilantro lime sauce, and sprinkle with Cotija cheese.



## MUDDLED BLUEBERRY-LIME MARGARITAS

**(Serves 2)**

- ¼ cup fresh or frozen blueberries (reserve another ¼ cup for garnish)
- 1 ounce (2 tbsp.) fresh squeezed lime juice (about 3-4 limes, plus one more for garnish)
- 4 oz. Reposado or Anejo tequila
- 1½ oz. (3 tbsp.) simple syrup, or 1 tbsp. agave nectar

### Instructions:

Rub the rim of two margarita blades with a lime wedge. Dip rims of glasses in a small pile of kosher or sea salt. Add ice cubes to glasses.

In a cocktail shaker, muddle the blueberries, lime juice and a few torn mint or basil leaves if using until blueberries are crushed and infused with lime juice. Add the tequila, simple syrup or agave nectar and a handful of ice cubes. Shake vigorously for 15-20 seconds, then strain into glasses. Garnish with a lime wedge and a small cocktail skewer of reserved blueberries for a "stirrer."

Cheers!



Photos provided by Ocean Sole

Francis, one of Ocean Sole's master carvers, works on a piece of art.



Ocean Soul Africa uses art to raise awareness of the effects of ocean pollution by making colorful art from recycled flip flops.

# Ocean Sole

Continued from 20

however, Erin was horrified by the amount of garbage and plastic waste that regularly washed ashore in Kenya.

"As a newcomer, I became keenly aware that each country and each person needed to do something to stop not only the pollution but also the dwindling numbers of endangered species," Erin said. "I wanted to help, so I invested in my friend's company that made jewelry and small articles from used flip flops."

Eventually, she bought Ocean Sole and expanded its product line to include life-sized animals. To establish a charitable arm of the business, Erin enlisted the help and support of her family in Ponte Vedra. Sister-in-law Michelle Smith runs the Ponte Vedra Beach fulfillment studio and oversees the retail sales at Coastal Elements in Sawgrass Village as well as website sales. Erin's brother, David Smith serves as the charity's treasurer while her mother, Jackie Smith, serves as secretary.

"One million species are threatened with extinction and we are keen to raise aware-

ness to the plight of our planet," said Erin. The purpose is to raise awareness of the global ocean pollution problem by bringing beautiful colorful art and environmental cognizance to my hometown.

"For every \$20 spent with the charity," she noted, "146 pounds of trash are pulled from the ocean."

From giraffes and dragons to elephants, lions, rhinos and more, the artists employed by Ocean Sole produce bright and colorful works of art with a purpose.

"You really need to see the art pieces to appreciate what the artists in Kenya have created," Jackie Smith said. "Each piece is hand carved out of a block made of stacked flip flops, so no two pieces are the same."

Specially designed and commissioned pieces are also made.

"We have all built sandcastles on our beautiful beaches," Erin noted. "Part of their beauty is that they wash away with the tide and leave the beach untouched for the next child to build his or her dream sandcastle. Marine pollution will kill those dreams. It is up to us to protect our marine life and habitats."

To shop or support the work of Ocean Sole, visit [www.oceansoleonline.com](http://www.oceansoleonline.com).

# Spotlight

Continued from 23

forget the heart and soul of this project is grounded by its timeless, coastal architectural roots.

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it's the use of cable rail at the pool to maximize views to the water and private slips, or the care used to preserve the beautiful oaks in our central courtyard common area or even our use of previous pavers to allow stormwater to percolate through to the soil more naturally, we have taken our time to be mindful of how these 11 homes come together to share space while still protecting nature and homeowner privacy.

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# Business Weekly

PAGE 29 THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

St. Johns County prepares for hurricane season amid pandemic

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Images provided by The PARC Group

New apartment community, Cadence at Nocatee, is expected to begin construction in August and be available for residency in fall 2021.

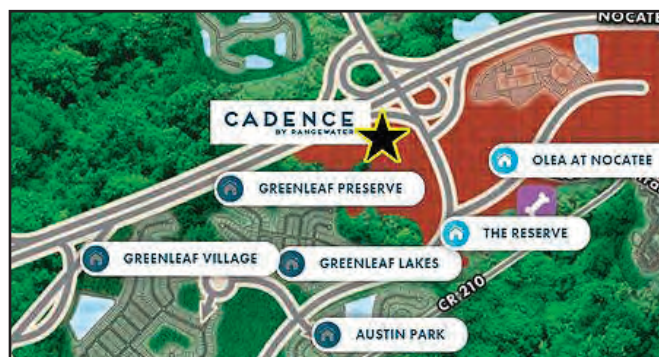
## NOCATEE HAPPENINGS

# New luxury apartment community to open in Nocatee in fall of 2021

RangeWater Real Estate, a fully integrated multi-family real estate company, recently announced plans to develop its second apartment community in the master-planned Nocatee community.

Construction will begin on the 291-unit community, Cadence at Nocatee, in August. First residents will move in starting in fall 2021.

Nocatee is an unincorporated master-planned community located primarily in northern St. Johns County. The area consists of 38 total neighborhoods, made up of mostly single-family homes for sale. Cadence will be



The new Cadence at Nocatee will be located in the Western part of the master-planned community.

NOCATEE continues on Page 34

## ProWatercross National Tour coming to Vilano Beach

St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau helps bring nationally televised event to area Aug. 8-9

The Liqui Moly ProWatercross National Tour will make its first trip to Northeast Florida with two days of racing Aug. 8-9 at Vilano Beach.

Airstream Ventures has partnered with the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau to bring the event to the area, with more than 400 hotel rooms expected to be booked through the event and a nationally televised show recapping the event on CBS Sports Network.

“We are happy to be hosting ProWatercross tour stop in

St. Augustine, one of the oldest cities in the country,” said AJ Handler, chairman of ProWatercross. “Vilano Beach is a beautiful venue that will provide great views of the race and a unique experience for our racers.”

The races will be the third event for ProWatercross this season, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Each day features more than six hours of action off the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, with the entire course visible from the shore.

“The Visitors and Convention Bureau is excited about the opportunity to show off our spectacular beaches and genuine hospitality to the ProWatercross teams and their families,” said Richard Goldman, president and CEO of the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches VCB.

PROWATERCROSS continues on Page 35

## What should you do with an inheritance?



Kartsen Jacobson  
Columnist

If you were to inherit a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

The question may not be hypothetical, especially if you are in the millennial, Gen X or Gen Z demographic groups. That’s because the baby boomers — often referred to as the richest generation in history — are poised to

transfer some \$30 trillion in assets over the next few decades, according to the consulting firm Accenture.

Of course, this is a “macro” figure, and everyone’s situation is different. Furthermore, since baby boomers are living longer, more active lives, the total amount passed on may end up being considerably less than the estimate. Nonetheless, you may well receive a medium-to-large inheritance someday, and when that day arrives, you’ll need to decide how best to use your newfound wealth.

Your first move may be to do nothing at all. Generally speaking, you have enough time to decide how to handle the various elements of an inheritance, although if you are inheriting an investment vehicle such as an IRA or a 401(k) plan, you will eventually have to make some decisions about liquidation or withdrawals. (And since these accounts may carry tax obligations, it’s a good idea to consult with your tax advisor fairly soon after you receive your inheritance.) But if a big part of your inheritance simply consists of cash parked in a bank account, there’s nothing wrong with moving the money into a cash management account at a financial services company until you decide what to do with it.

However, after some time has passed, you may want to put your inheritance to good use. If you’re already working with a financial advisor, you might want to get some guidance on how to use your new assets to strengthen your existing investment strategy. Do you have any gaps in certain areas? Can you use the money to help diversify your holdings? Diversification can’t guarantee profits or protect against all losses, but it can help reduce the impact of volatility on your portfolio.

And, of course, if your inheritance is large enough, it may permit you to “max out” on your IRA for years to come, and possibly free you to have even more of your salary deferred into your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement

JACOBSON continues on Page 34



- Tree Preservation
- Tree Removal
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# STORM Readiness

**A local guide to preparing for the unexpected**

- The effects of COVID-19 on hurricane preparedness
- Don't get derailed by sudden weather changes
- Parents need to know child's school's emergency response plan

**PAGES 30-33**

## COVID-19 impacts hurricane preparations

By Shaun Ryan

Every year, county officials remind the public of the need to prepare for possible hurricanes. This year, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, some new elements have been added.

Kelly Wilson, the county's interim deputy director of emergency management, spoke on storm preparation Wednesday, July 15, during a virtual meeting of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. She led members on a tour of the go-to website for information vital to residents and businesses.

Perhaps the biggest changes this year have been brought about by the ongoing need to remain safe from the coronavirus.

In addition to having an adequate supply of food and water for three to seven days, Wilson recommended residents have lots of soap, hand sanitizer and disposable masks.

Evacuation shelters, too, will be taking extra precautions. They will have additional hand-sanitizing and cleaning and may ask people seeking shelter to wear a facial covering.

"We are taking steps regarding our sheltering to ensure social distancing," Wilson said. "In the past, we may have opened five or six shelters. Now, we have to cut capacity in half. We're going to have to open additional shelters so we have less people in each shelter."

She pointed out that businesses can apply what they learned during the recent shutdown, when many employees had to work from home. Those same lessons can be adapted to help businesses function should a hurricane strike.

The greater portion of Wilson's presentation, however, was devoted to explaining features found on the county emergency management site.

Residents can find out if they are in an evacuation zone by clicking on the My Evacuation Zone tool. They can get information on the county's 15 shelters, including which ones are for people with special needs and which ones are pet-friendly.



**Kelly Wilson, the county's interim deputy director of emergency management, speaks via Zoom to members of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.**

The WeatherSTEM tool provides weather information in real time.

"There is actually a WeatherSTEM unit that will give you a live broadcast and feed from the South Ponte Vedra fire station, Station 9," Wilson said.

The site also allows residents to download the information-packed hurricane guide. It's also the place to go to sign up for Alert St. Johns, which replaced the Code Red system last year.

"The Alert St. Johns notification system is how we will get in touch with you," Wilson said.

Residents who sign up will receive notifications either on their phones or by text or email.

Wilson recommended residents and businesses take action now to prepare. Businesses should formulate a plan that will include such considerations as preserving documents, plans for working remotely, alternative means for access to digital data, plans to contact employees, reviewing insurance policies and protecting company vehicles.

Now is also the time to register at special-needs shelters for those who might have to go there. Residents and businesses should also consider purchasing flood insurance.

For more information, go to [sjcemergencymanagement.com](http://sjcemergencymanagement.com) and click on Emergency Management.



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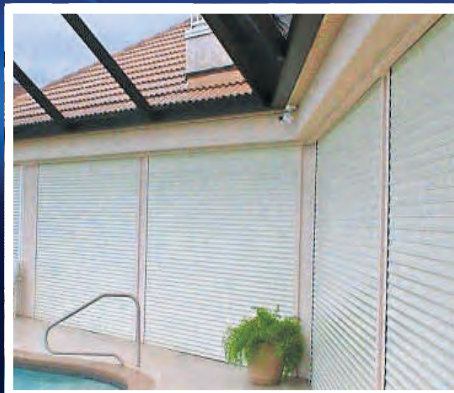
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# How to plan for changing weather

The allure of the great outdoors compels many people to hike, kayak, fish and engage in myriad other activities in the fresh air. The call of nature can be difficult to ignore, but inclement weather can quickly turn a fun day under the sun into a race to escape the elements.

Regardless of which activity is beckoning you to answer the call of the wild, a few simple safety measures should be taken to ensure your day is not derailed by sudden changes in the weather.

■ **Do your homework prior to traveling.** The Department of Homeland Security advises travelers and outdoor recreation enthusiasts to learn about potentially severe weather in areas they plan to visit prior to beginning their trip. For example, if an area is vulnerable to tornadoes, learn about what to do in the wake of a tornado. The National Weather Service notes that emergency response protocols differ depending on the type of storm or severe weather. For example, what to do in the wake of a tornado differs from what to do when confronted by a flash flood. Familiarizing yourself with these response protocols can help you make it through unforeseen weather changes safely.

■ **Take along an extra set of keys.** The NWS advises taking along an extra set of keys should your keys get lost due to inclement weather. The spare keys to a vehicle, for example, can help you escape inclement weather if your vehicle is still accessible and the roads are safe enough for travel. Without a backup set of keys, outdoor enthusiasts may find themselves stranded even if their vehicles can still run.

■ **Create a communication plan with your family prior to leaving.** A predetermined communication plan can help family members keep in touch should the weather suddenly take a turn for the worse. Before embarking on a getaway, let loved ones who won't be joining you know exactly where you will be staying and how to reach you. This can make it



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

easier for them to get you help should you need it.

■ **Monitor local forecasts.** Changes in the weather can be sudden, so anyone planning to spend significant time outdoors should monitor local forecasts before and during their trips. This is especially important for travelers who will be visiting areas during certain times of year when inclement weather is normal. For example, travelers should be ready to postpone their plans if they will be visiting areas vulnerable to hurricanes during hurricane season.

■ **Purchase travel insurance.** Insuring a trip with travel insurance can serve as a financial safety net if a trip is not possible due to inclement weather. With such a policy in hand, vacationers may not feel compelled to travel if the forecast is less than ideal.

Inclement weather can threaten outdoor excursions. But outdoor enthusiasts can take various measures to protect themselves in the face of sudden or unforeseen changes in the weather.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, notes that it's important for parents of school-aged youngsters to familiarize themselves with the emergency response plans established by their children's schools. Such plans typically include how the school will respond if school is in session during snowstorms or natural disasters, as well as the protocol surrounding lockdown situations where children may be in danger. In such situations, knowledgeable parents who are familiar with emergency response plans and how to communicate with school officials and how those officials will disseminate information to concerned parents can help first responders and educators focus on their responses, which may involve protecting children. Knowledge of these plans also can calm parents' nerves and reduce the likelihood that school campuses will become chaotic in the wake of potentially dangerous situations, including storms or natural disasters. In addition to learning about schools' emergency response plans, parents can discuss these plans with their children. Such discussions should emphasize the importance of following educators' instructions during both practice drills and when the plans are implemented in response to disasters or other threats.

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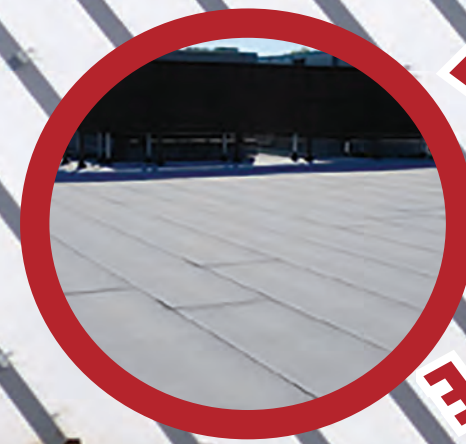
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## Nocatee

Continued from 29

located in the western part of the community and will be one of three apartment rental communities in Nocatee. RangeWater's other development, Olea at Nocatee, delivers a luxury, age-targeted apartment living experience designed for empty nesters. RangeWater also

provides property management services for Reserve at Nocatee.

Cadence will deliver hospitality-level service to residents through onsite concierge services, event programming and resort-style amenities. Residents will have access to a zero-entry pool, an outdoor social kitchen, pet spa, large clubhouse, business center, library and more than 1,500 square feet of fitness space including a yoga studio and weight

training equipment. The community will also feature a variety of greenspaces, including a fitness and outdoor movie lawn, outdoor game area for ping pong and cornhole, a dog park and a park connecting to future retail space.

Each apartment will offer 9-foot ceilings, vinyl plank flooring, carpet in bedrooms and closets, granite countertops in the kitchen and bathrooms and stainless steel appliances.

## Jacobson

Continued from 29

account. Plus, you could use the money for other long-term goals, such as funding a tax-advantaged 529 college savings plan for your children.

You also might use part of your inheritance to donate to the charitable organizations you support. Due to recent changes in tax laws that caused many people to stop itemizing their deductions, charitable groups are in more need of support than ever.

And last, but certainly not least, take this opportunity to review your goals. Is your inheritance large enough for you to adjust your planned retirement age? And if that age may indeed change, what about your other plans for retirement? Will you now be free to travel more or pursue other hobbies? Will you even need to modify the way you invest for your new reality, possibly by taking a less aggressive approach? Again, a financial professional can help you answer these questions.

Someone thought enough of you to leave you a valuable inheritance – so use it wisely.


*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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# ProWatercross

Continued from 29

ProWatercross is a nonprofit that is focused on safety education, preserving the environment and amateur competition. The event opens on Saturday morning with practice starting at 9:15 before races in the late afternoon. On Sunday, the racing starts at 8:45 a.m.

“We are excited to add another sports event to our area in bringing ProWa-

tercross to Vilano Beach,” said Alan Verlander, founder and CEO of Airstream Ventures. “Thanks to AJ with ProWatercross and Richard and his team, we are going to provide a first-class experience and look forward to making this an annual event. Bringing another national televised event for our region continues the push to make our area of Florida a true sports destination.”

For more information on ProWatercross and the event in Vilano Beach, go to [www.prowatercross.org](http://www.prowatercross.org).



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Edwin McCain will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall in March 2021.

Photo provided by The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

# 'Great American romantic' Edwin McCain to return to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

Edwin McCain, who was called the "great American romantic" by the New York Times, will return to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on March 13. He last performed there in April 2019.

McCain has built an enviable career over the past 20 years by balancing his pop success with year-round touring.

His hit songs, spirit and affable sense of humor keep fans coming back for nights that some say feel more like parties with old friends than rock concerts.

After recording two of the biggest love songs in the history of pop music and experiencing the success that comes with a television show on Animal Planet ("Flipping Ships"), McCain now performs upwards of 100 shows annually throughout the United States as a solo artist, with his full band or with his acoustic trio.

Those enduring love songs, "I'll Be" and "I Could Not Ask For More," aren't

just for the romantic at heart; "American Idol" and "The Voice" contestants turn to McCain's ballads every year to help them win over judges and fans alike.

2018 marked the 20th year since "I'll Be" topped the Billboard charts. The song has proven to be a timeless classic over the past two decades.

Recently, McCain has added orchestras to his repertoire, performing with symphonies in select markets.

"The 15-year-old me would have crawled through a river of fire to be the 48-year-old singer/songwriter that I am today, and I remember that," he said. "I am incredibly grateful to be able to do this."

Tickets are available for purchase at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office on Thursdays or Fridays, or on Ticketmaster. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box office is closed at this time.

# Annual fine art garage sale at Butterfield Gallery opens Aug. 1

The 18th annual Butterfield Gallery "Garage Sale" opens Saturday, Aug. 1, and will continue throughout the month.

This year the sale will feature 31 local artists offering high-octane art at discounted prices.

Member artists bring in their older work, art with slightly damaged frames, experimental work that has never been shown and even works of other artists from their own private collections to display at Butterfield at "garage sale" prices. There will be a wide variety of art mediums, in-



Photo provided by Butterfield Gallery

A "Barred Owl in the Old Magnolia" collagraph with watercolor by Debra Mixon-Holliday

cluding paintings, sculpture, photography, prints, textiles, glass, jewelry and more.

Butterfield Gallery will resume its regular hours, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily beginning Aug. 1.

### THEME: WHO SAID IT?

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### ACROSS

- Involuntary twitch
- World's oldest national broadcaster
- Pilgrimage to Mecca
- Pacific island greeting
- "\_\_\_ the ram-parts..."
- Prefix relating to sun
- Not so crazy
- Maiden name indicator
- Greet the day
- Mentally prepared for something scary
- "\*There's no place like home"
- Liveliness
- Answer to this clue, e.g.
- Winter bug
- Hatha or bikram
- Incense burner, in a church
- Bubonic plague spreaders
- Bottle plug
- Part of TNT
- Bad luck predictor
- "\*Doh!"
- Cleopatra's necklace
- Red Cross supply
- Have supper
- Female crab, or crybaby in Australia
- Belonging to Cree, e.g.
- Byproduct of combing wool
- Be nosy
- Spilled the beans
- Band booking
- "\*I have always depended on the kindness of strangers"
- "\*The caged bird sings of freedom"
- Acoustic output
- Polar toy-maker
- Oodles
- "\*Everyone wants to be Cary Grant. Even I want to be Cary Grant."
- "Funny or \_\_\_"
- Tutor's student
- Withered
- Use a Singer, e.g.
- Not be frugal
- Climbed down
- Potluck offering
- "\*It's a moo point"
- Habituate, like a plant
- Historical period
- Tolkien humanoid
- Global problem?
- "\*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood"
- Coeur de \_\_\_ "Titanic"
- Embryo cradles
- Well-behaved
- Lice eggs
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# Sports

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020 • PAGE 37

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## Future of high school football season uncertain

PVHS players to report next week; conditioning to resume at Nease Aug. 3

By Don Coble

Football players are still going to report to Ponte Vedra High on Monday through Thursday to get ready for the new season, though it isn't known when, or if, it will start.

For now, sessions include weightlifting, conditioning and basic drills.

Helmets and pads aren't allowed. Neither is close contact. Masks are required in the weight room, and each piece of equipment is sanitized on an hourly basis.

The Florida High School Athletic Association decided earlier last week to push

back the start of the fall sports season to July 27, only to change the first day of practice to Aug. 24 three days later.

The start of sports remains unsettled. Moreover, other than continued delays, there doesn't seem to be a plan for the future, Ponte Vedra High coach Jeff DiSandro said.

"It is frustrating," DiSandro said. "There doesn't seem to be a plan. It's probably the right thing to do to delay the season. But there are a lot of questions."

DiSandro said there has been little discussion on how many games will be played in what's certain to be a shortened season. Will there be a new playoff format? And, most importantly, what is the protocol if a player tests positive for COVID-19?

"Right now, we can only control what we can control," DiSandro said.

Conditioning will resume at Nease High on Aug. 3, according to a post by coach Collin Drafts on the school's athletic page.

"I'm just really pleased with how hard the boys have been working, first and foremost, but how well we've been able to adapt and adjust as a football program through these trying times we're all dealing with," Drafts said.

"We've been anxiously waiting around for the Florida High School league to make the call on when the heck can we start real football. I know I'm ready for that. I know the players are, and I'm sure you guys are, too."

"Unfortunately, it's not going to be anytime soon."

Football isn't the only high school sport that's been put on hold by the coronavirus. Volleyball, swimming and diving, cross

country and boys and girls golf seasons also have been delayed.

Football teams face the most uncertainty, especially since spring practices were canceled because of the pandemic. Along with the Aug. 24 restart date came the suggestion games could start as quickly as Sept. 11.

Both coaches have used social media to keep players and parents informed of the continually changing situation. They also vowed to take every possible measure to keep the children safe.

Parents, guardians, siblings and other visitors aren't allowed on campus during practice times, and parents aren't allowed to get out of their cars when they pick up their children.

The next FHSAA board meeting is scheduled for the week of Aug. 10-17.

## Cody Carroll storms to Jacksonville Amateur golf title

By Randy Lefko

University of North Florida player Cody Carroll added yet another impressive title with a birdie on the final hole to win the 59th Jacksonville Amateur Golf Championship last weekend.

Carroll closed with a 5-under 67 to finish the 54-hole tournament at 7-under 206.

Second-place Pierre Viallaneix (6-under 207) and St. Johns' Toby Ragland (1-under 212) were the only players who were under par.

The event was hosted by the Jacksonville Amateur Golf Association at the Jacksonville Beach Golf Club. The final round of the three-day tournament was on Saturday.

"There is nothing more satisfying than finishing off a tournament with the win, especially like that," said Carroll. "I bogeyed the first hole, a sloppy bogey on 4, then I made three pars, until I rattled off four birdies in a row from [Nos.] 5 to 8 to go from four down to two up for the final couple of holes. I birdied five which I think is the toughest hole on the course."

Carroll got stronger toward the finish with a birdie on the 13th to stay one up on Viallaneix.

"I had a really nice wedge shot on 13," said Carroll. "My strategy for each hole is to execute the best shot for my ability and not let what is going on around me affect that. In four holes, I made up six shots."

Viallaneix made the finish more dramatic with two birdies before the walk to the

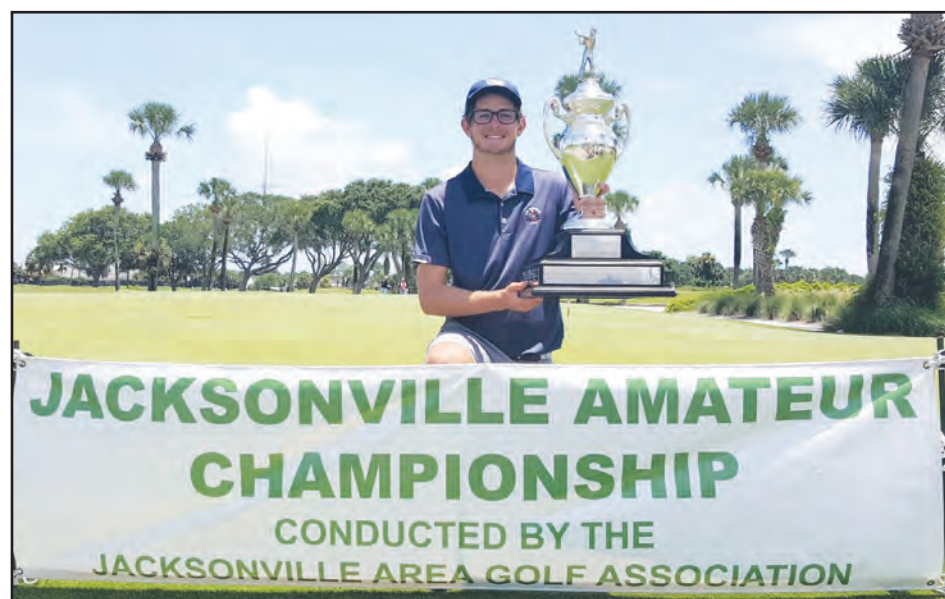


Photo by Randy Lefko

**Cody Carroll holds the trophy after winning the JAGA Jacksonville Amateur Championship last weekend at the Jacksonville Beach Golf Club.**

18th tee box. In the final hole's dramatic finish, Viallaneix took a stab at rattling Carroll with an eagle score that forced Carroll to re-strategize his approach.

"He played for the green on his drive and wound up about 30 yards short of the green on his drive then made his pitch for the eagle," said Carroll. "I had another incredibly good wedge shot to set up the putt for the win."

The tournament included three women invitees. Defending U.S. Amateur champion Gabriela Ruffels, Ponte Vedra's Hannah Stevens and Tori Mouton all failed to make the cut.

Other local players who finished among the Top 40 included: Grant Sutliff (2-over 205) in seventh, Rob Webster III (5-over 218) in 11th, Stewart Slayden (7-over 220) in 18th, Kip Webber and Michael Smith (9-over 222) in 22nd, Chris Solomon (10-over 223) in 31st and Jake Newman (20-over 233) in 40th.

Carroll has challenged himself with a series of tournaments around the country before returning to University of North Florida. With college nationwide responding to the COVID-19 situation, Carroll plans to continue his off-course fitness regimen while preparing for his junior

season at UNF.

"I've played in two pretty big amateur tournaments in Dallas and in South Carolina and the pressure of the moment was not as much as you might think," said Carroll. "The finish at the Unbridled Tour was a good confidence builder, but the Texas event was one of the biggest amateur events in the world."

Viallaneix kept pace with Carroll torrid weekend with a 71 in the first round, followed by a 66 in the second to set up the final round theatrics. Viallaneix closed with a 1-under 70 in with a traumatic double-bogie on the eighth hole that gave Carroll the opening he needed.

"He hit his drive out of bounds and had to re-hit his drive," said Carroll. "Even though it was an opportunity, I stay more aware of just adjusting my strategy to what is playing out in front of me. It's an everchanging strategy."

Carroll's third round drama seemed to make the crafty late-round veteran even more energized with a three putt on this very first hole causing some trepidation. Carroll remained four shots off Viallaneix's pace after five holes before Carroll buckled up and hit the throttle with four straight putts for birdie (12-footer), par (18-footer) with two short putts making the dramatic scoreboard shift.

Carroll is the ninth UNF player to win the prestigious award since 2002. Defending champion Jordan Batchelor, also a UNF Osprey and now the UNF assistant golf coach gave Carroll his trophy.

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