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PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

August 6, 2020

Volume 51, No. 40

75 cents

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PonteVedraRecorder.com



Volunteers hand out school supplies at the Back to School with BEAM drive-thru event last Saturday in Neptune Beach. Read more in the Back To School section on pages 10-13.

Photo provided by BEAM



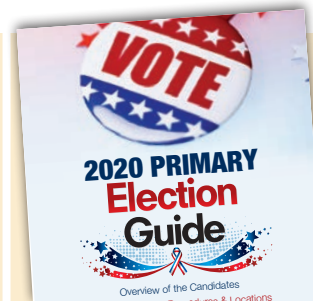
INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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



VOTE for your favorites!

Page 2



Primary Election Guide

Pages 15-26

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INSIDE

One of Us

Page 6

Business Weekly

Pages 27-35

In the Arts

Page 36

Sports

Page 37

Send us your news

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

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

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

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

NOTES TO READERS

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

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

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.

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 or call (904) 686-3938.

Vote for your favorite business, service, person, restaurant or product now at www.pontevedrarecorder.com/BestOf2020.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

S	P	A	S	M	B	B	C	H	A	D	J		
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5	6	8	1	2	9	4	7	3
6	3	5	4	1	7	2	9	8
7	1	9	2	8	5	3	4	6
8	2	4	9	6	3	1	5	7
4	8	3	5	7	2	9	6	1
2	5	1	6	9	8	7	3	4
9	7	6	3	4	1	5	8	2

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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County was ready for capricious Isaias

By Don Coble

Isaias, like most forces of nature, didn't stick to script.

One minute it was a tropical storm that was supposed to skirt the eastern seaboard of Florida. The next it was a Category 2 hurricane. At the last minute, it ran head-on into a mass of dry air that sheered most

of its punch and steered it far offshore.

The St. Johns County Emergency Management office watched every twist and turn of the storm, preparing for the worst and hoping for the best.

"Days out it looked worse than it turned out," said interim deputy director Joe Giammanco. "We were prepared. Our team is experienced in things like this. We had things in place to meet the needs of the community."

There were plans for possible evacuations. Beaches were closed. There were provisions to deal with people who either have or were susceptible to COVID-19.

The emergency management office sent out frequent alerts, warning of possible storm surge and beach erosion. At the end, Isaias proved to be little more than a whisper to the county.

That doesn't mean residents should drop their guards, Giammanco said.

"It wasn't a [Hurricane] Matthew or Irma," he said. "But you can't look to a future event based on the past. We know that mindset is out there."

There's also considerable fatigue from dealing with the coronavirus for nearly

STORM continues on Page 4

Thank you for your votes in 2019!



Boutique Real Estate Firm
 Condominium Real Estate Specialist
 Eco-friendly Realtor
 Golf Course Real Estate Specialist
 New Home Specialist
 Real Estate Agent
 Real Estate Broker
 Real Estate Corporation
 Relocation Specialist
 Waterfront Real Estate Specialist

I've worked hard to earn your support since last year's contest, as well as through my 30+-year real estate career here in my hometown. I've shown thousands of homes and sold quite a few, too! I've been consultant and confidant, hero and hand-holder. It's my years of experience that are bringing my customers through the crises of the day. Please vote for me for this year's Best Of Ponte Vedra competition. Thank you!

Clare Berry

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Quilter makes, donates hundreds of masks

By Shaun Ryan

Like many people, Marilyn Elston found herself reluctant to go out to public places after hearing about the spread of COVID-19 in Florida. Even before Gov. Ron DeSantis issued his stay-at-home order, Elston was taking no chances of contracting the virus.

Sitting at home with too much time on her hands, she yearned to do something to help during this time of crisis. As it turned out, Elston's skill as a quilter proved to be essential to healthcare providers as they sought to safeguard the public.

Early in March, a friend familiar with Elston's quilting asked if she could make masks for caregivers at an area retirement community. At the time, the now-ubiquitous paper masks were in short supply, and caregivers were forced to keep reusing them.

"I had so much fabric," Elston said, "and I just got started."

She soon learned that she was not alone in this effort. Two other members of her quilt circle at Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church also began to make masks for healthcare facilities and retirement communities.

But it wasn't until she began to donate masks to Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville that she saw the true scale of like-minded people doing the same. She went to the drop-off site, where a woman was accepting the newly made masks from countless members of the sewing and quilting communities.

"There's got to be hundreds out there do-

ing it," Elston said.

She attributed this spirit of giving to the quality of people who share her hobby.

"Quilting is a labor of love," she said. "It's not something that you get immediate satisfaction from, because it takes a while to make a quilt. You put your heart and soul in it."

She called those who are drawn to quilting "very good-hearted" and "very giving."

Elston herself has made about 600 masks. She uses quilter's cotton, which has a tighter weave than many other fabrics and is thus recommended by the CDC. She also lines her masks with an inner layer to help improve their effectiveness.

She can make about five or six of the colorful masks per hour and likens her work to an assembly line.

In addition to Baptist Hospital, Elston said she has donated her masks to Mayo Clinic and several retirement communities and adult-care facilities.

Though Elston currently lives just over the Duval County line, she said her heart is in Ponte Vedra, where she lived from 1990 to 2007. She's got family and friends in Ponte Vedra and spends a lot of time in the community.

Helping others has also helped Elston.

"It's kept me so busy, and it's kept my mind off of watching the news, hearing about all the sadness," she said. "I just tried to think positive and try and do something to help."



Photo provided by The Palms at Ponte Vedra

Megan Lee of the activities department at The Palms at Ponte Vedra and resident Anne Ruvane wear masks made by Marilyn Elston.

Storm

Continued from 3

six months. In fact, many joked ahead of the storm a hurricane has been the only normal thing that's happened all summer along the coast.

"We have to be ready all day, every day," Giammanco said. "We're already planning for our next event."

For now, there aren't any threats brewing in the tropics. But that can quickly change.

"Complacency is no excuse," Giammanco said. "You have to take all of these storms seriously."

Even ones that seem to toy with the state's emergency plans and emotions.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Red flags on the beach warn swimmers not to get in the water as Tropical Isaias creates rougher seas.



Surfers take advantage of the larger waves as Tropical Storm Isaias churns off the coast of Florida.

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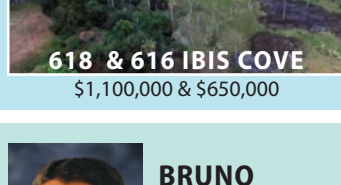


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All properties listed are in Ponte Vedra unless otherwise noted.

A Ponte Vedra native, Steve Horner has been a golf enthusiast for most of his life and had a successful career with the PGA TOUR. These days, he is devoting his professional time to a business he recently purchased, Home Ability Store.

Steve Horner

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell us about Home Ability Store and your role there as CEO.

Home Ability Store is North Florida's leading resource for accessibility and mobility solutions. Our key areas of focus are power mobility (think scooters and wheelchairs), stair lifts, lift/sleep chairs, walking aids, ramps, auto lifts and bathroom safety. I lead a team that is very dedicated to improving the lives of the people we serve. Our mindset is to fully understand our customers' unique circumstances and then identify solutions to help.

How long have you had that position?

I purchased this business May 1. Definitely interesting times to be getting into a new business venture, but it's been incredibly rewarding.

What is the most satisfying aspect of your job?

By far the knowledge that a customer's life is being improved by the services and products we offer. No one comes to us without a need, so when we provide solutions, things get better for them immediately!

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

After college I became a golf professional at the Oak Bridge Club. Then, I had a very rewarding 30-year career at the PGA TOUR and retired at the end of 2018. I served under three commissioners and held a variety of positions. It was truly a dream come true for a local boy like me to have such a great career with one of the community's leading organizations.

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

I never moved from anywhere! I've always been here. Went to school at PVPV and Fletcher High — there was no Nease or PVHS! — and Ponte Vedra has always been my home. During my TOUR career, I traveled extensively and saw many places all over the world. In my opinion there is no better place than Ponte Vedra.

What do you like best about residing in this community?

Although this community has grown exponentially during my lifetime, it's still a "small town." We have it all going for us: weather, nature, recreation and wonderful people. I've been blessed to raise my family here.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

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

I've played golf almost my entire life and am active at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. I am also the president of the First

Coast Auburn Club and the head golf coach at Nease High School. From a charitable perspective, I've volunteered at Beaches Mission House — me, my wife Shay, son Cameron and daughter Abby all volunteered together as servers — and support Habijax. I'm 56 years old, my kids

are adults now, and I love finally doing the things I've always wanted to do — help people!

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Nease graduate credits ROTC for saving her life



Photos provided by Christina Meredith

Former Nease student Christina Meredith shares her story of overcoming abuse, homelessness.



Meredith talks about her book, "Cinder Girl: My Journey out of the Ashes to a Life of Hope."



Meredith is crowned Ms. California in 2013.

From living out of her car in Vilano Beach to claiming the title of Ms. California, Christina Meredith seeks to help children break the cycle of abuse

By Amber Lake

Christina Meredith has a lot of names. Published author, national speaker, National Guard sergeant and, even, Ms. California.

However, one name carries the more weight than all of them — homeless.

Just three days after Meredith graduated from Allen D. Nease High School in 2005, she started living out of her car.

"I applied to all the service academies and ROTC scholarships and got rejected because I was a C student," Meredith said. "I still wanted to do it; I was undeterred. Even when I was homeless and living in my car, I was writing in my dream journal. I knew I wanted to write a book and start a nonprofit. I'm a lot of things but I'm not a quitter."

Prior to being homeless, Meredith spent years in and out of foster care and struggling with both sexual and physical abuse stemming from her biological mother and stepfather. During those unimaginable years she relied on her church and ROTC teacher, Gunny Hanson.

"He basically got me through my senior year and helped me graduate," Meredith said. "Gunny Hanson and his wife are amazing people. He saved my life for sure."

These days, Meredith keeps herself very busy. She is working on her second book, her nonprofit is doing extraordinary

work in helping children in foster care and she is considering running for office. Meredith isn't that scared little girl anymore. She isn't afraid to speak out against her attackers and when she has a flashback, she finds the strength to look it in the eye and move past it.

"As a survivor of child rape and torture, I think that there is a mental grit that came out of that," Meredith said. "There is a tenacity and strength but there is also going to be some dark moments."

From age of 9 years old, Meredith was sexually abused, locked in closets and physically assaulted. At 11, she was diagnosed with PTSD and finally, at 16 years old, she was pulled from her situation after numerous calls to DCF and abuse charges filed. Meredith says the ineffectual intervention was in part due to her abuser's political standing. She claims his involvement with the local sheriff's department caused her case to be swept under the rug.

"My story is unique in the sense that I had a very powerful man in my life who could cover things up," Meredith said. "The cycle continues and corruption is real, unfortunately."

Christina's memoir, "Cinder Girl: My Journey out of the Ashes to a Life of Hope," chronicles her break out of that cycle.

MEREDITH continues on Page 9

7 Nease cadets graduate from Navy JROTC Leadership Academy

Nease NJROTC, the No. 1 program in Northern Florida and the state of Georgia, and one of the top 10 programs nationally, restocked its high-performing cadet leadership ranks, successfully graduating seven cadets at the Area-12 NJROTC Leadership Academy in Clay County from July 21-25.

The NJROTC Leadership Academy historically brings together the top 200 cadets from Area-12's 60 high school programs across Northern Florida and Georgia. However, this year, to ensure the proper health and safety of the trainees, smaller Leadership Academy clusters were organized across the area. The Clay County Leadership Academy included 30 cadets from Clay, Fleming Island, Middleburg, Oakleaf, Orange Park, Ridgeview and Nease high schools.

Top Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard JROTC naval science instructors from the seven schools directed the training, which covered leadership, drill, academics and fitness.



Photo provided by Nease NJROTC

Nease NJROTC instructors and cadets, Gunnery Sgt. Duane Hanson (from left), Master Chief Duane Spears, Amber Vidler, Dylan Dosio, Brandon Donovan, Daniel Mahoney, Brodie Mongon, Juan Castillo, Haylie Spell, Isabella Rivera, Kaitlyn Boggs and Capt. Scott LaRochelle, complete the Area-12 Leadership Academy in Clay County.

This year's attendees included rising seniors Brandon Donovan and Juan Castillo, and rising juniors Kaitlyn Boggs,

Daniel Mahoney, Brodie Mongon, Isabella Rivera and Haylie Spell. Cadets Dylan Dosio and Amber Vidler served

as cadre during the week, assisting in the mentoring and training of the cadets. All three of Nease's naval science instructors, Capt. Scott LaRochelle, Master Chief Duane Spears and Gunnery Sgt. Duane Hanson worked as instructors for the program.

"An awesome experience," cadet Brodie Mongon said. "The hands-on practical training in command presence will definitely pay off in leading the unit this year."

Cadets received individual medals for exceptional performance, including cadets Boggs and Castillo for Personnel Inspection; cadets Boggs, Donovan, Mongon and Rivera for Academics; and cadets Mahoney, Mongon and Rivera for Honor Cadet.

"With all the uncertainties and unknowns forecast in the coming year, leaders will be needed to lead," Cadet Brandon Donovan said. "I feel as a result from this training we're more prepared to meet that challenge."

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra supports local charities

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra members came together to drop off hundreds of items for local charities the club had been collecting for the past several months.

The club's Community Service Committee provided a list of "At-Home Family Friendly Community Service Projects" for members to participate in weekly when schools closed. There was also a lesson plan for parents to follow to help their children learn about the nonprofits they were gathering items for. Members collected everything from toiletry items to luggage to books and more. The club also supported Beaches Rotaract international service project, Soles for Souls, by collecting shoes for their project. The drop-off event

was held at the Vystar Credit Union parking lot located in Nocatee. It was the first time club members met in person since the pandemic began. Donations are being distributed to Port in the Storm; Starling at Nocatee Assisted Living; Ronald McDonald House; Ponte Vedra Library; Blessings in a Backpack; Homeless Coalition of St Johns County; Early Learning Coalition of St. Johns; Betty Griffin House; and St. Augustine Youth Services.

The club also supported two additional charities in recent weeks by giving gifts to children who are ill at Wolfson Children's Hospital through their Christmas in July program. The club also gave a donation in the amount of \$1,550 to the St. Johns Ecu-



Photo provided by Kelly Altosino-Sastre

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra members Josh Hull (back, from left), Karen Everett, President-Elect MaryBeth Murray, Past President Hilary Wilson, Community Service Chair Denny Baldwin, Josh Woolsey and Amy Miller. Kneeling are Eddie Sarnowski (left) and club President Ian Aguilar

menical Ministries Food Pantry in July. For information about this Rotary club,

which meets in Nocatee, email pontevedrarotary@gmail.com

Meredith

Continued from 8

"I'm still an orphan, I still don't have family," Meredith said. "It's very hard even at 33. But you can still achieve a great deal. We live in America and if you work hard and don't quit, you can succeed."

Her path turned out to not be a linear one, however. After working multiple jobs

and then moving to California, Meredith was approached at a Whole Foods by a man recruiting young women for pageants. Serendipitously, that encounter would lead to her claiming the Ms. California title.

"I think that shows that God has a sense of humor," Meredith said. "I've always been such a tomboy. I would have spitting contests with my first sergeant and I would win. There was nothing feminine about me and I didn't even go to prom. I worked a

double at Firehouse Subs that night. It did bring a lot of healing that I didn't expect and it taught me how to press through adversity."

Meredith said her true calling, however, is with the Christina Meredith Foundation, which advocates at the federal and state levels for child welfare reform.

"It has been over a decade of work and it's really starting to take shape," Meredith said. "It's been a dream of mine forever.

I always tell kids the same thing, 'dream big.' Work hard and never quit. It might take you over a decade but so what? You can't look at the circumstances you have. You have to work at what you think you were created to do, and you have to fight for it."

For more information about Christina Meredith, her foundation or her book, "Cinder Girl," go to www.christinameredith.org/



Corner Lot in Jax Golf & Country Club

This home provides all the space needed with 5 bedrooms, including 2 master suites (one upstairs and one downstairs), separate office, and a large upstairs bonus room. The screened patio and sparkling pool provide a private oasis, ideal for relaxing after a hard day's work.
5 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms \$600,000



Design Oceanfront Oasis

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



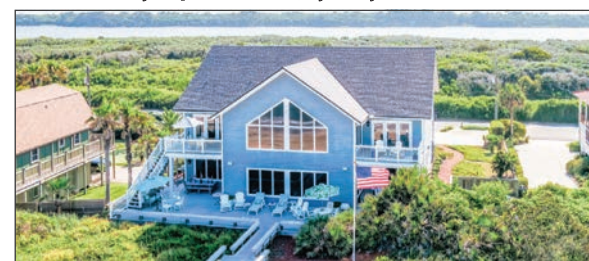
Oceanfront Luxury

Comfort and elegance blend effortlessly in this Anglo-Caribbean inspired oceanfront home with the highest level of detail and quality, the beauty of this home is enhanced by the property's premier location.
7 bedrooms, 7F/ 2H bathrooms \$8,650,000.



Acreage on the Ocean

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Panoramic Guana to Ocean Views

With the Guana River to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, this oceanfront home offers stunning panoramic views. Built with top engineering designs, this home thoughtfully merges comfort with sustainability.
7 bedrooms, 7.5 baths \$2,450,000



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Photos provided by BEAM

Volunteers hand out school supplies at the Back to School with BEAM drive-thru event last Saturday in Neptune Beach.

BEAM helps students with a fresh start to a new school year

By Amber Lake

For many North Florida students, going back to school isn't easy. Lists of school supplies seem to get longer every year and families struggle to provide all the educational necessities their students need to learn.

On Saturday, August 1, Jacksonville's community-based organization, BEAM, held their annual Back to School with BEAM event, aimed at providing supplies to students in need. This year the event managed to serve 901 students, with 150 volunteers helping organize.

As a safety precaution during the pandemic, the event was hosted as a "drive-thru," allowing families to collect from their cars. Students received new backpacks, school supplies, underwear, healthy snacks, vouchers to receive shoes, clothing from BEAM Thrift and even a fresh haircut.

Participating organizations included, Neptune Baptist



Almost 100 students came to collect new school supplies for the new school year.

Church, Beach Church, Read USA, Ponte Vedra Rotary and the Beaches Rotaract. The event took place last Saturday at Neptune Baptist Church.

To learn more about BEAM visit www.JaxBeam.org

Foster healthy family habits this back-to-school season

By Kerri Napoleon

Registered Dietician, First Coast YMCA

Learning healthy habits at a young age can reap lifelong benefits. For young families, getting your kids involved in kitchen activities helps foster a greater understanding of where food comes from and its many benefits — like increased energy throughout the day!

Sometimes, it can seem that eating healthy is a nearly impossible task in today's world. We've all felt the uncertainties that this back-to-school season brings, but whether your child plans to head back into the classroom or back upstairs to learn at the computer, the Ponte Vedra YMCA has easy tips and tricks to keep the mid-afternoon slump at bay.

■ **Aim for five every day:** Fruits and veggies should be part of every meal. Make trying new things for your family fun by introducing interesting shapes, textures and colors into the lunch time meal.

■ **Choosing drinks with care:** A simple way to improve your family's health is to simply drink more water! Try cutting out the drinks with added sugar during the afternoon and focus on adding water, 100% fruit juice or low-fat milk as a replacement.

■ **Check the label:** Choosing healthier options begins with reading nutrition labels. Swapping processed potato chips with sweet potato chips or apple chips offers higher nutrient content with fewer calories, while still satisfying that crunch!

■ **Controlled portions:** Our tendency when we serve food is to fill the plate (or pack the lunch box!), which often leads to enlarged portion sizes. Being careful to serve food portions that are aligned with your family's energy needs throughout the day is one way to help everyone develop healthier habits.

Nutrition is a great foundation, but it's just as important to keep your family active in mind, body and spirit. For 20 years, the Ponte Vedra YMCA has helped local members achieve their best health, even during times of uncertainty.

Although we were forced to close our doors amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we adapted to meet the needs of our Ponte Vedra members during this time. Our child care services remained open for parents who became essential workers on the frontlines, virtual fitness classes and interactive activities were made available through video platforms and our staff had daily phone call check-ins to our robust senior population.

And we will continue to support our community this Fall. As school schedules begin ramping up, the Ponte Vedra YMCA will offer in-person and virtual activities to help the entire family find a healthy routine and offer support to parents who are choosing to keep their kids in distance learning curriculums.

Though this school season may look a little different for all of us, the Y's new services, including online nutrition consultations to help Y members and non-members simply follow a healthy meal plan or begin

Sales tax holiday is this weekend

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the start of the school year in Northeast Florida. St. Johns County students won't go back to school until Aug. 31. Duval students return Aug. 20.

But one thing hasn't changed: the annual Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday, which begins Friday, Aug. 7, and ends Sunday, Aug. 9.

Once again, no sales tax or local option tax will be collected on many school-related items during this time.

Briefly, this applies to purchases of clothing, foot-

wear and certain accessories selling for \$60 or less each; purchases of certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less each; and the first \$1,000 of the sales price of personal computers as well as some related accessories when purchased for noncommercial, personal use.

Though some purchases are obviously school-related, others may be less so, and yet are eligible for the tax holiday. For a complete list of items and exemptions, go to floridarevenue.com/backtoschool and click the download button.



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Learn

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EPISCOPAL SCHOOL of JACKSONVILLE

Educator opens Kumon Math and Reading Center in Nocatee

By Shaun Ryan

With classes set to resume this month, parents are once again focused on their children's academic success. Now, parents in the Nocatee area have a new partner to help students reach their goals.

Longtime educator and Nocatee resident Tamara Macfarlane has opened Kumon Math and Reading Center at 480 Town Plaza Ave., suite 140. The program, which is supplemental to students' regular schoolwork, addresses the needs of each child individually. Whether they are ahead or behind the curve, they benefit from participation.

"With Kumon, we really work to develop self-learning skills and independence for the kids, which is crucial nowadays for setting them up for life," said Macfarlane.

In addition to working on the academics, the program addresses work skills, approaches to learning and overall learning attitudes.

One secret to the program's effectiveness is perhaps its placement tests, which help identify the exact point where a student's difficulty originates.

"We go all the way back to that first skill that they are having trouble with, and we fill that gap, and we slowly build upon that," Macfarlane said.

These assessments allow Macfarlane to find the most comfortable starting point for each student. Ultimately, students gain confidence in the face of challenges and learn to embrace them.

Macfarlane knows what she's talking about. Both her undergraduate and graduate degrees are in education, and she taught school for more than 15 years. She was also an instructional coach, helping other teachers to be more effective.

In addition, she underwent a series of training sessions with the Kumon educational network before opening her franchise.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Tamara Macfarlane stands in the classroom of her Kumon Math and Reading Center.

"The more I learned about the program, the more I fell in love with it," she said.

She began conducting placement tests on July 17, and the first day of class was Monday, Aug. 3. She accepts students as young as three years old all the way through grade 12.

Students come to the center two days per week and do additional learning at home the other five days. For that reason, Macfarlane works closely with parents.

Kumon is a 365-day-a-year program, though it is individualized for the family. Even if they go on vacation, they can take the program along. This allows for the kind of repetition that helps to make what students learn a part of them.

To keep students safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, Macfarlane checks tem-



Photos by Susan Griffin

Tamara Macfarlane cuts the ribbon on her newly opened Kumon Math and Reading Center in Nocatee during a Chamber of Commerce gathering.



Supplies fill the shelves at the new Kumon Math and Reading Center in Nocatee.

peratures and constantly sanitizes surfaces. Social distancing is practiced, and desks have plexiglass shields between them.

Macfarlane said she opened the fran-

chise because she saw that it was something the area needed.

"I'm honored to do this for the community," she said.

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Fostering Connections St. Johns to host live auction to support Career Readiness Academy

Aubrie Simpson-Gotham, founder of Fostering Connections St. Johns, a local nonprofit supporting children in foster care and foster families, announced a Career Readiness Academy for FCSJ youth in partnership with The Kookaburra.

FCSJ will hold an online auction on Facebook to raise funds for the academy from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 28. The link to the auction is www.facebook.com/events/569698787062204

FCSJ is seeking business partners around St. Johns County and requesting items for the auction including gift certificates and gift baskets. Matching donations or cash donations are welcomed. Funds raised will support student internship salaries. Fostering Connections St. Johns will sponsor 50% of the student salary and businesses will provide 50%.

The three-week career and life skills course takes place on Aug. 15, 22 and 29 for teenagers and young adults ages 14-25 who are or were in the foster care system. Kookaburra's warehouse will be provided to follow social distancing guidelines. A minimum of 10 students will be selected to attend from the St Johns County Family Integrity Program, St. Augustine Youth Services and Port in the Storm. Kookaburra owners Megan Vidal and Spencer Hooker, alongside their staff, will be providing the facility, course materials and leading the majority of the workshops to kick off the academy as other local businesses are being encouraged to follow their lead. With the support of a grant from The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, students will have the opportunity to shop for work clothing at Target.

"Social distancing is not stopping foster care teens and young adults from chasing their dreams," Simpson-Gotham said. "Now more than ever, it is essential that we provide essential skills to help our teens support themselves once they age out of foster care and are encouraged to pursue their life goals; going to college or trade school or exploring different job opportunities to see what a good fit is for them."

The goal of the Career Readiness Academy program is to give teens and young adults in foster care the job training

and mentorship to help them achieve their career goals. Students will learn basic life and career skills to secure their first job. After graduating the program, students have the opportunity to apply for paid internships at local businesses in a skill set aligned with their interests.

Skill-based training will include how to write a resume, how to apply for a job, interview skills, work attire and appearance, basic customer service skills, working with team members, and financial literacy. The students will have the opportunity to write a resume and learn customer skills alongside Kookaburra staff members at the end of the program, the students will have an opportunity to tour all Kookaburra shops and work alongside a barista in the shops. Students will graduate with a certificate and a binder full of tools to help them as they apply to jobs. Upon graduation, students will have the opportunity to apply for a paid internship at The Kookaburra.

Now FCSJ is reaching out to get the community involved, namely local restaurants and small businesses to help secure additional paid internship opportunities for students. Fostering Connections St. Johns will be partnering with local businesses to provide work attire, haircuts and transportation such as bicycles for the students to help them be ready for their job search. The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has provided a grant for students to purchase work clothing. Other options for involvement include giving an interactive presentation to students in the program, serving as a mentor, promoting the program through social channels or by inviting Career Readiness Academy students to speak at your business or civic club.

Serving through challenging times is what Fostering Connections St. Johns was founded on. The organization seeks to give all children in foster care the resources and supports they need to reach their full potential. FCSJ essentially fills the gaps by offering services and mentoring relationships that help children feel connected to their community and supported.

Currently there are approximately 194 children in St. Johns County who are in foster care, up from 156 children in February.

our doors remain open and ready to serve as we focus on the safety, health and well-being of members and staff. If you're looking for additional resources to keep your family strong, the First Coast Y offers year-round resources and guidance on nutrition and wellness services at fcymca.org/programs/health-wellness/nutrition. You can find more information at fcymca.org or by visiting the Ponte Vedra YMCA to learn more about membership benefits.

Healthy

Continued from 10

a healthy aging program can be both fun and educational for the entire family.

During this challenging time, our "Ponte Vedra Strong" mentality has inspired overwhelming support from our Y and community members.

As we navigate this season together,

THEME: BACK TO SCHOOL

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ACROSS

- *Egg-like curve in math class
5. a.k.a. stand-up paddleboard
8. Not in good health
11. Flick part
12. *Roll _____
13. Aerosol can emanation
15. On the mountain peak, e.g.
16. Arm bone
17. Grind down
18. *Proud jacket owner
20. Trident part
21. "Walking _____"
22. Blazer or Explorer
23. Unit of money in Norway, pl.
26. Semiconductor additives
30. Farm layer
31. Agave alcoholic drink
34. Amos or Spelling

35. Analyze
37. Geisha's sash
38. South Korean metropolis
39. Capital of Ukraine
40. T.S. Eliot's "Old _____'s Book of Practical Cats"
42. Get firm
43. Temporary
45. Table linens
47. Where bugs are snug?
48. Nostradamus and such
50. Type of rich soil
52. *Where one graduated
56. Boatload
57. *Chemistry classrooms
58. Lake in Scotland
59. Arabian chieftain
60. Corset rod
61. Encore!
62. Former Chinese leader
63. "_____ the ram-parts..."
64. Arctic jaeger
10. Sodium solution
12. Arrow poison
13. Establish, two words
14. *As opposed to public
19. Hostile force
22. "La" precursor
23. Shade of Dockers
24. Pine juice
25. Beginning of illness
26. *Valedictorian's spot
27. Gallows' rope
28. Comparative form of "true"
29. Muddy or sandy
32. *2020 classroom venue?
33. NCIS network
36. *GPA, technically
38. Ingratiating behavior
40. George Orwell's Napoleon
41. On pins and needles
44. Grapevine news
46. Part of Old Testament
48. *Olden day notebook
49. Imprison
50. Dharma teacher
51. Three-layer cookie
52. "The Sun _____ Rises"
53. Pippin's last name, "The Hobbit"
54. Boring hue?
55. Actress Perlman
56. Eric Stonestreet on "Modern Family"

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

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

"Every flower that ever bloomed had to go through a whole lot of dirt to get there."

SHADE LANDSCAPING



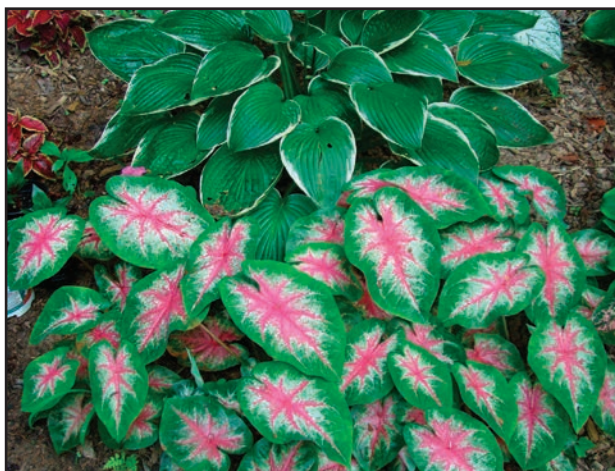
Kathy Esfahani
Columnist

As Florida is the sunshine state, we are always talking about plants that need full/ mostly sun! Finding pockets for shaded plants can be difficult, or you may not know what to plant in a fully shaded area. The same rule still applies: You need the RIGHT plant in the RIGHT place!

These tips will help guide your shaded gardens.

■ **Know your shade:** Understanding the amount of shade and indirect light the area is getting is the biggest key to success of plants in this area. All plants need sunlight to survive so look for areas with indirect sunlight instead of dark areas with wet soil.

■ **Light and color:** Just because it's a shaded area, does not mean it had to be a green plant. There are quite a few varieties, such as caladiums, which have beautiful color to



Photos provided by Kathy Esfahani

add to a shaded garden.

■ **Mixture of heights:** A mixture of ground cover and medium/tall plants will create depth for a lush shaded garden.

■ **Some shade-loving plants:** Asiatic jasmine, border grass, cast-iron plant, begonias, caladiums, coleus, ornamental gingers and so much more!



Flower of the Week: Portulaca

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

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

OBITUARIES

Deborah Cornell Henderson

Deborah Cornell Henderson died at 2:15 a.m. on July 27th in Albuquerque, NM. She was born in New York City on February 4th, 1932 and grew up in Ithaca, NY. She graduated from Ithaca High



Deborah Cornell Henderson

School in the class of 1949 and attended Cornell University for a while before moving to New York City and graduating from the Katherine Gibbs School. She met her first husband, Charles

Van der Veer Yarbrough (a West Point Cadet) in New York City, and they married in 1952. As an Army wife, she travelled extensively, from Hawaii back to Ithaca, and many places in between. While in Ithaca, she was Solo Soprano under choir Director Tom Tracy for the First Presbyterian Church choir, and truly had the voice of an angel. She was also an animal lover and an accomplished horsewoman, and she instilled that love in her daughter as well.

She became a successful Real Estate Broker in Northern Virginia, and retired to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida in 1989 where she met her husband Carter Henderson, a former Wall Street Journal front page editor and author of many books. They enjoyed life at the beach for many years

and even travelled to Europe from time to time.

She is survived by her daughter, Shelley Yonker, of Las Cruces, NM; son BG James Cornell Yarbrough of Columbus, GA; sister Gail Hastings of San Antonio, TX; step-daughter Ali Cassidy of Prescott, AZ; three granddaughters; and one great grand-daughter born just 10 months ago.

French Funerals and Cremations in Albuquerque, NM is taking care of the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Annamae Miekley Young

Annamae Miekley Young, "Amy," went home to her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on the evening of July 23, 2020. Amy was born on January 22, 1932, in Lester, PA. She spent her childhood there and met her future husband, Jack, in high school. Amy and Jack later married and had their three children in Ridley Park, PA. After 14 years there, the Young family moved to St. Petersburg, FL. Amy was a secretary for various industries, a school office, a police department, and state government agencies. She was skilled in shorthand, taking dictation, and typing. Her ever present smile and excellent organization skills made her an asset to all of her employers. Amy was a devoted mother and wife. She enjoyed crocheting and knitting and kept her family and friends warm with her beautiful handmade afghans and slippers. After moving to several locations in Florida, Amy and Jack moved to England and then Scotland for several years. While living there, they enjoyed traveling through Europe and taking adventurous treks down the River Shannon in Ireland. Amy and Jack retired in Crystal River, FL. While living in Crystal River, Jack went to join his Lord and Savior. He and Amy had been married for 50 years. Amy moved to Land O' Lakes, FL after Jack's passing

and then she moved to Vicar's Landing in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Amy will be greatly missed by her two daughters Leslie Dale (the late Fred Dale) and Mary Hedgecock (Doyle Hedgecock), and her son, Mark Young (Regi). Amy also had five grandsons, a great granddaughter, and a great grandson on the way. She also leaves behind her twin sister, Ethelmae Oxner, and many nieces and nephews. Amy's brother, Ernie Miekley, passed away during Amy's time at Vicar's Landing. Amy thoroughly enjoyed a life well lived, and she brought love, warmth, and laughter to her family and friends.

Donations may be made in Amy's honor to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida. Please visit the Tribute online at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
3600 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Phone: 904.249.1100 Fax: 904.241.7534

Jamie E. Bishop

Jamie E. Bishop, 65, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died July 26, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Sue Chidlovski

Sue Chidlovski, 77, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died July 25, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

William Lonnie Green III

William Lonnie Green III, 75, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died July 27, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

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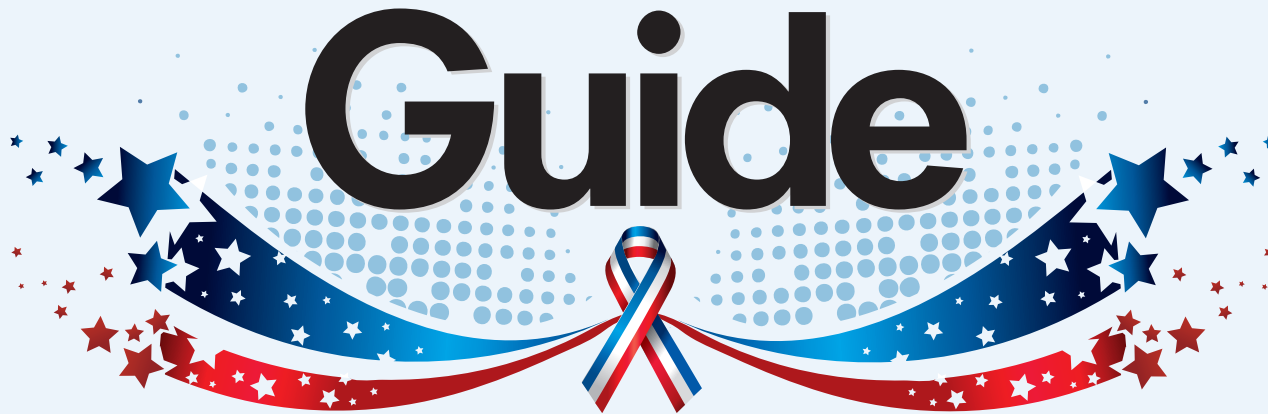
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2020 PRIMARY Election Guide



Overview of the Candidates

Update on Voting Procedures & Locations

Maps of Local Precincts

AUGUST 6, 2020



Recorder

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide was produced by the staff at the Ponte Vedra Recorder to prepare area voters for the primary election on Tuesday, Aug. 18.

ELECTION DATES

(Polls open 7 a.m.-7 p.m.)

Primary Election: August 18

General Election: Nov. 3

(Deadline to register is Oct. 5)

PRECINCT LOCATIONS IN THE AREA

■ **401:** Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
This is also an early voting site that transitions into a precinct come election day.

■ **402:** Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, 545 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

■ **403:** Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, 4510 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

■ **404:** Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

■ ***405:** Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Residents north of the Nocatee Parkway and in Sawmill Lakes previously voted at Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church.

■ **406:** St. Francis in the Field, 895 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

■ **407:** Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

■ **408:** The Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32095

Note: Precincts denoted with an * indicate a change in the polling location.

On election day, voters are required to vote at their assigned polling place based on their address. To find your polling place, visit the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections website at www.votesjc.com and click "My Voter Status" in the "Quick Links" section of the homepage.

Early Voting Locations for Primary Election

August 6 - August 15, 2020
9 AM - 6 PM

Julington Creek Annex
725 Flora Branch Blvd
St. Johns, FL 32259

Shoppes of St. Johns Parkway
(In the vacant Earth Fare)
120 Shops Blvd
St. Johns, FL 32259

St. Johns Convention Center
(At World Golf Village)
500 S. Legacy Trail
St. Augustine, FL 32092

Supervisor of Elections Office
4455 Avenue A, Suite 101
St. Augustine, FL 32095

St. Augustine Beach City Hall
2200 A1A South
St. Augustine, FL 32080

Hastings Branch Library
6195 S. Main Street
Hastings, FL 32145

Southeast Branch Library
6670 US 1 South
St. Augustine, FL 32086



NOTE: Some candidates who are unopposed in the primaries are not listed in this guide, but will be in the general election guide in October.

Chamber to host virtual Politics in St. Johns event

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce will again host Politics in St. Johns, St. Johns County's largest candidate meet-and-greet. This event will enable St. Johns County voters to get to know the candidates for public office and directly ask them questions prior to the Aug. 18 primary and the Nov. 3 general election.

This year, due to the crowd size restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chamber has transitioned from the traditional in-person events held in Ponte Vedra Beach and St. Augustine to a new online format. The new approach will bring the same one-on-one feel of the in-person events to an engaging online opportunity — expanding the audience participation and interaction.

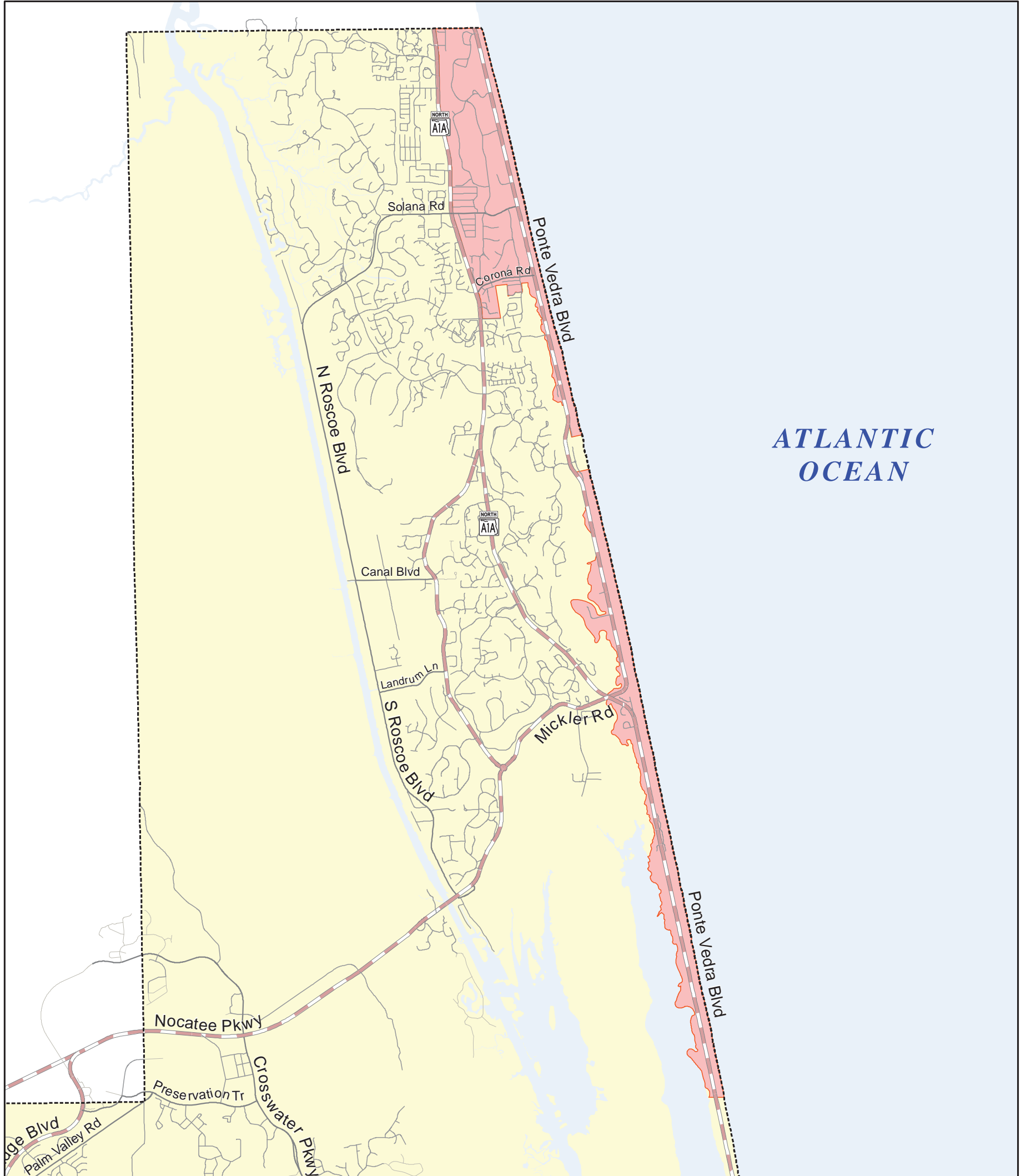
"We want St. Johns County citizens to have access to

all our candidates and their platforms, so they can make informed decisions for the upcoming election cycle," said Isabelle Renault, president and CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. "The beauty about hosting this event virtually is that residents who may not have been able to travel to the events in the past are now able to join us and interact with candidates in a safe, efficient and convenient way. We are looking forward to reaching more residents than ever before with the information they need to make informed decision to cast their vote."

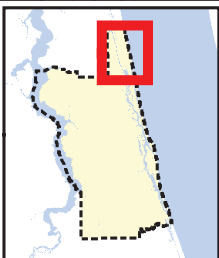
Candidates have been invited to submit a brief video about their platforms. These will be available for public viewing beginning July 27 on the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce website at www.sjcchamber.com.

Candidates can continue to register online at www.sjcchamber.com/candidate-information-and-registration, and submit videos through July 24. Each video will allow candidates to put a face and story to their candidacy and candidates will share contact information for voters to forward questions.

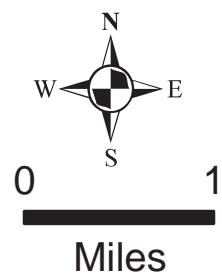
The Politics in St. Johns site will remain live on the chamber website from July 27 to Aug. 19. Live conversations via Zoom or Facebook Live featuring candidates from significant countywide races are being planned for the week of Aug. 10. Audience members will be able to ask questions via a moderator.



*ATLANTIC
OCEAN*



Map Prepared on
10/24/2011

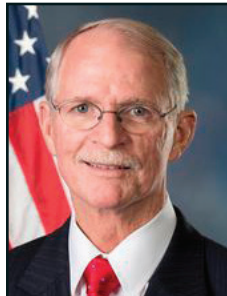


 **Ponte Vedra
Municipal Service District**

Vicky Oakes
 SJC Supervisor of Elections
 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101
 St. Augustine, FL 32095
 Telephone: (904) 823-2238
 Toll Free: (877) 475-2468
 Fax: (904) 823-2249
www.sjcvotes.us

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (DISTRICT 4)

JOHN RUTHERFORD Republican



John Rutherford is currently serving the 4th District in the U.S. House of Representatives and is seeking re-election. He sits on the House Judiciary Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee.

Rutherford has lived in Jacksonville since 1958, and attended Florida Junior College and Florida State University where he studied criminology. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, 171st Session and the National Executive Institute. He began his career in law enforcement in 1974 as a patrolman in the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO), working his way up through the JSO where he eventually served as director.

In 2003, 2007 and 2011, Rutherford was elected sheriff of Duval County. For three terms and 12 years, he ran a 3,200-employee office. Rutherford also served as chair of the Legislative Committee for Florida Sheriff's Association.

Rutherford has been married to his wife Pat for 47 years. They have two children and six grandchildren, and are also members of Assumption Catholic Church in Jacksonville.

ERICK J. AGUILAR Republican



Erick Javier Aguilar was born in San Pedro Sula, Honduras in 1975. At the age of 7 (1982), he moved with his family to Brooklyn, New York.

After high school, Aguilar trained to be an automotive technician and graduated from Apex Technical School in 1995. As he continued his job search while working for a fast-food restaurant, he found the U.S. Navy was recruiting for aviation maintenance. On April 8, 1996, he joined the U.S. Navy with no nautical experience. During his time in the Navy, he joined deployments in the Persian Gulf during Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In 2016, Chief Petty Officer Aguilar retired after 20 years of naval service. While serving in the Navy, Aguilar lead sailors in aviation management, technology, logistics and fiscal administration operations. He also earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems from Saint Leo University in 2001; a Master of Arts in Business Administration from Saint Leo in 2005; a Master of Arts in History from the University of Nebraska in 2015; as well as other academic certificates and degrees.

Politics

Continued from 16

According to Bob Porter, vice president of public policy for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, straw polls may be held this year, as well.

"While the results won't necessarily reflect what will happen when the official polls open, they will provide excitement and feedback to participating candidates," Porter said. "The straw poll is less about who wins and more about encouraging and providing people incentive to be informed. The elected officials at every level of government make decisions that affect our lives and I am happy to see so many people taking advantage of an opportunity that will help them make an informed decision when entering the voting booth."

St. Johns County residents can register to vote and review the 2020 candidate list at the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections website at www.votesjc.com.

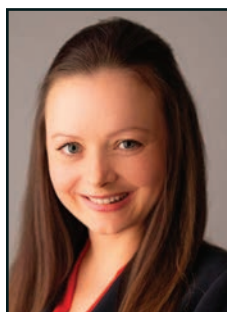
To find out more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce or to become a member, go to www.sjcchamber.com, call (904) 829-5681 or find it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sjcchamber.

There are also a limited number of sponsorship slots remaining for the Politics in St. Johns event. Call Andrea Knight at (904) 829-5681 for more information.

7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

GROUP 6

ANNA HANDY



Anna Handy is a mother, a wife, a small business owner and the attorney who is running for a Circuit Judge. She will bring to the court fairness and impartiality, free of political influence

or intimidation and will follow the laws and Constitution.

MIKE ORFINGER



Mike Orfinger received a bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., and earned his juris doctor at the University of Florida College of Law with high honors. An attorney since 1989, he worked in private practice, first handling commercial and real estate litigation. From 2004 until he became a judge, he focused his work on mediation, arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. He hears civil cases at the Volusia County Courthouse Annex at City Island in Daytona Beach and Marchman cases at the S. James Foxman Justice Center in Daytona Beach.

GROUP 14

JOAN ANTHONY



Joan Anthony was admitted to the Florida Bar and the United States Court of Appeals in 1988. Joan has been a small business owner and manager of her own practice since 2004.

DAN HILBERT



Dan Hilbert's legal career began as a State Prosecutor for the 7th and 4th Judicial Circuits in Florida. After a career handling the most serious of felony offenses, Mr. Hilbert entered private practice with the goal of representing individuals and businesses in a variety of areas of law. After years of serving as an advocate for many members of our community, Mr. Hilbert is ready to return to public service where his career began.

MARYELLEN OSTERNDORF

MaryEllen Osterndorf grew up in Ormond Beach, in Volusia County, Florida. After law school, she returned home to join a general practice law firm. It has been her good fortune and privilege to



represent individuals, families and small businesses in the 7th Circuit and throughout Florida for the last 29 years. Osterndorf has worked tirelessly for her clients and for the betterment of her community.

GROUP 27 BRYAN ROBERT RENDZIO



Bryan Rendzio was appointed circuit judge by the governor in 2019. He presides over Unified Family Court with a docket that includes dissolution and paternity matters; juvenile delinquency; dependency; truancy; adoptions; Baker Act hearings; Marchman Act hearings; injunctions; and Risk Protection Orders. Now, he is running for election to remain in service as circuit court judge. Before his appointment, Judge Rendzio was an attorney, arbitrator and mediator. He earned Martindale-Hubbell's highest peer-review rating (AV Preeminent). Rendzio is board certified by the Florida Bar in the area of construction law. His honors and recognition include leadership positions on the Florida Bar's Construction Law Certification Review Course Committee and the Construction Law Institute Committee.

He is a recipient of the Construction Law Committee's "Rising Star" Award, an award bestowed upon only one individual each year. Rendzio is a family man and an active community volunteer. He credits his wife Stacy and their two sons with providing him a solid foundation for his demanding career. He enjoys coaching his sons' baseball teams. He is a volunteer on task forces dealing with the opioid crisis, domestic violence and unaccompanied/homeless youth in the 7th Circuit.

ALICIA WASHINGTON

Alicia Washington has worked in the 7th Judicial Circuit for the past 22 years. She has worked as an assistant public defender

and an assistant state attorney, as well as an insurance defense attorney and a personal injury plaintiff attorney. She has also provided legal services to the indigent through legal aid, and currently represents abused, abandoned and neglected children as a guardian ad litem attorney. She also works as an attorney in private practice, mainly handling family law and criminal cases. Washington has served the country as a combat medic in the Army National Guard. Washington received her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and attended law school at Texas Southern University. She is a wife and mother who resides in Palm Coast.

VOTE on August 18th

CHRIS



Strickland (Rep)

for **ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF**

Why did Historic City News Endorse Chris Strickland for Sheriff?

*By Tom Verri
St Johns County, FL*

Last month I announced to the readers my endorsement of Chris Strickland for St. Johns County Sheriff. My decision was based on my 34 years of experience in law enforcement, working for two of our nation's largest police agencies as well as the US Department of State, in Command-level supervisory positions. I told you then how Chris Strickland's experience as former Director of The St Johns County Sheriff's Office far exceeds that of his opponent who runs a small agency of 21 officers. But there is more to this story. Far more. Last week the residents of this county were subjected to an embarrassing display at a local debate by our outgoing sheriff who endorses our opponent. This created a greater understanding of why we so desperately need change here in St Johns County. Read below why the Historic City News of Saint Augustine and its editorial Board has now endorsed Chris Strickland for sheriff. Get ready for an eye-opener. This was used with permission from Historic City News;

It has been 16-years since we made an endorsement for this important constitutional officer and over that time our volunteer editorial board has paid attention to the current officeholder so we could be prepared when this day finally arrived. Historic City News endorsed David Shoar over Glenn Lightsey in 2004, and for the first six years, it looked like it was going to be a good fit. The former sheriff, Neil Perry, held the office for 20-years and would have been re-elected without opposition had he not been ready to retire.

Unfortunately, following the death of Michelle O'Connell on September 2, 2010, every interaction with Shoar, and later with many departments within the agency, became more and more strained. That is not a good sign. Shoar expected a "pass" from us on the mishandling of the case as each week brought to light another mistake or negligent step in the investigation.

It got to the point where I did not feel that I could trust what Shoar was telling me. I met Shoar for breakfast at Jaybirds and had planned to confront him with my doubts. As we were paying our check and getting up from the booth to leave, I told him to look me straight in the eye and tell me that he was telling me the truth about the death. I could tell that he wasn't expecting my question. He stuttered a minute, looked down and away as he responded, and he was having trouble holding eye contact with me. From that moment forward, every press release got fact-checked, we made public records requests to support almost everything his spokesman claimed, and what was reported was not always in lock-step with the sanitized version released by Chuck Mulligan. About three years ago, I was informed that the department would no longer issue me a "press pass" or allow me to make media inquiries because the sheriff would not approve what I was writing.

So, when Shoar came out with his endorsement of Robert Hardwick, I was concerned. It was clear that he would owe Shoar a considerable political debt. The land developers in Duval County started dropping \$1,000 personal donations into the campaign and before long, Hardwick's campaign account was in the six-figure range.

Then as I skimmed over Hardwick's financial report recently, I noticed that all of the people who played a questionable role in the Michelle O'Connell case were also \$1000 personal donors. A cold chill ran down my back and I knew that the only hope for Hardwick at that point was complete independence from Shoars influence.

The other members of our board felt the same way. We found that the closer we got to election day, the more influence Shoar was exerting over Hardwick. Then, the morning after Shoar shows up drunk or high at the Republican Club's candidate debate, a crew of ranking deputies in tow, and a loud, verbal disturbance breaks out in the men's room between Shoar and J. B. Burney, residents of the county received a campaign postcard with just Shoar and Hardwick's picture.

"We can find no evidence that the current sheriff will not exercise his influence over the Hardwick, if elected. Anything less than about face from the unaccountability of the past 16-years is not acceptable. For that reason, the Historic City News editorial board endorses Chris Strickland for Sheriff of St Johns County."

It's an impressive read to say the least. It illustrates some simple facts. Sheriff David Shoar wants you to vote for his guy, Rob Hardwick because he knows he will keep the curtain closed, and that the transparency and openness we the people of this county demand will be denied. Rob Hardwick has been backed by hundreds of thousands of dollars of money from outside St. Johns County. Rob Hardwick runs an agency of 21 officers and oversees 6 square miles in a community without schools, critical infrastructure, or serious crime and has never worked for The Saint Johns County Sheriffs Office. Rob Hardwick has never commanded more than a few people. Chris Strickland rose through the ranks of The Saint Johns County Sheriff's Office to the highest rank of Director of The Office of Sheriff. Chris Strickland found many broken things at that highest level of the agency and decided to run for sheriff. They want to stop him. Chris Strickland will bring the change, integrity, and honesty back. He will make sure we do not have another embarrassing embezzlement of taxpayer funds, he will not self-investigate on matters of police use of force. He has promised to equip all deputies with body worn cameras. He will restore the image of the office and give the people of this county an office they can be proud of once again. That is why I am behind him 100% and you should be too!



*** **THE BODY CAMERA CANDIDATE** ***

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

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF

ROBERT A. HARDWICK

Republican



Longtime local resident Robert A. Hardwick has served as the St. Augustine Beach police chief since January 2013.

Previously, he served as the assistant chief investigator with the Office of the State Attorney 7th Judicial Circuit. During his 26-year law enforcement career, he also worked at the St. Augustine Police Department, Flagler County Sheriff's Office and Florida Department of Corrections.

He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and Florida Army National Guard with 25 years of service. He was deployed to Operation Desert Storm in 1990 and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-04.

Most recently, he was assigned as a platoon trainer with the National Guard at Camp Blanding Regional Training Institute's Officer Candidate School.

In August 2016, he was appointed to the Criminal Justice and Standards Training Commission.

In addition to his many affiliations, he volunteers as a youth coach.

Hardwick and his wife of 28 years have two sons.

CHRIS STRICKLAND

Republican



Chris Strickland first got involved with the Sheriff's Office at age 14 through the Explorer program. After high school graduation, he attended the St. Augustine Law Enforcement Academy and was hired by the Sheriff's Office at age 19. He became a field training officer at 22. He holds a master's degree in public administration with a

major in justice administration from Columbus State University.

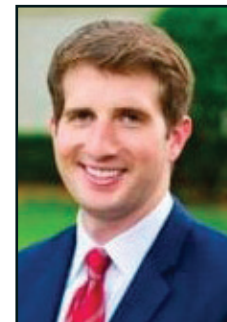
During his 30 years in law enforcement, he rose through the ranks to detective, sergeant, lieutenant, commander and finally director of the Office of the Sheriff.

He also served as an instructor at the St. Augustine Law Enforcement Academy for seven years, where he trained more than 2,000 recruits and in-service personnel. He has been a member of the S.W.A.T. team and the Green Halo street crimes unit. He and wife Tammy are frequent donors to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Among his many affiliations, Strickland is a longtime NRA member.

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

BRANDON PATTY

Republican (Unopposed)



Brandon Patty was appointed clerk of the circuit court and comptroller for St. Johns County in December by Gov. Ron DeSantis. He manages a \$7.5 million budget and a staff of 100. His office oversees court records, issues passports and marriage

licenses and more.

A second-generation Floridian, Patty was the first member of his family to graduate from college. He holds a master's degree from the London School of Economics.

Patty is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve and has served on active duty at the National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office in Washington, D.C., and in the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Currently, he serves as an officer at Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

He has served as a special assistant to Gov. Jeb Bush and as policy director for U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio.

He lives in St. Augustine with wife Brittney, stepson Mason and their two dogs.

SCOTT C. BOUTWELL

Write-In

Scott C. Boutwell declined to participate in the primary election guide.

Christian WHITEHURST

for St Johns County Commissioner, District 1

CHRISTIAN WHITEHURST SUPPORTS...

- ✔ Principled Conservatism
- ✔ Smart Growth Practices
- ✔ Cutting Government Waste

Vote
August 18

I Support Our Beaches

ElectWhitehurst.com

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

Keep Judge Bryan R. Rendzio

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



For more information
keepjudgebryan.com

ELECTION
DAY
TUESDAY
AUGUST 18

Keep
JUDGE
BRYAN R.
RENDZIO
7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

Bryan Rendzio for Circuit Judge
130 Corridor Rd. • P.O. Box 154 • Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32004

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Bryan Rendzio, nonpartisan candidate for Circuit Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Group 27

STATE ATTORNEY



DONALD B. DEMPSEY JR. No party listed

Donald B. Dempsey Jr. is a lawyer in Deland. He has more than 29 years of experience with clients throughout Central Florida. He focuses his practice on the needs of criminal defendants and men and women involved in divorce or family law matters. He is a former Deland/Daytona Beach prosecutor.



R.J. LARIZZA Republican

R.J. Larizza is a native of Jacksonville, where he graduated from Bishop Kenny High School. He attended Troy State University and obtained his bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in English. Upon graduation he entered the workforce with the Florida Department of Corrections, working with young probationers and parolees.

He stayed with the Department of Corrections for almost 13 years and attained the rank of supervisor II at the time of his departure in 1993.

Larizza left the Department of Corrections to pursue a law degree at Mercer University's Walter F. George, School of Law, and graduated in the top one third of his class in May 1996.

Larizza returned to St. Augustine where he worked as an assistant state attorney with the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida. In January 2003 he pursued a private practice career and was later elected to the office of State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

PUBLIC DEFENDER (CIRCUIT 7)



GEORGE BURDEN Republican

Originally from New Jersey, George Burden served 10 years in the U.S. Air Force. Joining the ROTC allowed Burden to attend law school. As a commissioned officer, Burden was sent to intelligence school, then Strategic Air Command Headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska.

He volunteered for duty in the Middle East during the Iran/Iraq War.

He has served 30 years with the 7th Circuit Public Defenders' Office and a term on the Daytona Beach City Commission. In that position, he was appointed to the Daytona Beach Race and Recreation Facility District and the Central Florida Community Development Corp.

He has made 41 appearances before Florida's Supreme Court and has served as chief assistant to the public defender.

ANNE MARIE GENNUSA Republican

Anne Marie Gennusa began her legal career as a criminal defense attorney in Bronx County, N.Y., in 1994. She received her juris doctorate from Temple University School of Law that year and has since earned dual master certificates from Villanova University in government contracting (2012) and human resource management (2013). She was admitted to Florida bar in 1999 and New York bar in 1995. During



her 25-year legal career she has served as a public defender, criminal defense attorney, assistant state attorney and private practitioner. She began her career in law working to represent those accused of crimes who could not afford legal representation. She relocated with her family to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1999 and has run her law firm since then and managed employees in the day to day operations of the business.



MATT METZ Republican

Matt Metz is a Daytona Beach native and has a background in business administration. As an attorney, he is board certified in criminal trial law and has been an assistant public defender with the 7th Circuit for the past decade. He has been

appointed chief of the office's felony division and currently leads a team of 12 attorneys and more than 30 staff members. He is a member of Daytona Beach Rotary, Tiger Bay of Volusia County, Volusia County Bar Association, Dunn-Blount Inns of Court, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and Volusia County Republican Executive Committee.

PONTE VEDRA NEEDS A POSITIVE DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER.



Meet Joe McAnarney.

Retired Architect,
40+ Years Experience
in Codes & Standards.

Ready to be a full-time fighter for your community, focus on real issues, and find real solutions for Ponte Vedra.

JOE WILL VOTE FOR COASTAL RESTORATION

Bad leadership in District 1 has abandoned your coastline, a source of enjoyment and natural wonder. Joe will work towards sustainable plans to ensure adequate **Coastal Restoration** funding.

JOE WILL VOTE FOR SMART GROWTH

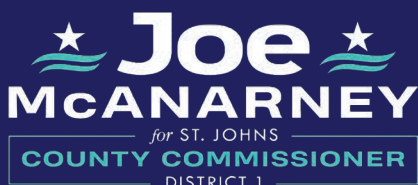
Bad leadership in District 1 has resulted in A1A being used as a commuter cut-through. Joe will work towards solutions that return Ponte Vedra's roads to Ponte Vedra.

LEARN MORE OR DONATE AT ELECT NOVEMBER 3

ELECTJOEMACK.COM

Joe McAnarney

electjoemack@gmail.com



PAID FOR BY JOE MCANARNEY, DEMOCRAT, FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

Anne Marie GENNUSA

for Public Defender



Former Ponte Vedra Resident
Small Business Owner
Devoted thousands of hours of legal work to veterans, the elderly and disabled citizens of our community

Will work to reduce the cost of the Public Defender's Office to the Taxpayer

There is only one candidate in this race with REAL Service, REAL Leadership and one candidate that understands Responsibility. That is why Anne Marie Gennusa is different, that is why she needs your vote.



State Senator Travis Hutson

"Anne Marie Gennusa has my endorsement to be our next Public Defender. She has over 25 years of diverse experience that we need at the office. She has the real business experience that we deserve in this role. I know she will work to reduce the cost of the Public Defender's Office to the taxpayers and reset the priorities of this office. Anne Marie will work to protect the rights of the accused while saving you money."



"Please join me in voting for Anne Marie Gennusa to be our next Public Defender. She is from St. Johns County and has the common sense of a business woman that we need in the Public Defender's Office."



State Representative Cyndi Stevenson

Political Advertisement, Paid for and Approved by Anne Marie Gennusa For Public Defender, Republican

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

DISTRICT 3



NICOLE CROSBY (N/P)

Nicole Crosby graduated from the University of Texas School of Communication with a degree in Advertising and went to work for Doyle Dane Bernbach in New York where she became Sr. VP, Assoc. Creative Director. She garnered many awards for advertising creativity. She currently runs an internet business called the Texas Fireframe Company. She co-founded Save Guana Now to protect 100 acres of conservation land from development and she remains focused on protecting the property. She also co-founded NEST (Never Endanger Sea Turtles).

JOHN "BUCKY" SYKES (N/P)

Sykes Originally was a board member from 1985 until 2005 and currently has been reappointed to the board. Bucky brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the board. Bucky is a fourth-generation farmer who, in the past, grew potatoes and cabbage on his farm. Bucky now grows specialty crops and currently owns and operates a corn maze. Sykes Family Farms.



ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMMISSION

DISTRICT 1 JIMMY JOHNS Republican



James K. "Jimmy" Johns grew up in North-east Florida and has degrees in applied physics from Jacksonville University and civil engineering from the University of Florida. Upon graduation, he worked as a project manager for International Paper Company in Louisiana where he was responsible for compliance with the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. In 2004, he founded Solid Rock Engineering Consultants, which serves clients across the southeastern United States, providing land planning, design and permitting services for private and public developments.

Johns and wife Kathy raised their family in Julington Creek Plantation.

Johns has served as County Commission chair, St. Johns County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board chair, North Florida Transportation Planning Organization treasurer and vice chairman and UNF Small Business Development Center member.

He is a Rotarian, member of the Echota Cherokee Tribe and chairman of the St. Johns County Complete Count Committee for 2020 Census.

CHRISTIAN WHITEHURST Republican



A third generation Floridian, Christian Whitehurst moved to St. Johns County 22 years ago, and now lives in Julington Creek Plantation with wife Courtney and their children. They are active members of Christ's Church.

At age 17, Whitehurst went to work at Fast Fix Jewelry & Watch Repair at the Avenues. He eventually bought the franchise from the previous owner. Since then, he has opened a second Fast Fix Jewelry & Watch Repair location at the St. Johns Town Center.

Whitehurst was appointed to the United Way of St. Johns County campaign cabinet in 2015. He continues to volunteer both time and resources to various organizations, including Daniel Kids, March of Dimes and the Special Olympics of Florida.

JOE MCANARNEY Democrat (Unopposed)



Joe McAnarney and his wife have lived in Julington Creek Plantation for more than 15 years, attracted to the quality of life they saw: large areas of open space and wetlands, excellent schools and ease of traveling to work, shopping and cultural events. McAnarney is a retired architect and planner with more than 40 years of experience working with building codes and development standards.

COMMISSION continues on Page 23

ADVERTISEMENT



JOAN ANTHONY
FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
7th Judicial Circuit of Florida | Group 14

Political advertisement paid for and approved by the Committee to Elect Joan Anthony

"Joan believes a judge must go to the bench with a variety of experience — a depth of experience — and a willingness to serve."

www.JoanAnthonyforJudge.com

Paid political advertisement paid for and approved by the Committee to Elect Joan Anthony for Circuit Judge, 7th Judicial Circuit of Florida, Group 14

Rob Hardwick

For St. Johns County Sheriff

COMBAT VETERAN ★ CHIEF OF POLICE
★ COMMUNITY LEADER ★

VOTE FOR ROB HARDWICK

ON PRIMARY ELECTION DAY
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

Paid by Robert Hardwick, Republican, for St. Johns County Sheriff.
Use of pictures in uniform does not imply the endorsement or support of any law enforcement organization.

VOTEHARDWICK.COM



Send us your election information and news!
Email pvrecorder@opcfla.com

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

VICKY OAKES
Republican (Unopposed)



Florida native Vicky Oakes has been a resident of St. Johns County since 1983. In 1988, she began her career in the county Elections Office as the assistant supervisor. She served in that position for 23 years. In 2011, she was appointed supervisor of elections by Gov. Rick Scott and was elected to that position in November 2012.

She is a State of Florida Certified Supervisor of Elections, a Master Florida Certified Elections Professional and a National Certified Election/Registration Administrator.

Florida native Vicky Oakes has been a resident of St. Johns County since 1983. In 1988, she began her career in the county Elections Office as the assistant supervisor. She served in that position for 23 years.

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Commission

Continued from 22

DISTRICT 3
PAUL WALDRON
Republican (Unopposed)



Paul Waldron is a lifelong resident of St. Johns County. He grew up in the northern part of the city of St. Augustine.

Waldron graduated from St. Augustine High School in 1986 and received his associate's degree from

The University of North Florida in 1989. He attended Flagler College and earned a bachelor's degree in 1991 in business administration.

He has had a number of affiliations, including Ashlar Masonic Lodge No. 98, Kiwanis of Saint Augustine, the Ancient City Game Fish Association and the St. Augustine/St. Johns Sports Club.

DISTRICT 5
HENRY DEAN
Republican (Unopposed)



Henry Dean is a longtime St. Johns County resident running for re-election as a Republican for the St. Johns County Commission, District 5. Dean is the former executive director of both the St. Johns River and South Florida

water management districts. In nearly 20 years at the helm of the St. Johns River Water Management District, he directed the acquisition of sensitive conservation lands, like the Guana Preserve, Julenton-Durbin Preserve and Moses Creek Conservation Area.

Dean lives in St. Augustine. He is a member of the Florida Association of Counties Water Policy Committee.

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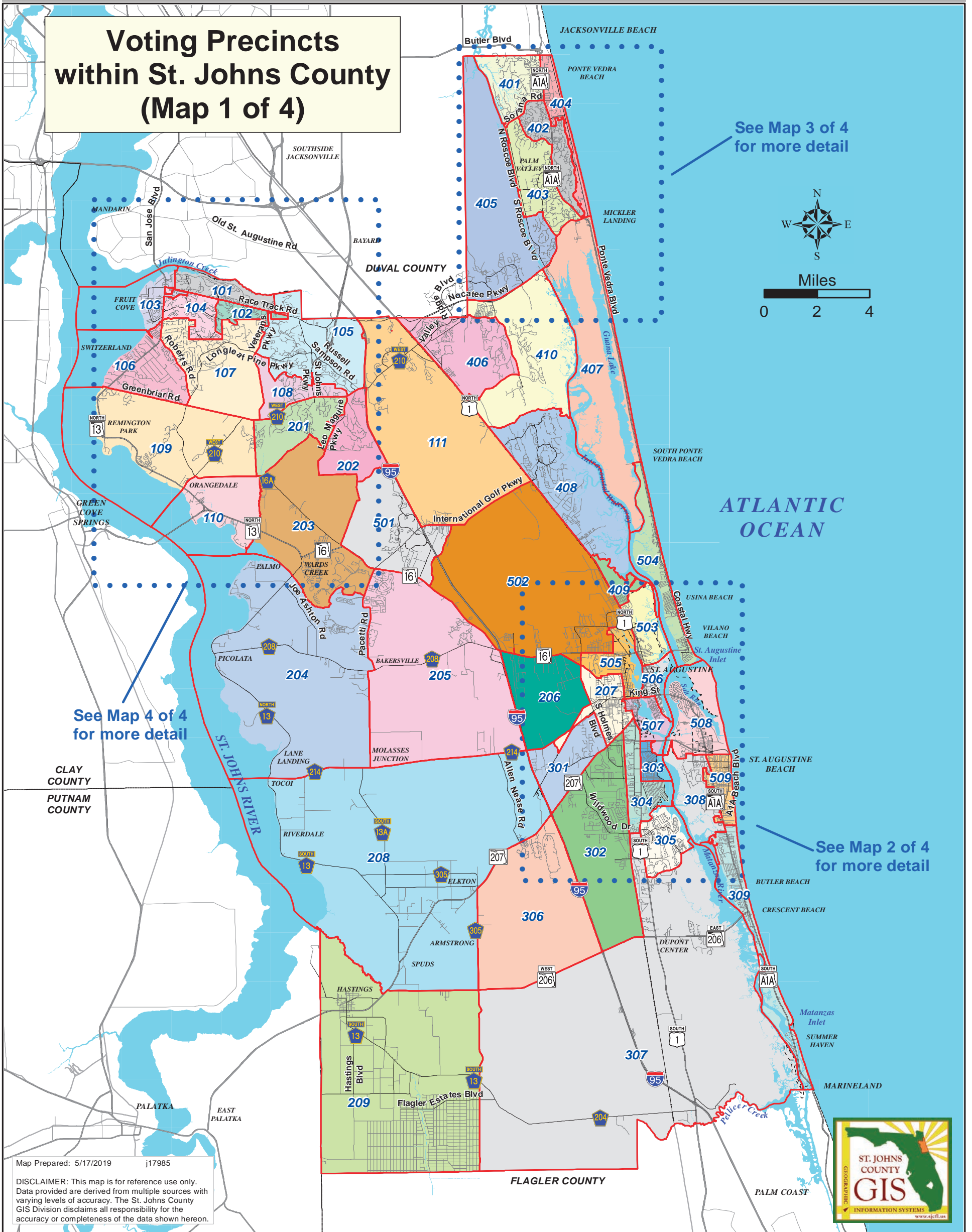
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Voting Precincts within St. Johns County (Map 1 of 4)

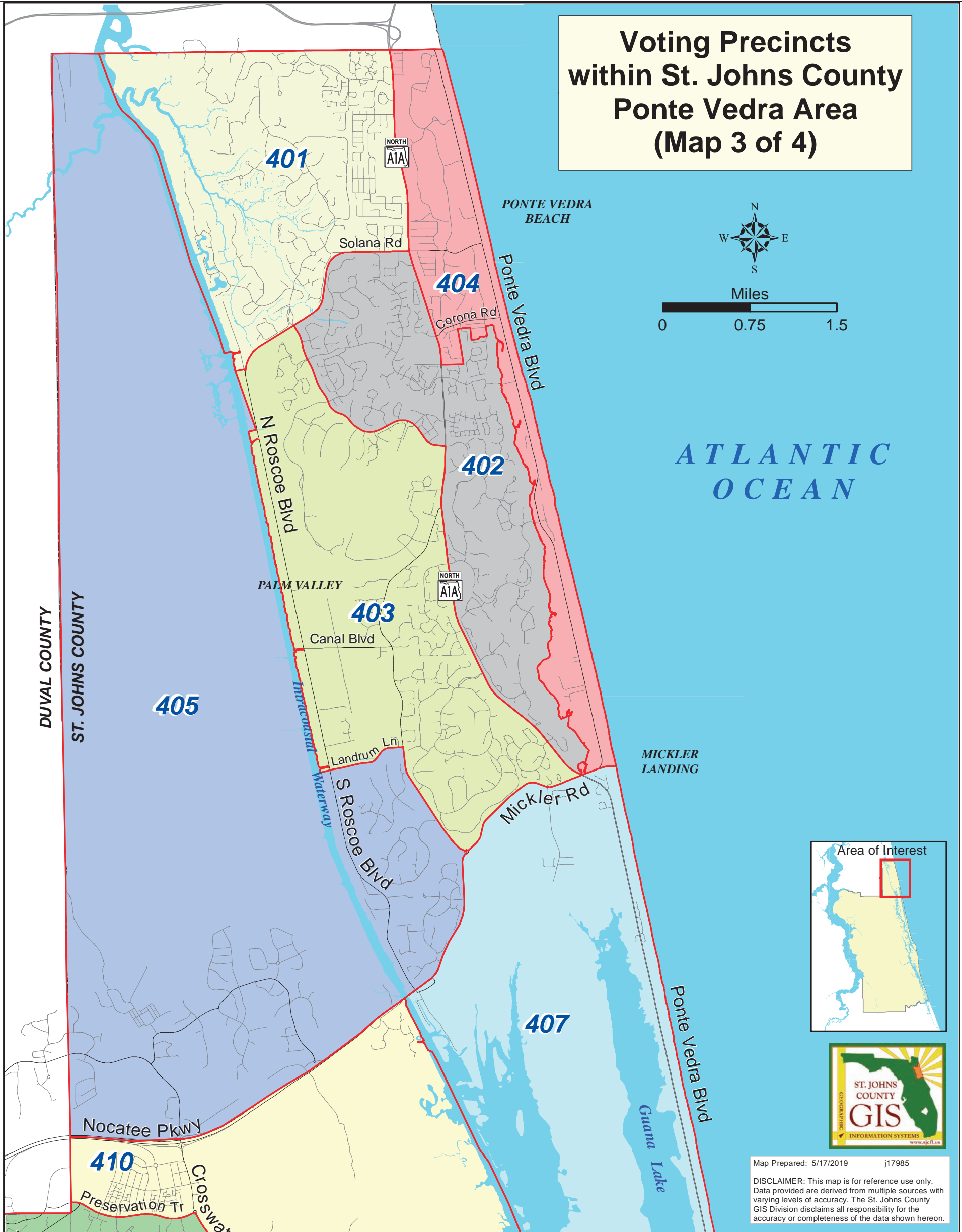


Map Prepared: 5/17/2019 j17985

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Voting Precincts within St. Johns County Ponte Vedra Area (Map 3 of 4)



Map Prepared: 5/17/2019 j17985

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SCHOOL BOARD

DISTRICT 2

ANTHONY COLEMAN



Anthony Coleman was born in Palatka and attended Hastings High School, where he played varsity football and ran track, and was the state champion for the 100-meter in 1982. After graduation, he completed the St. Augustine Technical Law Enforcement Academy and graduated from Vincennes University.

Coleman served as a deputy with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office for more than 30 years. The last 20 of those years, he was a youth resource deputy, coach, mentor, teacher and role model to thousands of county children.

He was named Officer of the Year in 1999 and received the Guy White Award, the highest award given by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. Coleman also

received an award for exceptional service after saving a toddler from a home fire in Hastings in 2015.

NICK GRAHAM



Nick Graham grew up in St. Johns County and attended Bartram Trail High School. A proponent of youth sports and activities, he played ice hockey from ages 8 to 27.

He acquired an interest in education in part due to his mother being a teacher in St. Johns County. He went on to become an employee of the district and has more than 10 years of experience as a technology specialist. He taught TV production at Hickory Creek Elementary School and web design at Bartram Trail High School.

He has served as a computer education advisory board member with St Johns River State College and as a court-appointed child advocate with the Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program.

REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE

KAREN G. HARVEY



A native of Flushing, N.Y., Karen G. Harvey has been a resident of St. Augustine for the past 30 years. She is the author of several books about the

history of the city, including "St. Augustine and St. Johns County: A Pictorial History" and "Oldest Ghosts: St. Augustine Haunts." She has been a teacher and historic interpreter and holds degrees from the University of North Carolina,

Greensboro, and American University in Washington, D.C. She is a member of the St. Augustine Historical Society and Romanza and is active on local citizens' boards including the Historic Architecture Review Board.



TAMARA RENUART

Married to former Florida Rep. Ronald "Doc" Renuart, Tamara Renuart is the incumbent Republican state committee person.

Ponte Vedra Democratic Club announces upcoming meetings

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club gathers to discuss issues and concerns of Ponte Vedra-area Democrats and welcomes new members at any time. During the COVID-19 situation, the club is meeting by Zoom.

Upcoming meetings are: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, with local candidates on the November ballot; and 6:30 p.m. Sept. 9 to discuss Paul Begala's new book, "You're Fired."

For meeting information, go to the club's Facebook page or contact the vice president of membership, Jan Kary, at janetkary@gmail.com for meeting links and passcodes.

Coalition encourages voters

Blue Wave of St. Johns recently released a PSA encouraging everyone to vote. It can be found at bluewavecoalition.org/we-the-people-pledge.

The video there features a group of St. Johns County children as young as age 4 asking Americans to cast their votes in 2020.

Blue Wave Coalition brings together grassroots organizations in Florida to elect leaders who share progressive and democratic values. The St. Johns County coalition includes multiple organizations deploying a data-driven regional campaign to ensure that principled leadership becomes and remains a reality at all levels — locally, statewide, and nationally — in 2020 and beyond.

Blue Wave Coalition of Florida is not affiliated with any political party but functions as a broad umbrella that welcomes and engages organizations of all kinds in creating change through the electoral process.

For more information, go to BlueWaveCoalition.org.

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Business Weekly

PAGE 27 THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

SJC Chamber, Vystar to hold financial wellness workshop

Page 33

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Rendering provided by Ascension St. Vincent's

Ascension St. Vincent's selects location for new hospital in St. Johns County

Ascension St. Vincent's has selected a property in the Northeast quadrant of I-95 and County Road 210 for its new hospital in St. Johns County. The property is part of a mixed-use development known as Fountains at St. Johns. Construction is expected to begin this fall.

The health system is investing \$115 million and creating approximately 600 jobs with the creation of the hospital. The facility will be 150,000 square feet and have 56 beds, including eight ICU beds. It will include all of the services a general hospital offers, including, but not limited to, emergency services, short-term hospitalization, cardiovascular care, orthopedics and musculo-

skeletal care, general surgical services, laboratory and imaging services. The facility will also include shelled space to accommodate future expansion to keep pace with growing community need.

"Our significant investment in this wonderful community is rooted in our desire to continue creating new options for St. Johns County residents to get the care they need, with the highest quality and compassion available, right here at home, right when they need us," said Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast President and CEO Tom VanOsdol. "Since opening our health center in St. Johns County nearly three years ago, we've seen a consistent increase in demand for

clinically excellent and convenient care and we look forward to serving local individuals and families in this new way."

The facility's location was based on a data-driven analysis of where services were most needed. According to Claritas Demographics, St. Johns County is the fastest growing county in Northeast Florida. It is also currently the largest county in Florida with only one acute care hospital. The county also has the second highest population-to-acute-care-bed ratio in the state, meaning residents must often leave the county to receive inpatient hospital care.

HOSPITAL continues on Page 33

Create strategies to help achieve your financial goals



Karsten Jacobson
Columnist

Like most people, you probably have many financial goals: a comfortable retirement, long vacations, college for your children or grandchildren, the ability to leave something behind for the next generation, and so on. To achieve these various goals, you may have to follow different investment strategies — and you might have to make some tradeoffs along the way.

To pursue this multi-goal/multi-strategy approach, try to follow a clear course of action, including these steps:

Define your goals — and invest appropriately. You will need to identify each goal and ask some questions: How much time will you have to achieve this goal? How much return will you need from your investments and how much risk are you willing to take?

With a longer-term goal, such as retirement, you may be able to invest more heavily in growth-oriented vehicles with higher expected returns. Keep in mind, though, that the value of these investments will fluctuate, and they carry more risk than more conservative investments. However, your long-term horizon allows time to recover from short-term dips. But for a shorter-term goal, such as an upcoming vacation, your investments don't have the same time to bounce back from large drops in value, so you might follow a more conservative strategy by investing in instruments that preserve principal, even though growth may be minimal.

Know what you've invested for each goal. Once you know what type of strategy you should follow to achieve each of your goals, you'll need to enact that strategy. How? By matching specific investment accounts with the appropriate goals. You should know why you own all your investments. Ask yourself these questions: What goal will this investment help me achieve? How much do I have allocated toward a specific goal? If I have an IRA, a 401(k) and another account devoted to achieving the same goal, are they all working together effectively? The connections between your different invest-

How to fix a pandemic-driven recession



Scott Grant
Guest Columnist

I polled people online, trolling for suggested topics for this column. I was surprised by the number of suggestions. The most popular was how do we fix a pandemic-driven recession, the second most was how wonderful our area is. I have chosen to write about one of my favorite subjects, economics, often called the "dismal science."

The way to get out of a recession is to spend money. If you look at the two most successful recoveries, the thing they have in common is mas-

sive amounts of Government spending, mostly on the military.

The Great Depression begins in 1929 and continues for over 10 years. Unemployment soars to 25%. The recovery is slow, and our economy does not truly start rolling again until World War II. Once we started building Liberty Ships and B-24 bombers, the economy recovered rapidly. Early in the Depression, President

GRANT continues on Page 30

JACOBSON continues on Page 29

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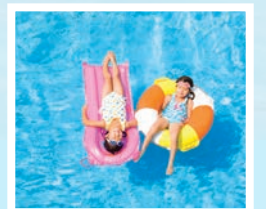
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Confession from a recovering grudge-holding curmudgeon



Harry Pappas
Columnist

I received an email from a client (Jim) where he mentioned the word “curmudgeon.” Not understanding the term, I asked my associate, Amy, “What’s a Curmudgeon?” She quickly replied, “You! Look it up.” So, off I went to the all-knowing Google. A curmudgeon is an irritable cantankerous old person full of stubborn ideas. Yikes! Not what I wanted to hear but as they say, the truth can hurt! If you think you might be a grudge holder, someone who finds it difficult to forgive, a person with anger and rage issues, or perhaps a curmudgeon, this narrative is for you ... and me! If you are free from the above afflictions, maybe you know someone who might find this dispatch helpful.

Possibly like you, I have experienced emotional wounds from childhood that became “infected” because of my bitterness and resentment towards my offenders.

Subsequently, I took my infected wounds into adulthood and regrettably became the consummate unforgiving, grudge holder. I would cling to my animosity, which repeatedly led to anger and sometimes rage. My rude and boorish behavior descended on me like an epidemic, and I would have contaminated thoughts and toxic emotions to those that upset me. Although I believe, most of the time, my position was right, it was how I was right which made me so wrong! Of course, I never wanted to be this way, who would? Nevertheless, I had a challenging time changing my conduct. My go-to laymen advice was, “Just get over it.” Nope! Never worked, as I would relive my worst moments repeatedly and instead of just getting over it, I pick at my emotional scars and refused to let the healing process take effect, which allowed infection to enter, and that, my friends, is where the trouble begins. Unfortunately, for many of us, we carry our emotional infected wounds into our adult life and regrettably our family becomes the collateral damage.

I was too stubborn to seek professional help until, not

long ago, a client and friend (Alan) encouraged me to engage the services of a professional counselor. I followed his advice by securing a relationship with Christian Psychologist, Dominic Herbst. I finally “got it” that there is nothing better than having an educated, experienced, independent person who could help me become the person that I always wanted to be. In retrospect, Dominic’s zeal was contagious, and his message and methodology were incredibly convincing. Dominic told me that I was experiencing something quite common; cancer of the soul that resulted from my unhealed wounds from my childhood. Let’s camp here momentarily to clear up possible confusion. “Soul” is a word that gets thrown around like confetti but appears to mean different things to different people. According to Dominic, the human soul is part of us that is not physical and lasts eternally. The soul is the place where we connect with one another via our intellect, emotions, and will. Moreover, our soul has our

PAPPAS continues on Page 34

Jacobson

Continued from 27

ment accounts and your goals should be consistently clear to you.

Understand trade-offs. Your various investment goals may be distinct, but they don’t exist in isolation. In fact, your strategy for achieving one goal may affect your ability to work toward another. For example, would significant investments in

your child’s education change your funding for retirement? If you decide to buy a vacation home when you retire, will that alter the legacy you’ll be able to leave to your family? Given limited financial resources, you may have to prioritize some goals and make some trade-offs in your investment moves.

Track your progress. Each of your strategies is designed to achieve a particular goal, so you need to monitor the performance of the investments within

that strategy to help ensure you’re making progress. If it seems that you’re lagging, you may need to explore ways to get back on track.

To manage these tasks successfully, you may want to work with a financial professional — someone who can look at your situation objectively, help you identify and quantify your goals, and suggest strategies designed to help you achieve them.

Trying to achieve multiple financial goals can seem like a daunting task, but

by saving and investing consistently through your working years, following a clear strategy, being willing to prioritize and accept trade-offs and getting the help you need, you can help yourself move forward.

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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Grant

Continued from 27

Hoover raised taxes and interest rates to protect the currency. He also tried to implement wage and price freezes. All of this just made things worse. Roosevelt's New Deal helped, especially building the hydro-electric plants, but his decision to close banks led to decline in liquidity that prolonged the recovery. Unemployment was still around 15% in 1939. The deficit

increased markedly.

In the late 70s, the economy all but collapsed from a combination of rampant inflation followed by a severe recession. The Federal Reserve rate spiked up to 22%. Unemployment peaked around 12%. When Ronald Reagan took office in 1981, the economy was a mess. He called his plan Trickle Down Economics. The idea was that if we spent enough on weapons and cut taxes, that the profits would trickle down to the average worker. Reagan spent heavily on weapons, building new

jets and tanks and even refurbishing World War II era battleships. The deficit soared, but the economy recovered, and the stock market surged.

In 2008, an overheated housing market, driven by speculation and ridiculously easy mortgage money, collapsed and took down the American economy with it. Unemployment would peak around 10%. Congress spent billions to save banks and insurance companies. Money was also ear-marked to bail out other businesses, including General Motors. This was controversial. The Fed lowered interest rates and printed money. Once again, the deficit grew massively. The jury is still out on how long-lasting those fixes were. But there is little question that the billions in bail out stopped the U.S. from slipping into a Depression that might have rivaled the Great Depression.

The US has history of at least one post pandemic recession. The first modern recession occurred in 1920-21, 14 months after the end of World War I and immediately following a Spanish Flu pandemic that killed 675,000 people. Some of the similarities to today are striking. In addition to the flu, which swept through the country leaving a swath of devastation, race riots broke out across the country. The baseball season was shortened in both 1918 and 1919. To make up for lost revenues, owners lengthened the world series. Players made less and the situation was rife for the scandal that rocked the sports world when the White Sox threw

the 1919 series. Bars closed in 1920, for different reasons. The federal reserve raised interest rates to a then record high of 7%. Unemployment briefly exceeded 10%. The economy, somewhat bolstered by the illegal booze trade, began to turn around when Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon pushed for lower rates.

The current recession sprang out of a global pandemic and subsequent economic shutdowns that ravaged economies around the world. Here in the USA, the employment rate peaked around 15% a couple of months ago and has slowly declined since. Once again, the Government moved to bail out large corporations and, once again, the deficit soared. This time, an effort was also made to get money into the hands of small businesses and, for the first time, individual citizens. The concept of putting money directly into the hands of individuals was novel, just like the virus that engendered the need. Conventionally, Governments have fought recessions using a top down technique, cheap money and spending. Our economy is consumer based. Putting money into consumer hands raised some eyebrows and left online retailers and tech companies drooling over the increased spending. Wall Street is hoping these extra unemployment benefits will be renewed. They want the people to get the money and then SPEND IT.

Scott A Grant is a local author, historian, and columnist. By day, Mr. Grant is President of Standfast Asset Management. He is a regular contributor to the Recorder.



Scot A Regner Achieves Milestone

Matthew R. Foxhall, CFP®, Executive Vice President, Southeast Region of Equitable Advisors, LLC, Branch Manager would like to thank and recognize the efforts of Scot A. Regner, Financial Consultant and Retirement Planning Specialist*, who has recently received Equitable Advisor's prestigious Hallmark 6 distinction.

Foxhall noted, "Only a few Financial Professionals have obtained this milestone and during his 40 years with Equitable Advisors, LLC, Scot has displayed a model of integrity with his clients, helping them toward achieving their investment and risk management goals. He is a pillar in his community and embodies all of the core values of our firm."



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FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Chamber, Vystar to hold financial wellness workshop Aug. 7

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and Vystar are inviting the public to join their introductory financial wellness workshop and virtual networker on Friday, Aug. 7 at 8:30 a.m.

The workshop will feature panelists

from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Vystar Credit Union and Vystar Investment Services, and will provide resources to assist virtual attendees, their businesses and employees. This event, which is a collaboration between the

Chamber, Vystar Credit Union and SBA, is the first in a series of three workshops.

Bring questions for panelists to answer in an interactive Q&A session. The workshop will conclude with a virtual networker. Join fellow participants and panelists in

virtual breakout sessions to network in a small group setting.

Participation is limited and pre-registration is required.

This introductory Chamber workshop is offered complimentary.

Hospital

Continued from 27

“As we continue to grow and expand, we clearly have a need for additional medical care facilities, so I am thrilled that Ascension St. Vincent’s is bringing a very high-quality facility and hundreds of additional jobs to our county,” said St. Johns County Commissioner Henry Dean.

“We are so proud to be working with Ascension St. Vincent’s to bring this critical service to an area of the county where there is a huge unmet need,” said Joy Andrews, St. Johns County deputy county administrator. “We, as a county, are aggressively pursuing balanced and measured growth and expansion of the healthcare industry in all specialties of healthcare. This new facility will serve our most populated geographic areas and play a critical role for the continued health and well-being of our community.”

The hospital is expected to be completed in 2022.

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Continued from 29

wounds, pain, and bitterness. When our wounds from the past are not cleansed (healed) they become infected. The puss-filled wound often manifests into bitterness, which repeatedly leads to afflictions such as depression, anxiety, detachment, verbal and physical abuse, frozen emotions, and rage to name a few. Cancer of our soul is akin to cancer of body. If one had cancer of the body and his or her doctor’s advice was to “Just get over it,” I think the catch phrase from Forest Gump is applicable, “Run Forrest run!” Both cancers need intervention for potential healing to occur, and that is precisely what the Restoring Relationship program empowers one to do. The approach to soul restoration starts with admitting and owning our wounds from childhood. This is the key to restoration, which is underscored by what Dominic likes to say, “Pain concealed is pain unhealed.” Therefore, we must deal with our pain head on. Don’t run from it. Don’t deny it. Don’t cover it up. Don’t medicate it.

Forgiveness to our offenders is a big part in the healing process. Although I suggest that most of us believe that expressing TRUE forgiveness is one of the most therapeutic ways to repair a broken relationship, and to promote our mental health, far too many of us find it incredibly challenging to forgive. As a recovering grudge holder, I fell prey to the false belief that by forgiving someone was letting him or her off the hook. However, when I learned to TRULY forgive, I let myself off the hook! Check out the diagram, courtesy of Dominic. Please note the downward spiral. When we are offended, we have two roads to choose, the one to healing or the one to destruction. Regrettably, all too often, I journeyed down the road to destruction. For example, when offended first I hurt (became detached), then I hate (became bitter) and then I harm others and myself

(became vengeful). My unresolved anger was the problem, as my bitterness destroyed me. It was never about fixing the problem. Instead it was about fixing me! If we want to change the hearts of others, we must first start with changing ours! While I am still work in progress and I am not where I ought to be, I am better than I was! I relinquished my titles of grudge holder and curmudgeon, since it does not fit who I have become. Allow me to close with four quotes that might allow you, as it has for me, to be a better version of yourself.

Weak people seek revenge. Strong people forgive. Intelligent people ignore (Unknown).

Forgiveness is dialysis of the soul. It is medicine from heaven (Unknown).

To be wronged is nothing, unless you continue to remember it. Confucius.

Look in and look up! (Dominic Herbst)

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Cultural Center at PVB to pursue sale of building

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach has canceled fall exhibits and reduced class sizes for the rest of 2020 until further notice, due to COVID-19.

The center has an opportunity to sell the building since the current overhead will not be needed. The Cultural Center has taken its programs to the community. Sound Connections Music Therapy is now taught at six elementary schools including two Title 1 schools in the south of the county thanks to a grant provided by The Delores Barr Weaver Fund, Community Foundation of Northeast Florida. It has also been approved to teach art classes after school in the north portion of the county, said Donna Guzzo, president and executive director of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra.

CCPVB Chairman of the Board Matt Nelson said the timing of the sale is

related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to the likelihood that the sale would not be completed until 2021.

“After several months of being closed due to COVID-19, the building’s sale will offset lost revenue and provide the cash flow needed to sustain regular operations until a new building is available,” Nelson said.

Guzzo said while the center opened to the public July 6, participation in camps, classes and exhibits have seen a decline for in-person classes. One week after re-opening, COVID numbers spiked. Guzzo said the center has been able to shift most of the activities offsite during the nearly four months it was closed.

“Staff have learned to work efficiently from home,” she said. “Some classes were conducted online. The artistic creations traditionally sold in the Center’s Market

are being sold online.”

It is unlikely the sale would be completed before 2021. In the months it will take to negotiate and close a sale, Guzzo said Cultural Center events will proceed as planned, COVID-19 precautions permitting:

- The Loving Beethoven exhibit continues through Sept. 25 by appointment only.
- Summer camps continue with limited amount of campers.
- The Home Tour offsite on Saturday, Sept. 12 with a morning session and afternoon session.
- The popular Holiday Shoppes at the Center will have most vendors outdoors, and admission times will be required.
- Once the building at 50 Executive Drive is sold, the center’s many classes will be conducted at new, temporary facilities in St. Johns County until a new

building is available.

The Center’s board of directors voted in December to continue collaborative efforts with the county to evaluate and design an arts campus. One of potential sites explored is the parcel located next to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. These exploratory dialogues are centered around the key objectives of preserving, and or potentially expanding the existing athletic fields, as well as right-sizing the future facility with ample parking that would offer expanded programs and host larger exhibits in partnership with the county.

A feasibility study showed that 91% of survey respondents said the Cultural Center was a vital community asset, and encouraged expansion of services.

For more information about the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, go to www.ccpvb.org.

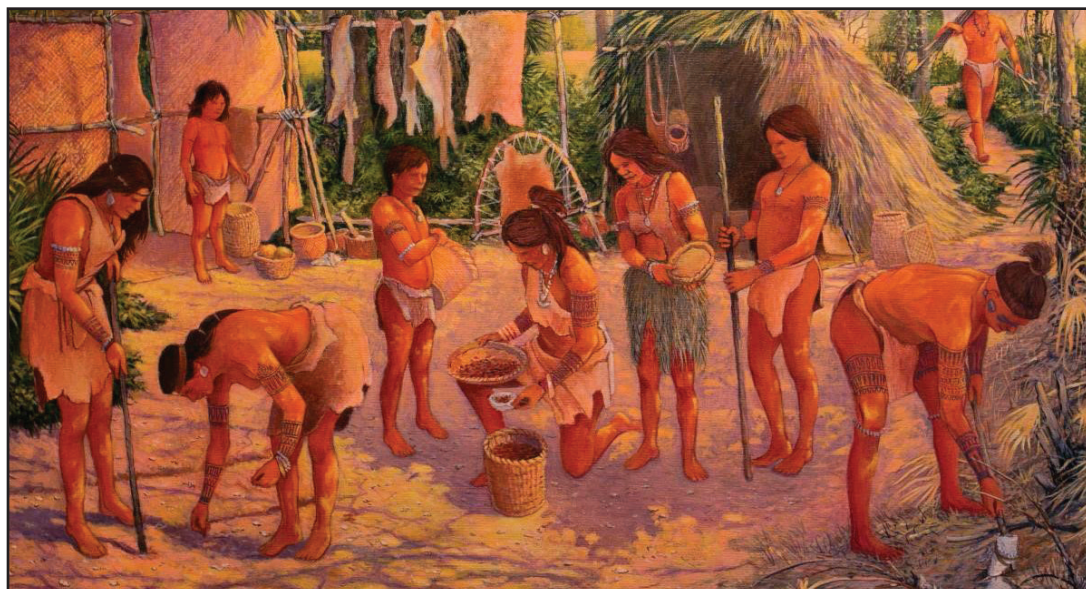


Photo provided by The Beaches Museum

Beaches Museum exhibit examines Northeast Florida’s Indigenous history

The Beaches Museum has opened a new exhibit, *Our Land: Indigenous Northeast Florida*, in its permanent collection.

Jacksonville’s past includes a deep Indigenous history. Beginning more than 10,000 years ago, small family bands occasionally moved through the area. By 5,000 years ago, Native populations started living near the Atlantic coast. Contrary to the myth of an unchanging Native American past, migrations, contact with outsiders, long-distance interactions and technological innovations shaped the pre-contact history of Northeast Florida.

The story of Indigenous, French and Spanish encounters in Northeast Florida is most often told from a European perspective. Today, Fort Caroline is a memorial to French efforts to colonize Mocama land, and the Castillo de San Marcos is a national park honoring Spanish successes in both vanquishing the French and taking over Timucua homelands. But what did the Mocamas make of French and Spanish colonizers? And why isn’t their side of the story told?

Drawing on archaeological and historical evidence, the Indigenous perspective presented in

Our Land begins 1,000 years ago and continues to the present day.

Students from the University of North Florida helped to design this exhibit for a course co-taught by Dr. Keith H. Ashley and Dr. Denise I. Bossy in the fall of 2019 called, “Public Archaeology and History of Florida Indians.”

Funding for this project was provided by the Humanities Initiative of the College of Arts and Sciences at UNF, the UNF Archaeology Laboratory through the support of the Cummer Family Foundation and the Beaches Museum.

Mocama art was created for the Timucua-Mocama Art Contest sponsored by the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida with the goal of presenting a more authentic portrayal of the scenes depicted in the classic but ethnocentric 16th Century works of Jacques Le Moyne and Theodor de Bry.

“The *Our Land: Indigenous Northeast Florida*” exhibit is accessible to visitors now with an opening reception planned once conditions allow.

For more information on this event, call (904) 241-5657 or go to www.beachesmuseum.org.

St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum opens new World War II exhibition

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum opened a new exhibit, “Guardians of the First Coast: Building Readiness for World War II,” on Aug. 1. This exhibition, housed in the Museum’s 1941 Coastal Lookout Building, honors the brave men and women who defended our coast as World War II began.

The exhibit showcases firsthand stories, letters, photographs and videos collected from those who served in World War II. While local men and women served around the world, the war also came to local shores. The Hotel Ponce de Leon closed to guests and reopened as the United States Coast Guard Training Center, preparing men and women for service around the world. In addition, beginning in winter 1942, German U-boats patrolled off the coast of Florida attacking the shipping lanes that provided the Allies with supplies. Florida citizens including local shrimpers formed boat patrols to report any U-boat sightings in the local waters.

Additional WWII history continues in the restored 1936 garage used by the USCG Beach Patrol. These armed men vigilantly patrolled in jeeps to guard miles of coastline against enemy landings. Today the garage features not only the Tin Pickle, a gedunk (snack bar) featuring unique WWII-inspired snacks, but also additional artifacts and stories about wartime St. Augustine.

“These precious artifacts are treasures that tell a story of dedication and sacrifice,” said Capt. Bob Buehn, U.S. Navy (retired) and chairperson of the Museum Board of Trustees. “We are proud to bring this story to the public, and we want to thank the donors who made the exhibit possible. Special thanks are due to the Questers of Ponte Vedra Beach and to the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. We also thank the St. Johns County Veterans Council for sharing stories of service and bravery.”

The exhibit is offered at no additional charge when paying regular admission. The museum offers discounts to schools, seniors and veterans, and admission is always free to active military and first responders. St. Johns County residents pay once and come all year long.

“We have some powerful stories that brings to life the cultural diversity and unique perspectives reflected in local first-hand experiences,” said museum Executive Director Kathy Fleming. “We invite everyone to visit and learn about our local WWII history; it is truly eye-opening.”

Added Buehn, “Every admission or donation helps our non-profit save more of these veterans’ stories. We honor those who served, and there is more to come.”

Sports

Send your sports news to
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 • PAGE 37

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Photo by Micah Green

Jim Furyk hits a shot during the THE PLAYERS championship in 2019. Furyk won the Ally Challenge in his first tournament on the PGA Champions Tour last weekend in Flint, Michigan.

Furyk snags title in Champions Tour debut

Ponte Vedra Beach resident Jim Furyk won the Ally Challenge on Aug. 2 at Warwick Hills Country Club in Flint, Michigan in his Champions Tour debut.

Furyk defeated Retief Goosen and Brett Quigley by two strokes, finishing with a 14-under 202 total.

“It feels good,” Furyk said of the win. “That sounds really good. So just excited to be able to come out here first week and play so well and get a win. It’s an honor. A lot of good players in the field. I enjoy coming back to Warwick Hills, a place that I had a lot of success in my career, a golf course that I really enjoy. Feel like I know it really well.”

Furyk will play in the first PGA TOUR major of the season at the PGA Championship this week at TPC Harding Park

in San Francisco. However, he’s not sure when he’ll next play on the Champions Tour.

“I know my next two events, I just don’t know my next event on the PGA TOUR Champions,” Furyk said. “I’ve got the PGA. Fluff and I are heading out to San Fran for the PGA and Wyndham the next two weeks, then I don’t know. I have to kind of regroup and make a decision. I’ll have to do that pretty quickly after probably Wyndham unless I play really well at PGA and Wyndham and get myself in the playoffs. I’ll probably have to make a decision which tour I want to play predominantly. But I’ll be back out on the Champions Tour this fall and there’s a couple events I kind of have earmarked I would like to play.”

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