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PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

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Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

FLOCK OF FLAMINGOS



Photo provided by Jen Walker

Gavin Walker, 14, has started a new business to help brighten people's day by "flocking" their yards with pink flamingos. Gavin has "flocked" people's yards with flamingos in party hats, beads and leis for birthdays, graduations, welcoming them home from the hospital or just for fun. *Read more on page 5.*



INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!
The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!



First Coast Register
INSIDE



Local Real Estate Showcase
Pages 11-22

2020 LOTUS EVORA GT

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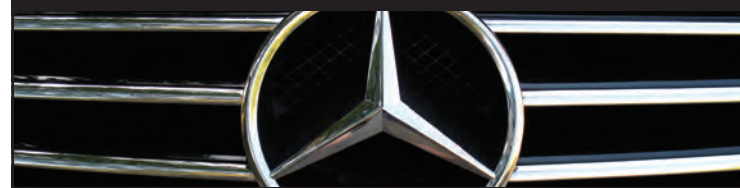


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INSIDE

One of Us
Page 6

Business Weekly
Pages 23-25

In the Arts
Pages 26-28

Sports
Page 29



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Send us your news

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

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

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.

Time is running out: Vote now for Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra

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	T	A	R	E	E	A	T	F	A	R	O		
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9	6	5	8	2	3	1	7	4
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6	1	2	5	3	7	9	4	8
7	3	4	1	9	8	6	2	5
5	9	7	2	1	4	8	6	3
4	8	6	3	7	5	2	1	9
1	2	3	9	8	6	4	5	7

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



We're here for wildlife.
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Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

BRIEFS

Commission offers update on COVID-19 cases in county

The St. Johns County Commission provided an update of COVID-19 cases and its impact in the county during a special meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 25.

According to the commission, as of Tuesday morning, there were 4,100 cases of COVID-19 in St. Johns County, and 224 people were hospitalized. As of Monday, Aug. 24, there were 20 people currently in the hospital in the county.

There have been 50 deaths related to COVID-19 in the county.

The commission also noted as of Aug. 24, occupied ICU bed space was at 55-56%.

The commission also provided an update on assistance for individuals and businesses amid the pandemic. There were 66 fully submitted applications for residential/individual assistance, and 515 applications in process. For businesses, there were 206 applications submitted and 215 in progress.

The commission also extended the state of emergency for the county.

County commission recognizes Women's Equality Day

During a special meeting of the St. Johns County Commission on Tuesday, Aug. 25, the commission designated Aug. 26 as Women's Equality Day in St. Johns County.

The commission stated the resolution

was to commemorate the 19th Amendment, which stated, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex," giving women the right to vote.

The 19th Amendment passed exactly 100 years ago Aug. 18.

Improvements to Hospital Creek Bridge on A1A to begin Aug. 31

The Florida Department of Transportation is scheduled to begin improvements to the Hospital Creek Bridge located on State Road A1A just west of the Vilano Bridge starting Monday, Aug. 31, weather and schedule permitting.

The improvements to the bridge

will include deck-and-joint repair work, concrete-beam repairs, cathodic protection for piles and bent caps and other miscellaneous work items.

Lane closures are not allowed Monday through Sunday from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. To safely complete work underneath the bridge, intermittent bridge closures lasting approximately 30 minutes will be necessary. The bridge will reopen to allow emergency response vehicles to pass through when needed.

Southern Road and Bridge, LLC is projected to complete the \$1.2 million bridge rehabilitation improvement project in late 2021, unforeseen circumstances permitting.

For more information regarding this project, go to nflroads.com.



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 To vote in the contest, go to www.pontevedrarecorder.com and click the "Best of Ponte Vedra" link



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COVID-19 memes collected in new book

Culture maintains sense of humor despite trials

By Shaun Ryan

The book is about coronavirus. The data is compiled by a former CIA official. So why, you might ask, are readers laughing their masks off?

It's because Ed Mickolus' latest literary work looks at the lighter side of 2020. And yes, there really is a lighter side.

"America's Funniest Memes: Coronavirus Edition" brings together humorous sayings found on the Internet concerning life in the time of social distancing and toilet paper shortages.

To be sure, this is gallows humor, but it's also a revealing look at how Americans cope with fear and grief.

"I'm having a quarantine party this weekend," cracks one memer. "None of you are invited."

Writes another: "In 2020 we thought we'd have flying cars. But no, here we are teaching people how to wash their hands."

With the help of friends, Mickolus gathered the memes over the period of a single month.

"It was fun to put together," he said.

This isn't the Del Webb resident's first foray into comic writing. He gained a de-



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Local author Ed Mickolus is seen with some of his more-than-40 books.

gree of notoriety over the past decade with three humorous books that drew on his 33-year career with the CIA: "The Secret Book of CIA Humor," "Intelligence Community Humor" and "Two Spies Walk Into A Bar."

To date, Mickolus has authored 41 books, most of which are not meant to tickle the funny bone. The newly-published "More Stories From Langley" and its predecessor "Stories From Langley" reveal the lesser-known operations of one of the most mysterious U.S. government

agencies. Not everyone in the CIA is a spy. The organization also employs librarians, academics and bilingual nannies, among others.

"These two books are designed primarily for people who are considering agency careers or wondering what it's like," Mickolus said.

Because he signed a lifelong secrecy agreement on his first day with the CIA, Mickolus must submit everything he writes that touches on intelligence to the agency's publications review board before

it sees print. Occasionally, he is told to cut something, but that's rare. Out of the 12,000-or-so pages of material he's produced, he's only lost about two pages.

Mickolus' other books include tomes on terrorism, a fitness guide co-written with Joe Rendon, an inspirational compilation of sayings by Jesus and a collection of fortune-cookie aphorisms.

Not one to sit still even while self-quarantining, Mickolus has several other books in the works, including a couple of novels ("White Noise Whispers" and "Murder at the Villages") and a guide for thriller writers who want to get their facts straight regarding the intelligence community.

Pandemic sequestration aside, how does someone find the time to write and publish dozens of books?

"Essentially, it's time management," explained Mickolus. "There are certain things that you need to do to create any book, and you just chart it. You keep tally of: Here's where I am in this book; I've got to get this done today."

In fact, in the days before coronavirus intervened, Mickolus taught an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute class at UNF on becoming a prolific writer.

Interested readers, whether stuck at home or not, can find Mickolus' books at amazon.com.

Local photographer captures breathtaking scenes of nation's oldest city in coffee table book

By Kassidy Lankford

When Dr. Razvan Balotescu began to notice the beauty of the Northeast Florida sky, he was inspired to begin his photography journey. Balotescu was captivated by the breathtaking sunsets and spectacular cloud formations at the beaches in Ponte Vedra and St. Augustine, and for the past 10 years, he has been spending his time capturing those scenes through a camera lens.

Although Balotescu has been immersed in his photography for a decade, it wasn't until about six months ago that he was struck with the idea to compile his photos into a coffee table book.

"I've been taking these photos for the past 10 years and I noticed that there aren't any photo books of the St. Augustine area," said Balotescu, explaining that he saw the need for such a thing and realized that his work fit the bill.

Balotescu compiled a variety of his most stunning images of St. Augustine's unique cityscape, historical sites and beaches, and combined them into his first-ever collection, the "St Augustine Coffee Table Book."



Photo provided by Dr. Razvan Balotescu

Dr. Razvan Balotescu is releasing a book of stunning photographs from St. Augustine. He will hold a book signing Aug. 29 at the Village Arts Gallery in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Balotescu wanted to find a way to share his inspiration with the St. Johns County community, and this book is his

love letter to the nation's oldest city. In addition to being a wonderful coffee table accessory, Balotescu's book is a

wonderful gift for anyone who enjoys the historic charm of St. Augustine and shares Balotescu's love for the beauty within Northeast Florida.

Along with his St. Augustine photographic adventures, Balotescu practices internal medicine in the Ponte Vedra area and is currently working on his next book — a collection of photos of Ponte Vedra.

His book features 132 pages of images of the St. Augustine Lighthouse, Castillo de San Marcos, gorgeous beach photos and more. The photos memorialized within the book give one a unique perspective on the old city, featuring photos of varying scenery from dawn till dusk.

The book is available for purchase on his website, www.razgallery.com, and he will be holding a book signing this weekend at the Village Arts Gallery in Ponte Vedra. At the book signing, visitors will be able to view some of Balotescu's masterpieces displayed in the gallery, flip through the coffee table book and have a sneak preview of his upcoming book featuring photos of the Ponte Vedra area.

The book signing will be held from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29.



Photos provided by Jen Walker

A young girl has fun running through a flock of flamingos put up by Walker.



Gavin recently did a special flocking for “Aunt Jenn,” a healthcare worker located in the Tampa area. Aunt Jenn (right) was working in a long-term care facility that was evacuated due to COVID testing the wastewater for SARS-Cov2. She usually gets to see her nieces and nephews in Ponte Vedra Beach twice a month when visiting the hospitals in the Jacksonville area. However, this year she may not get to see them at all because of the pandemic, so Gavin’s flocking helped brighten her day. “Thank you for making this so special for us,” Aunt Jenn wrote to Gavin.

‘You’ve been flocked’

14-year-old starts business to spread cheer in Ponte Vedra community

By Cassidy Lankford

When 14-year-old Gavin Walker woke up to his lawn decked out in surprise decorations on the morning of his father’s 49th birthday, he was inspired. Walker’s neighbor spent the moonlight hours planting 49 pink flamingos in his yard in celebration of the special day. This incited an ‘aha moment’ in young Walker. Thus, Flocking Flamingos PVB was born.

“After my neighbor decorated our yard, I got the idea to start my own business,” said Walker. For the past three months, Walker has been going around the Ponte Vedra and Nocatee areas decorating yards within the community for special occasions. “We mostly decorate for birthdays, but we’ve also done decorations for anniversaries, graduations and welcome home celebrations.”

When Walker gets a request for a decorative surprise — a “flocking,” as he calls

it — he slips away in the night to concoct the perfect celebratory surprise. Accompanied by his parents, Walker goes to the lawn and decorates it to perfection. The flamingos are adorned with sparkling beads and tropical leis, brightening up the yard to make it beautiful for any celebration. Themed signs are also placed in the yard to send a cheerful message to the clients. Walker also offers the option for clients to upgrade to custom signs displaying the name of those being celebrated.

“My favorite thing about doing this is hearing back from people after I’m done,” Walker stated, explaining that he is motivated by spreading cheer within the Ponte Vedra community. Although it only takes Walker around 30 minutes to decorate a yard, the memories that he creates can last a lifetime.

Walker’s goals for the future include

FLAMINGOS continues on Page 9



A young boy sits on a flamingo after his yard was “flocked” by 14-year-old Gavin Walker. Gavin has “flocked” people’s yards with flamingos in party hats, beads and leis for birthdays, graduations, welcoming them home from the hospital or just for fun.

Junior Achievement of North Florida is searching for next president

Junior Achievement of North Florida is looking to fill the position of president and the nonprofit is now accepting resumes from qualified candidates. Current President and CEO Steve St. Amand recently announced his retirement and JA is accepting resumes to fill his position through 5 p.m. on Sept. 25.

“We are accepting resumes from both internal and external candidates with a record of demonstrated success at the

executive level,” said Mary Ann Callahan, chair of JA of North Florida’s board of directors. “We are looking for a strategic leader who can take and build on what Steve has accomplished over the last 20 years. We encourage everyone who meets the required qualifications to send us their resume for review.”

The president of JA of North Florida will oversee the entire organization and will be responsible for finances, fundrais-

ing, staff management and development, administrative operations and public and community relations. He or she will also take part in board development and program management.

The position requires a candidate with a bachelor’s degree or equivalent business experience who is a strategic thinker and decision maker. The candidate should have at least four years of experience in a related field with a successful track

record and be a relationship builder with excellent management, communication, organization and interpersonal skills.

Resumes, cover letters and salary requirements should be sent to Junior Achievement at One Education Way, Colorado Springs, CO, 80906 or emailed to presidenthiring@ja.org with Jacksonville noted in the subject line.

St. Amand will be stepping down from the position on Dec. 31.

Mike Seese is an Army retiree, Nocatee resident, physician assistant at Lyerly Neurosurgery and medical aesthetician at Ponte Vedra's own Youthful Medical Spa.

As told to Cassidy Lankford

Can you tell me a little bit about your background?

I was a hospital corpsman in the Navy when my direct supervisor got accepted to PA school. That opened my eyes to the profession, but the local program was very hard to get into and quite expensive. Fast forward five years, I had completed nursing school, had changed over to the Army National Guard and again, my direct supervisor got accepted to a PA program. This time, it was the military program, the Interservice Physician Assistant Program, or IPAP, that trains the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard PAs. I was nearly finished with a BS in biochemistry at the time. The IPAP was struggling to get students to pass the biochemistry portion of the curriculum at the time. This set me up to get accepted on my first try. This was an active duty program, which meant I had the incredible fortune of being paid to be a student. I owed the Army six years of National Guard time, which got me one tour in Iraq. From a medical standpoint, that tour ended up being one of the highlights of my professional career. I retired from the Army in 2018 after 25 years of service.

What sparked your desire to specialize in spinal neurosurgery?

In spinal surgery, I really enjoy how we can change people's lives by reducing their pain and increasing their mobility.

And how did you get involved in medical aesthetics?

Medical aesthetics accidentally fell onto my plate. A colleague at the hospital was opening a spa and needed some help covering weekends. The schedule worked for me, and it was a totally new area of medicine that has incredible appeal because, unlike most other clinic positions, people are really happy to be there! I enjoyed the atmosphere and satisfaction of providing an immediate benefit that made people happy.

What do you enjoy most about working and living in the Ponte Vedra area?

The clients we have at the spa are fantastic. While many are locals from Ponte Vedra and the Beaches, I also see a lot of clients that drive from Amelia Island, Orange Park and Palm Coast. I think our team of really talented nurse practitioners, PAs and aestheticians is the difference that draws people in from the surrounding areas and keeps them coming back. We aren't commission-based, which puts our focus on delivering the best service that is most appropriate for each individual person we see. My wife, Stephanie, and I were drawn to the Ponte Vedra area and moved here in 2017 when we got married. Back in March we built a house in Nocatee's Twenty Mile neighborhood.



Photo by Cassidy Lankford

What do you find to be the greatest challenge within your industry?

COVID-19 has certainly introduced a whole new level of challenges, but I think the world is tired of hearing about that. PAs and nurse practitioners will always have an identity challenge, because we aren't the doctor or the nurse. Some people just aren't aware of our role and question our expertise. I think the best way I can mitigate this is with patient education. Not just by telling patients what my role is, but educating them on their situation. By going over their anatomical issue, explaining

why some things are happening, explaining in normal terms how to address the issue and how they will get through this time in their life. People realize just how invested in their success I am, and this helps them to recognize the profession. The ability to spend a few minutes and connect on a personal level is a feature of my job that too often is skipped over in some practices because of overloaded schedules.

Tell me more about what you like to do in your free time.

My family loves water sports. All of

my kids enjoy reeling in a big fish. If I'm not working, you can likely find me in blue water trolling for wahoo, tuna and mahi or dropping down for cobia or snapper. I've been a scuba diver for years and enjoy diving for fossils. I have a pretty awesome collection of large megalodon teeth that I've found diving around the East Coast. I recently talked my wife into getting SCUBA certified, and took her for an awesome hammerhead shark dive in the Bahamas for her first open water experience. Hard to top that for a first dive!

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

"I put the fun in fungus."



THERE'S A FUNGUS AMONG US!

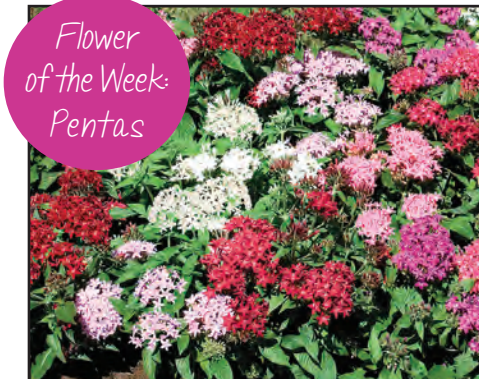
This time of year in North Florida involves frequent rain and much humidity. Both of which cause fungus on flowers and plants.

In order to control fungus and pests in the garden, there are many different chemicals and organic products on the market. It can be overwhelming when you see all of the options but we can help with a general rule of thumb. One chemical product can be used for each category of fungus.

Insecticide: Malathion (used on fruits, vegetables, landscaping and shrubs to control pests)

Fungicide: Daconil (used to treat over 75 diseases on flowers, landscaping, fruit and shade trees)

There are more natural ways to treat pests and fungus in the garden, but they require extra attention and continuous effort. This recipe may need to be applied weekly until you attain results for pests and disease.



Flower of the Week: Pentas

DIY organic spray: One teaspoon vegetable oil plus one teaspoon non-degreasing liquid dishwashing detergent per gallon of water.

With different types of sod in Northeast Florida, it is recommended to discuss sod treatment with a lawn care company or sod expert for what products will be best for your yard!

Once we move out of the rainy season, you will not need to treat pests and fungus as frequently for the remainder of the year.

Happy gardening!

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

Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting
Thursday, August 27th at 4 P.M.



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Dr. Heinz is a board certified chiropractor and specializes in Active Release Techniques (ART). He believes in eliminating pain and resolving his patients' medical issues rather than pursuing treatments that result in never ending visits. Dr. Heinz is a chiropractor who cares. He listens intently to his patients to help them achieve better overall health. He will take the extra time that is needed to treat you correctly rather than rushing through an appointment for a quick adjustment.

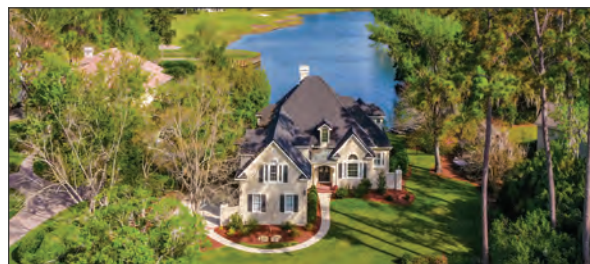
Dr. Heinz is a Jacksonville native, former starting pitcher for The George Washington University Colonials, and currently resides in the Nocatee community.



Spectacular Views in Sawgrass Island

Located in Sawgrass Island on an estate-sized lot this spacious single story home showcases spectacular water to golf views. With high ceilings, generous windows, and custom details throughout this home was built to accommodate all your needs.

4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms \$1,450,000



Pristine Waterfront

Immaculately maintained home located on a cul de sac on the largest lake in Marsh Landing features a spacious floor plan, first floor master, and expansive 180-degree water views showcased throughout.

4 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms \$1,195,000



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



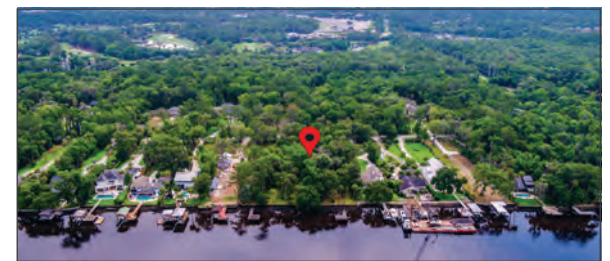
Intracoastal Condo + Boat Slip

Located in the private gated community of Marina San Pablo, this 6th story luxury condo offers a convenient location, resort style amenities, and phenomenal views of the marina and Intracoastal Waterway along with a 20x50 boat slip. **3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths \$739,500**



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Intracoastal Waterfront Lot

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OBITUARIES

Suzanne Robinson

Suzanne Robinson, 64, passed away on August 20, 2020. She was born on August 25, 1955 in Coral Gables, Florida. She grew up in Jacksonville and has been a resident of the Beaches since 1987.

She was a wonderful mother, daughter, nana and friend. She was incredibly loyal and loving. She always knew how to light up a room. She was known for always being the best dressed and always exuded elegance and grace. If you knew her, you knew her embrace was full of comfort and love. She always put others first. Her loving daughters and beautiful grandbabies were her world. Her sons-in-law



Suzanne Robinson

were "her boys" and she knew she could always count on them. We've always admired her strength which she gained from her beautiful mother.

Suzanne is survived by Lori (Jason) Moonen, Beth

(Colin) Downey, her four grandchildren, her mother, Chick Roberts, and her four siblings, Linda, Debbie, Billy and Joanie.

A private family graveside service will be held.

Please visit the online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.

Quinn Shalz
Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
3600 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Phone: 904.249.1100 Fax: 904.241.7554

Jack R. Flood

Jack R. Flood, 92, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Aug. 21, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Vivian Boolbol Gardner

Vivian Boolbol Gardner, 88, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Aug. 17, 2020.

Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Jean Howard

Jean Howard, 86, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Aug. 18, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

James Joyce

James Joyce, 56, of St. Augustine, Florida, died Aug. 22, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Dorothy Knerr

Dorothy Knerr, 94, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died Aug. 23, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Serwershwer Mathur

Serwershwer Mathur, 88, died Aug. 14, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Duffy McCoy

Duffy McCoy, 67, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died Aug. 21, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

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Flamingos

Continued from 5

obtaining more decorations so he is able to carry out many flockings at once. Currently Walker owns about 150 flamingos, enough to decorate three to four yards at a time. As his business continues to grow, he plans to invest in more decorations to expand his horizons and continue spreading love throughout the Ponte Vedra community.

In addition to his business of spreading celebratory cheer, Walker is a new student at Ponte Vedra High School, a bagger at the Sawgrass Village Publix, and a soon-to-be Eagle Scout. He is in the process of becoming an Eagle Scout and

is currently working on his final project – building six dog houses for the local Animal Care Protective Services. By October of this year, the 14-year-old will achieve his goal of becoming an Eagle Scout – an impressive feat for a young man of his age. In his free time, Walker enjoys gaming and spending time with his family.

The cost of Walker’s services start at \$35 and he offers a variety of upgrades to enhance the experience. Walker handles the setup and breakdown of the decorative experience, leaving his customers to sit back and relax as their lawn is transformed into a tropical paradise.

To contact Walker for a flocking of your own, find his Facebook page at Flocking Flamingos PVB for a celebratory experience of your own.



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BACK TO SCHOOL

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OF JACKSONVILLE OPENS ON 3 CAMPUSES FOR 1ST TIME

Jennifer Ketchum, head of Episcopal Lower School, Beaches Campus, cuts a ribbon to open school Aug. 13 at the campus for the first time as Episcopal School of Jacksonville. The Beaches Campus, which is for pre-K through 6th grade, was one of three campuses opened by the Episcopal School of Jacksonville — the first time in the school's history the school year has opened on three campuses. The other two are the Munnerlyn Campus in Jacksonville (grades 6-12) and St. Mark's Campus in Jacksonville (ages 1 through 6th grade).

Photo provided by Episcopal School of Jacksonville



Tips for going back to school during COVID-19 pandemic

With the school year underway in some places and fast approaching in others, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed everything about daily life, including the way children will return to the classroom and after-school activities.

Parents should begin building good hygiene habits as soon as possible, preferably before their children go back to school. It's important to review proper handwashing techniques and remind children to cover sneezes and coughs. Children also need to understand how to practice social distancing and wear a mask or face covering to protect themselves from getting or spreading COVID-19.

NOT JUST SUPERHEROES WEAR MASKS

With schools preparing to reopen, Dr. Bethany Atkins, pediatrician with Wolfson Children's Hospital and president of the Northeast Florida Pediatric Society, said now is the time to get kids comfortable with wearing a mask.

"The most important thing parents and children need to know is that wearing a mask helps us to protect others and keeps us from spreading the disease," Atkins said. "You can make wearing a mask fun. Just as your child picks out a red shirt or a blue shirt, allow him or her to select the color or style of mask he or she wants to wear to school."

Parents should also encourage children to keep their fingers away from their face and to reach behind their ears if they need to adjust the mask. Children model good behavior, so Atkins said it's important for adults to set a good example and approach mask wearing as a normal activity that keeps everyone safe.

KEEP UP TO DATE ON WELL-CHILD VISITS AND VACCINATIONS

Families are encouraged to continue bringing children to the doctor's office for annual well-child visits.

"Missing a well-child visit can put your child's health at risk," Atkins said. "Staying on schedule makes it possible to find medical or developmental problems at an early stage, in time to resolve them."

Along with well-child visits, parents are encouraged not to miss or delay routine immunizations. Vaccines provide important protection against infections and keep children safe from many serious illnesses. According to Dr. Mobeen Rathore, chief of pediatric infectious disease and immunology for Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville, there could be a resurgence of preventable diseases without vaccinations. Immunizations also prevent deadly diseases from spreading to others.

"We are concerned that if kids don't get their vaccinations, there may be an

outbreak of a different disease down the road," Rathore said. "Parents shouldn't let COVID-19 keep them from taking their child to the pediatrician and getting the vaccines he or she needs for protection from preventable diseases like measles, mumps and rubella."

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS?

With COVID-19 cases surging in Florida, chances are increasing that many of us will be exposed to someone with the virus. Far fewer cases of the virus have been reported in children, and the virus typically seems to cause a milder infection in children than in adults and the elderly. Still, some kids have developed more serious symptoms.

Symptoms related to COVID-19 infection in children include:

- Fever that lasts several days
- Belly pain
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Rash
- Red, cracked lips
- Red eyes
- Swelling of the hands or feet
- Joint pain
- Dizziness
- Vision problems
- Headache
- Looking pale

If your child begins to experience symptoms, call your pediatrician. Your doctor's office will tell you what to do next and whether you need an in-person visit. In most cases, the treatment is isolation, fluids and rest while continuing to monitor symptoms.

If your child is severely ill, take him or her to an emergency center immediately.

"Emergency care is needed if the child shows severe illness symptoms such as high fever or very low body temperature, shortness of breath, fainting or confusion," said Dr. Michael Gayle, chief of Pediatric Critical Care at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, hospitals and doctor's offices are safe with many extra measures in place to treat patients. All Wolfson Children's facilities have additional guidelines in place to care for patients in a safe manner without exposing them to the risk of infection. More information is available at wolfsonchildrens.com/safety.

Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville provides specialized pediatric care for children in North Florida, South Georgia and beyond. Services provided at Wolfson Children's Hospital are provided primarily by pediatric physician specialists with Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Jacksonville, University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville, UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (for cardiac surgery services) and Emergency Resources Group.



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Column: Local real estate market looking good despite pandemic.

Protecting coastal property from salt water, flooding and other threats.



Beacon Lake among properties joining the 2020 Northeast Florida Parade of Homes.

First Coast Sotheby's to increase presence in St. Augustine with acquisition of Saltwater Property Group.

Engel & Volkers to open second area location at Shoppes of St. Johns.



RangeWater debuts new Olea-brand active adult communities, including one in Nocatee.

iBuyers: What you need to know about these all-cash buyers – convenience vs. top dollar



Kathleen Floryan
Guest Columnist

You may have heard on the radio or seen in print, “I’ll get you a cash offer for your home,” or even better “I buy ugly houses!” So, what and who are these programs and are they “safe,” “worth it” or just another scam? Interestingly

enough, this is becoming a new real estate industry innovation you may be hearing more about as expansion occurs.

An “iBuyer” is generally known in the real estate industry as a real estate investment company that uses an automated valuation model (eg. Zestimate) and other technology to identify, and then purchase, homes like yours that meet its purchasing investment criteria.

After identifying homes that meet its investment criteria, an iBuyer may provide homeowners with written offers to purchase their homes, often on terms that may be favorable to a homeowner in certain circumstances. A homeowner is never obligated to accept an iBuyer’s offer. If a homeowner accepts an iBuyer’s offer, then the homeowner and iBuyer enter into a purchase contract for the sale of the homeowner’s home to the iBuyer.

After an iBuyer purchases a home, it may make improvements and/or repairs to the home, and/or shortly thereafter resell the home to a third-party buyer for a profit or rent the home to tenants.

Most iBuyers choose to resell the homes they purchase to third parties for a profit, while only some choose to rent the home to tenants.

Homeowners find that selling to an iBuyer eliminates their risks of uncertainty due to fluctuations in real estate markets and interest rates. Because these transactions are less likely to fall out of escrow, there is less of an adverse emotional impact on homeowners resulting from transactions that fall apart.

In addition, a sale to an iBuyer is ideal for a risk-averse homeowner, a homeowner needing to quickly relocate for career purposes, an authorized executor desiring to quickly sell the former home of a deceased homeowner as part of liquidating a deceased person’s estate or a homeowner who simply wishes to sell the home quickly without the emotional wait-and-see rollercoaster that is often associated with the traditional sales and negotiating model. This option gives sellers a greater degree of certainty, convenience and sense of control over their home-selling transaction.

Why would a seller choose a “convenience” option over top dollar?

Here are some of the reasons. No uncertainty. Buyers are cash. No seller concessions. No double moves. They pick the closing date and move just once. No double mortgages. Only contingency is an iBuyer inspection (typically completed in five days but dependent on scheduling of inspectors). No nosy neighbors. No MLS (or MLS syndica-

tion) equals privacy (unless mandated by MLS rules). With real estate agent involvement, the seller doesn’t run the risk of accidentally selling their home for less than they should because they don’t know any better.

So, what a seller really wants is two-fold: Either top dollar or convenience. When I say convenience, I’m really talking about certainty. Many sellers, depending on the situation, will sacrifice dollars for certainty. Your trusted real estate advisor should have the skills to help you distill all the market noise and make a sound decision on what’s important to you after being presented with all the options. It is the real estate professional’s job to educate homeowners so they are exposed to all the choices and are able to make the best decision for their situation.

COVID-19 has had an impact and a few of these iBuyer platforms and some have halted operations for the time being, but not Express Offers. ZillowOffers just resumed on Aug. 4 in 24 cities around the country, including Miami. If you are interested in this method of selling your home, you may check the other iBuyers programs to see if they service your city.

For most iBuyer programs, you’ll pay a built-in service fee (typically 6-13%), plus your standard seller closing costs. But other costs may not be so obvious. Zillow Offers will also deduct any necessary repairs from your offer price following an onsite inspection, which can further erode your net proceeds.

Express Offers, located in 32 states and

soon to be in all 50 states, provides an alternative for sellers in that there are no added service (convenience) fees. The offer is the offer and not based on inspections. Express Offer iBuyers will already have a property condition report and photos to support its offer decision. You as the seller only pay the real estate listing side of a commission, which is negotiated at the upfront at the time of the agreement to request a no-obligation offer. This saves the seller significant dollars from the other programs mentioned.

ZillowOffers, OpenDoor and OfferPad are iBuyer groups known for very narrow buying criteria, which limits the potential that your home would qualify for an offer. Because Express Offers has a marketplace of buyers who seek a wide variety of homes, including condos, mobile homes, townhouses and vacant land, the probability of matching your property for sale with an iBuyer is greater. iBuyers in the Express Offer platform must demonstrate they have purchased at least 50 properties in the past year for cash and have significant portfolios to support more purchases. New iBuyers are added frequently.

If you are considering selling your home to an iBuyer, get with an experienced real estate professional who can eliminate any confusion you may have, negotiate the transaction, demonstrate your net proceeds, explain your costs/benefits and guide you to whether top dollar or the time value of money is more important.

Tips for protecting coastal property from salt water and more

Many people dream of owning coastal properties. Some aspire to have a home away from home for vacations or long weekends, while others move to the coast to be nearer to family or when they reach retirement age.

Living close to the water can be relaxing, and it’s hard to beat the fresh air and the relaxing sound of the waves. However, coastal homes require some unique upkeep that prospective buyers should familiarize themselves with before buying a property.

SALT WATER

Salt buildup is one of the pitfalls of living close to the ocean. Salt is corrosive to metal components, so homeowners are advised to avoid metal parts in various areas of construction on their homes. Windows and doors are particularly at risk because they face the constant on-



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

Even amid crisis, real estate market in Northeast Florida positive for sellers and buyers

By Jan Fisher

Guest Columnist

The ancient phrase, “May you live in interesting times,” used to be an ironic expression, now it can easily be identified as a curse.

Life has changed and we may well be living in a new normal. That could especially be true depending on what region of the country you are from. Turn on the news on any given night and you hear about civil unrest. Couple that with the COVID-19 crises and you begin to see a picture that Ponte Vedra and the Beaches are really good places to call home. That’s especially true when you take the real estate market into consideration.

Take New York for example. That’s an area that traditionally has held its value. Now, there’s a new dawn breaking, and the city is in shadows. The latest NYC real estate market forecast indicates home prices are flat and will probably decrease in the next 12 months. The statistics just don’t get a lot better. Pending sales are down 25% compared to 2019, and prices

are decreasing, and the inventory of existing homes is inching up.

It could well be that COVID forced people to take their office to their house. They have found they no longer need to commute to the city every day. They only need a computer and cell phone to conduct most business. They are beginning to turn on the light at the end of the hall, and they are seeing the potential for a better quality of life, less taxes and a tremendous improvement in lifestyle by relocating to Florida.

In Northeast Florida, the statistics are staggering. Sales of existing homes are up 16% over last year to date. Median sales prices increased by more than 15%. And the most telling statistic ... demand is up and supply is down.

If you are a homeowner, that’s the perfect storm. Now is the time to sell and move up. If you are a buyer, now is the time to purchase. Prices are going to increase, especially if demand continues to rise.

Living in the sunshine has its advantages.

Coastal

Continued from 12

slaughter of Mother Nature. Fiberglass, vinyl and aluminum are less corrosive than other metal parts and should be considered in window framing. Homeowners may need to apply lubricant to moving parts, locks and fasteners to keep them moving smoothly.

Consult with a lawn and garden expert about which coastal plants thrive with high levels of salt in the air. Professionals can make recommendations on low-maintenance landscapes that will not be damaged by the sun and salt.

Humidity and salt concentrations also can cause concern indoors. Mold likes damp, dark conditions, so homeowners should do their best to keep their homes dry and well-ventilated. Rely on dehumidifiers to take moisture out of the air. Install more vents to draw air outside and create fresh air flow.

COASTAL FLOODING

Coastal flooding is another concern for homeowners who live close to the water. Prospective buyers should first determine if the house they want to buy is in a flood zone or an evacuation zone. This is information that may come up when applying for homeowner’s insurance, as flood insurance

is a separate policy.

Individuals may have to take special measures to protect their homes from incoming tides or high waters during storms. The National Flood Insurance Program provides a flood damage simulator to predict the total cost of flood repair based on the height of the water. For 1 to 4 inches of water, the estimated repair cost is \$7,800. For 9 to 12 inches, the estimate is \$18,930. At 18 inches, the estimated cost is \$26,285. Homeowners may want to invest in lifting their homes or taking other preventative measures if coastal flooding is common.

PRIVACY AND SAFETY

Living by the ocean can be great, but coastal towns are often a magnet for tourists. Homeowners with seaside homes or homes in popular tourist areas may want to take extra steps to create privacy and security. Fencing and natural windblocks can block the view of backyards and other outdoor spaces. An alarm system can offer peace of mind in areas close to resort towns. Adequate lighting can deter trespassers as well.

Living by the ocean is a dream for many people. The increased upkeep required on a coastal home is often a small price to pay for such luxury, but it’s something prospective buyers should consider before buying a home.

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Acquisition expands Sotheby's presence in St. Augustine

By Shaun Ryan

First Coast Sotheby's International Realty has acquired a St. Augustine-based company, expanding its presence in the Nation's Oldest City.

Earlier this month, the firm announced its acquisition of Saltwater Property Group, which has brought in more than \$22 million in sales revenue since its inception 15 years ago.

"The reason that we did this was because the St. Augustine market has been so well-crafted and positioned for growth, and doing it in a very responsible way, that we wanted to be a part of that and expose the properties there to a wider audience and bring luxury service to the



Joe Hatin



Lou Izzo

community," said Lou Izzo, First Coast Sotheby's managing partner and chief executive officer.

Indeed, Sotheby's — which was started in 1744 in London, England — operates in 72 countries and has more than 1,000 real estate offices. Among its Northeast Florida offices is one in Ponte Vedra.

"We expose properties communitywide, statewide and regionally, nationally and internationally," said Izzo. "We really don't leave any stone unturned in marketing homes for our sellers."

Saltwater Property Group owner Joe Hatin will remain as broker-associate.

"First Coast Sotheby's International Realty brings a whole new level of service and excellence to our agents and clients," Hatin said. "Sotheby's International Realty is a globally recognized leader in luxury real estate, and the acquisition will enable us to continue our commitment in meeting and exceeding customer expectations thanks to the brand's unrivaled international network, powerful marketing tools and the highest

level of customer service."

Izzo said every member of the Saltwater group's staff has been retained.

"The agent group and the staff at Saltwater Property were outstanding people that we knew would fit into our culture and be part of our team," said Izzo.

The Sotheby's name is immediately recognizable for its association with unique treasures.

"The brand has been built on a commitment to marketing the world's most valuable possessions and selling them at the highest price that they can possibly be sold for," said Izzo.

It's a philosophy that extends to the company's real estate market.

"That's our commitment," said Izzo.

Beacon Lake Builders joins 2020 parade of homes

Dream Finders Homes and Mattamy Homes models open for tours

The lakefront lifestyle community of Beacon Lake and its premier builder team, Dream Finders Homes and Mattamy Homes, have entered two designer-decorated model homes in the Northeast Florida Parade of Homes.

The Parade of Homes, which showcases the latest in home innovation and design, runs Aug. 29 through Sept. 13. The event is free and open to the public.

"We are proud of our decorated models at Beacon Lake and excited to participate in this important industry event," said Bruce J. Parker, managing director for BBX Capital Real Estate, Beacon Lake's master developer. "The Parade of Homes provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase our builders' award-winning homes and Beacon Lake's natural beauty and family-friendly neighborhood setting. I encourage everyone to visit Beacon Lake and see all that we have to offer."

The Beacon Lake models featured in the Parade of Homes include:

The Boca II model by Dream Finders Homes

This farmhouse-style home features a variety of options to accommodate your specific needs. The family room is at the heart of this home and features a gas-burning fireplace and a 9-foot sliding glass door. The gourmet kitchen and dining room are an open concept layout. This home is also equipped with a large master suite with a bay window, dual closets, a freestanding soaking tub and a grand walk-in shower.

The Tradewind model by Mattamy Homes

The Tradewind effortlessly blends contemporary and classic in this four-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath design. The long,



The Boca II model by Dream Finders Homes at Beacon Lake



The Tradewind model by Mattamy Homes at Beacon Lake

traditional foyer leads past a flex room and formal dining room into a modern, open-concept floorplan perfect for entertaining. The gourmet kitchen and breakfast bar overlook the breakfast nook, covered lanai and the family room. A wall of windows fills the airy space with an abundance of natural light in the family room. Sliding glass doors lead to a beautiful outdoor

extended covered lanai and an additional paved firepit with seating area. Upstairs, there is a versatile loft area, perfect for a multitude of uses, a sumptuous master suite, three additional bedrooms and a laundry room. No fewer than eight available plan options offer generous flexibility to make this home your own.

Dream Finders Homes, Mattamy Homes

and Toll Brothers at Beacon Lake are building coastal-inspired single-family homes featuring welcoming front porches and open floor plans. Dream Finders also is building luxury townhomes at Beacon Lake. Seven beautifully decorated model homes are currently open daily for tours.

Beacon Lake offers residents the very best of St. Johns County living. The thoughtfully designed neighborhood features pocket parks and stop-a-whiles for enjoying the community's natural surroundings. Beacon Lake has an intimate and friendly feel, making it an excellent place to live and raise a family.

The heart and pride of the Beacon Lake community is the 8,200-square-foot Lake House Amenity and Fitness Center. Anchored by a 43-acre paddle-friendly lake and nestled within 358 acres of nature preserve, the Lake House is situated to maximize half-mile lake views and provides a stunning backdrop for sunrises and sunsets. Luxuriously appointed, yet warm and welcoming, the Lake House features today's most desirable amenities — a junior Olympic swimming pool, fun pool and Splash Park plus a crew house for kayak rentals and a demonstration kitchen. The state-of-the-art fitness center offers virtual fitness classes, cardio-and-strength-training equipment, free weights, spin bikes and a fitness studio. Children of all ages enjoy the lakeside sand beach, pirate-themed playground and sports fields. A bark park offers furry residents and their owners a place to exercise, socialize and play. The community has miles of multi-purpose paths, perfect for walking, running or biking.

Beacon Lake is within the St. Johns County Public School District and zoned for A-rated schools including Ocean Palms Elementary School, Alice B. Landrum Middle School and Allen D. Nease High School for the 2020-2021 school year.

Go to www.BeaconLake.com for more information.

Photos provided by clockworkmarketing.com



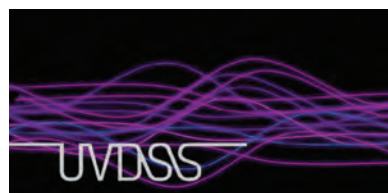
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Engel & Völkers to debut office at Shoppes of St. Johns Parkway

By Shaun Ryan

Engel & Völkers, a global luxury real estate brand, will soon open its second Engel & Völkers Jacksonville location. The new office will debut within the next two weeks at 160 Shops Blvd. in St. Johns.

A grand opening is tentatively planned for later in the year.

“Our advisers are so excited to have a presence in the 210 corridor, in addition to our thriving Engle & Völkers Jacksonville Beach Shop, to continue to provide our clients the highest level of service we pride ourselves on,” said Corey Hasting, license partner of Engel & Völkers Jacksonville.

The new shop will be nearly 3,000 square feet, with 12 private offices and two conference rooms. It will be the company’s 40th location in Florida.

Engel & Völkers is different from other real estate firms in that selling advisers must be invited to join. To be part of the



Corey Hasting



Timo Khammash

company, each adviser must sell \$3 million or more per year. Only a small percentage of real estate agents meet that threshold.

The new location will be under the Engel & Völkers Jacksonville umbrella, which has 31 selling advisers, a full-time shop manager, marketing manager and a couple of assistants. Many of those people live in St. Johns, Nocatee or Mandarin and are familiar with the local real estate market.

“St. Johns is a thriving, growing community,” said Hasting. “Every single day,

there are new restaurants or new developments or new houses being built. So, for us, just to be a part of that community is super exciting.”

He said these qualities allow the company to attract some of the best talent in the county.

“We just want to give premier customer service to every single client, every single customer,” Hasting said.

Michael McNaughton, chief operating officer of Shoppes of St. Johns Parkway developer Sleiman Enterprises, welcomed the brokerage.

“This will be the perfect location to serve the St. Johns community,” he said.

Before becoming a broker, Hasting consistently ranked among the top 50 residential real estate agents of Northeast Florida and was awarded numerous accolades. Engel & Völkers Jacksonville has closed more than 400 transactions to date and has an inventory of nearly 100 listings.

The firm’s Jacksonville Beach location opened in April 2018 and since has become one of the top brokerages in the area.

“It’s been tremendously successful,” Hasting said.

“While our focus is typically on expanding into new markets throughout Florida, we highly value the relationships we have with our license partners and are overjoyed at their achievements — especially if it allows them to grow and expand their own business to new heights,” said Timo Khammash, managing partner of Engel & Völkers Florida. “We look forward to partnering with other talented brokers in Northeast Florida, to continue our expansion in sub-markets throughout the region.”

Engle & Völkers was founded in 1977 in Hamburg, Germany. It operates about 175 locations with more than 4,000 real estate advisers in the Americas.

Lennar selects Hampton Golf to manage Stillwater development

Firm to create active adult lifestyle for 18-hole golf course, community in St. Johns County

The Northeast Florida division of Lennar Corporation, the nation’s largest builder of quality homes for all generations, selects

Hampton Golf as the management partner for Stillwater, the 556-home active adult community in St. Johns County.

Led by former PGA of America president M.G. Orender, Hampton Golf manages golf courses and country clubs throughout the U.S. The team will use their wealth of experience to create a first-class active adult lifestyle for Stillwater, centered around the 18-hole on-site golf course designed by renowned architect Bobby Weed, whose projects locally include Slammer and Squire Golf Course and Golf Club at Fleming Island. Hampton Golf will also manage the clubhouse with poolside snack bar, on-site restaurant, resort-style swimming pool, tennis and bocce ball courts and a host of other amenities to be announced.

“Hampton Golf is the natural fit to bring Stillwater to life. Working with M.G. and the Palencia Club team, we witnessed firsthand the incredible experiences they create

for communities,” said Matt Devereaux, division president for Lennar in North Florida. “We chose Hampton Golf because they cater to the entire active adult lifestyle — from the restaurant, the pool, tennis and more. Hampton Golf brings that expertise to manage all the amenities our buyers want and need, on or off the course.”

This luxury resident experience will include an array of clubs, daily activities and events for the community. Hampton Golf manages 1,100 unique lifestyle-focused events per year, with weekly experiences like “Wedges & Whiskey,” “Ladies’ Luau Guest Golf Day,” and “Golf Practice Sessions with PGA Professionals.”

“From an event lifestyle perspective, it’s like living on a cruise ship. There are multi-

GOLF COURSE continues on **Page 20**

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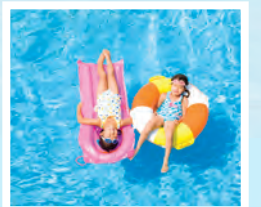
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5 factors to consider when buying a home

Home ownership is a dream for many people. In fact, buying a home is considered by many people to be a major life accomplishment.

Various factors determine what makes a home an attractive place to live. While some considerations may overlap, others may be unique to individual buyers. Those new to the real estate arena may want to consider the following factors as they search for a new place to call home.

1. PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes can greatly affect the overall cost of living in a particular home. The real estate company RedFin says property taxes are generally levied by each county and often include taxes paid to schools, utility companies and municipal governments. Property taxes will usually be factored into a monthly mortgage payment, and how high (or low) taxes are can turn an affordable mortgage payment into something that can break a budget. When calculating payments, be sure to include property taxes in your estimates.

2. JOB SECURITY/AVAILABILITY

The financial resource Fortune Builder says to consider your job security before taking the home ownership plunge. Before committing to an investment as substantial as a home, ensure that you are secure in your job. Similarly, if you are relocating for job prospects, verify that the new location has a thriving job market.

3. LOCAL SCHOOLS

For potential homeowners with children or those planning on becoming parents, area schools should merit significant consideration. Research school rankings and reviews, but know that rankings can change. American Family Insurance Company says to also look at the school budget history of towns you're considering to see if residents prioritize funding for education. This can be a measure of how important education is in a given community.



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

Those new to the real estate arena may want to consider some factors as they search for a new place to call home.

4. COMMUTE TIMES

Home ownership involves both lifestyle and financial decisions. Calculate the time it will take to travel to and from work when considering a certain town or neighborhood. Find out if there is mass transit and what options are available for off-hour travel needs.

5. LIFESTYLE OPTIONS

Quality nightlife, arts and history, community events, proximity to cultural centers or cities, and other factors are at play in choosing a home. Make sure your new community allows you to still enjoy the things you're passionate about.

Buying a home involves considering various factors that can affect your budget and quality of life.

Golf course

Continued from 18

ple opportunities to get fit, be active and be social," said Travis Norman, executive vice president for Hampton Golf. "Every day there will be something going on for residents to enjoy. We make the lifestyle our residents want into a reality."

Located between Longleaf Pine Parkway and Greenbriar Road (County Road 210), the development marks the first 18-hole golf course to be built in the area in over a decade. Stillwater will also be the first active adult community with a golf course in Northeast Florida.

"Lennar is known for great communities with first-class golf courses as a central amenity. This is a milestone for the area, and it means a lot of growth and vitality for the game here in Northeast Florida," Orender said. "The timing couldn't be better. Across every market, we've seen a tremendous resurgence in the game of golf. People are re-discovering how social, competitive and fun the sport is. Working with Lennar and Bobby Weed to bring a new community and course to life in this corridor provides a great opportunity."

Go to LennarJacksonville.com to learn more.

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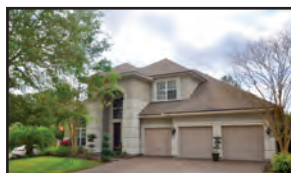


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RangeWater debuts Olea brand at 2 Florida communities

Company's first age-targeted projects open doors to residents

RangeWater Real Estate's first two age-targeted communities, Olea at Viera and Olea at Nocatee, opened their doors to residents this month in Florida.

The new Olea brand is purposefully designed for empty nesters looking to lead an active and social lifestyle with the convenience and freedom of apartment living. The two projects are located 140 miles apart on Florida's east coast and mark the start of RangeWater's age-targeted housing expansion across the Sun Belt.

The concept for Olea is centered around community, with the idea that today's empty nesters, who are more active than preceding generations, seek a vibrant living experience with specialized events and programming unique to their neighborhood. The Olea properties offer amenities that include high-quality appliances and finishes, as well as a furnished library and media room, large activity center, raised garden beds and more social green spaces than most Class A multifamily properties.

"The opening of our first Olea developments represents a significant milestone for our company," said Steven Shores, CEO and president of RangeWater Real Estate. "Age-targeted communities are an important and growing part of our story, and the establishment of the Olea brand demonstrates RangeWater's commitment to delivering quality apartments to empty nesters looking to downsize and lead free, active lives."

Given the current circumstances with COVID-19, RangeWater's management team has been employing creative virtual leasing strategies that connect with potential renters and educate them about the Olea lifestyle. This includes recorded video tours of the homes and amenities, and live virtual tours with an experienced



Photo provided by thewilbertgroup.com

marketing representative. The Olea teams are also hyper-engaged with the local neighborhoods, curating gifts and experiences for each new resident who moves in, in turn supporting local small businesses that may have been struggling these past few months.

"We believe now more than ever residents will seek out properties that embody strong community connectivity," said Michael Oliver, vice President of development at RangeWater. "Our Olea brand was built on that foundation and we are excited to provide highly social communities for these residents, starting with imaginative virtual experiences as we continue to navigate COVID-19 upon opening."

The one-, two- and three-bedroom apartment homes deliver hospitality-level service to residents through onsite

concierge services and a lifestyle coordinator, who will help coordinate cooking classes, cocktail socials, seasonal crafting and more. Olea at Viera and Olea at Nocatee feature resort-style amenities that are ideal for both active and relaxed

lifestyles, including a community garden with worktables and benches; luxury pool area with a fire-pit lounge, hot tub and grills; fitness studio with yoga and cardio; game room with TVs and pool tables; and access to walking trails throughout the communities.

Located in Viera within close proximity to the River Lakes Conservation Area and the Atlantic Ocean, Olea at Viera's 166-unit community offers a top-notch, customized living experience. Whether residents are in the mood to mingle at the farmhouse-style social kitchens and community dining tables or enjoy a relaxing night in their personal oasis complete with granite countertops and spa-worthy tubs, there's something for everyone.

Olea at Nocatee, the 175-unit community in Ponte Vedra, is located just minutes away from pristine beaches and miles of multi-use fitness trails. Its central location offers incredible access to a wide variety of eateries, boutique shopping, health and wellness options and recreational activities.

RangeWater is known for building quality multifamily communities across the Sun Belt and is currently active in Atlanta, Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville, South Florida, Raleigh, Charlotte, Charleston, Dallas, Austin, Nashville and Richmond.

Thank you for your votes in 2019!



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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!



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Business Weekly

PAGE 23 THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

Meet Your Eye Doctor:
Don't delay glaucoma
care during COVID-19

Page 24

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Northrop Grumman VP to speak at Chamber's Economic Development Council event Aug. 28

Randy Bradley, vice president and site leader of Northrop Grumman's St. Augustine Aircraft Integration Center of Excellence, will keynote the quarterly Economic Development Council event hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Friday, Aug. 28.

Participation in this interactive virtual meeting is limited and registration is required. Registration is open through Aug. 27 at www.sjcchamber.com/events/register/4962. The meeting is from 8-9:30 a.m.

Bradley will share news and insights regarding the St. Augustine Aircraft Integration Center of Excellence, one of the county's largest employers. He will also discuss how workforce development, education and training are integral components in the continued economic growth of St. Johns County. Included in the event will be a unique opportunity to virtually connect with Chamber members, community partners and the speaker in an interactive small group session.

The registration fee for Chamber members at the Economic Development Council level is \$35 and the fee for all other participants is \$45. Non-Chamber members can contact Sam Ruiz at Samuel.Ruiz@sjcchamber.com to register.

"We look forward to Randy Bradley's presentation at our Economic Development Council event and to learning more about the St. Augustine Aircraft Integration Center," said Isabelle Renault, president and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. "As we continue to navigate through this new normal, we are grateful that technology provides the opportunity to deliver relevant and meaningful information as well as connect with our members and our community in a safe and engaging environment."

The mission of the EDC is to promote St. Johns County as an ideal business location and to encourage businesses, both large and small, to expand and relocate within St. Johns County. EDC activities and events



Randy Bradley

Vice president and site leader of Northrop Grumman's St. Augustine Aircraft Integration Center of Excellence

are designed to support the success of new and existing businesses in St. Johns County. The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce offers resources to businesses and supports start-up ventures by providing information and connectivity to a variety of local resources.

The sponsors for the Aug. 28 event include: St. Augustine & St. Johns County Board of Realtors (Principal Sponsor); North Florida Regional Airport (Capital Series Sponsor); A.D. Davis Construction, Fisher Koppenhafer Architecture and Interior Design, Florida Blue, Jackson Law Group, Matthews Design Group, North Avenue Capital and PuroClean (Growth Series Sponsors).

To learn more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, go to www.sjcchamber.com.

How can you prepare for the 'new retirement?'



Karsten Jacobson
Columnist

A generation or so ago, people didn't just retire from work — many of them also withdrew from a whole range of social and communal activities. But now, it's different: The large Baby Boom cohort, and no doubt future ones, are insisting on an active lifestyle and continued involvement in their communities and world. So, what should you know about this "new retirement"? And how can you prepare for it?

For starters, consider what it means to be a retiree today. The 2020 Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study has identified these four interrelated, key ingredients, along with the connected statistics, for living well in the new retirement:

■ **Health** — While physical health may decline with age, emotional intelligence — the ability to use emotions in positive ways — actually improves, according to a well-known study from the University of California, among others. However, not surprisingly, retirees fear Alzheimer's and other types of dementia more than any physical ailment, including cancer or infectious diseases, according to the "Four Pillars" study.

■ **Family** — Retirees get their greatest emotional nourishment from family relationships — and they'll do anything it takes to help support those family members, even if it means sacrificing their own financial security. Conversely, retirees lacking close connections with family and friends are at risk for all the negative consequences resulting from physical and social isolation.

JACOBSON continues on Page 25

It's OK if you don't like the president; the stock market doesn't care!



Harry Pappas
Columnist

Recently, and about every four years, I get questions and concerns like this: "Should we consider moving some or all of our money to cash given the political uncertainty about the upcoming presidential election? I am afraid that if Trump loses to Biden the stock market will crash given how well it has done at the helm of the current president."

Many folks asked a similar question of the current pandemic (COVID-19), especially when the market began its gut-wrenching decline in March and the stock market, measured by the S&P 500, went down 34% from its February 19, 2020 high.

To most people's astonishment, the S&P 500 is up 50% over the last 100 trading days, taking it back to just near the all-time high. Folks, this has been arguably the

most incredible advance from a bottom back to the highs in market history that sent just about everyone, including the self-proclaimed experts, into an intellectual and theoretical funk.

The remarkable increase underscores what has been so accurately stated many times in the past. "The stock market will have found a bottom long before the news starts to get better."

I note with grave displeasure that the vast majority of investors fall prey to thinking that he/she can wait until the news gets better before they get back in the market. The stock market graveyards are full of investors who learned this lesson the hard way. Not to make a light of it, but I can hear Gomer Pyle straining his voice in chastisement over folks that try to time the market, saying, "shame, shame, shame."

Aah, feels good to get that off my chest. Now I can take a more academic approach to this column. I

recently read, with great interest, an intriguing 16-page commentary from the well-respected investment firm, Invesco, titled, "2020 US Presidential election, 10 Truths No Matter Who Wins." From Invesco's thought-provoking report, I found the following most interesting:

■ The stock market return was negative for a presidential administration only when the country was in a financial crisis (2008/G.W. Bush) or experiencing a stagflation spiral (1973/Nixon)

■ "Partisan" portfolios, which would only invest when a Democratic or Republican was in office underperformed, by millions of dollars, the "bipartisan" portfolio that stayed invested regardless of who was in office.

■ Some of the best performance of the stock market came when approval rating for the sitting president was in the low range between 36-50%.

PAPPAS continues on Page 25

MEET YOUR
EYE DOC

EYE HEALTH & SAFETY

Delayed care due to COVID-19 threatens to leave glaucoma patients in the dark, research finds



Kenzo J. Koike, M.D.
Florida Eye Specialists

Glaucoma is a disease that damages your eye's optic nerve. It's a leading cause of blindness in the country, and more than 3 million Americans are living with this condition.

Unfortunately, a new study of 200 hospitals across 40 states shows that glaucoma patients across the country aren't seeking the eye treatments they need to preserve sight. Published by U.S. News & World Report, the study found that glaucoma appointments are down 88% since the COVID-19 pandemic. This is concerning given that glaucoma can quickly steal vision, and once it's lost, it cannot be restored.

That's why it's crucial to keep your appointments. Glaucoma is a chronic disease that needs constant management and care. You may be worried, but many eye practices have made special accommodations for high risk patients to allow those who need their appointments to continue receiving

the best care.

Read on to learn more about protecting your sight during COVID-19.

HOW GLAUCOMA AFFECTS VISION

Glaucoma is actually a group of eye diseases, most of which are caused by excess pressure around the optic nerve. When pressure is too high, usually due to a backup of fluids inside the eye, the nerve cannot continue to be healthy, which can lead to vision problems. Most forms of glaucoma begin with the loss of peripheral vision and slowly erode the entire field of vision. If the condition progresses far enough, it can lead to blindness.

Contrary to popular belief, there are hardly any symptoms or signs in the early stages of the disease. Glaucoma develops slowly and painlessly. Vision loss often begins with side or peripheral vision, which may impact an individual's ability to drive safely. By the time patients realize they have vision problems, the damage is irreversible.

GLAUCOMA TREATMENT OPTIONS

Fortunately, there are treatments that can

slow progression if glaucoma is caught early. That's why it's critical for all patients 60 and over to receive regular, comprehensive eye exams, so we can detect glaucoma and begin treatment right away. For a majority of cases, prescription eye drops can help lower intraocular pressure. Most patients respond well to this treatment, delaying or preventing the progression of the disease. For those whose glaucoma is more aggressive, treatment options include laser treatments or eye surgery to relieve the pressure inside the eye.

SAFETY PRACTICES TO PRESERVE VISION

With glaucoma, every day counts toward saving your sight. We would advise caution against skipping your regularly scheduled appointments. Call your eye doctor to ask about the precautions the clinic is taking to ensure your health and safety. For example, at Florida Eye Specialists, some of the safety steps we're taking include limiting our waiting room to 10 patients at a time, at least six feet apart. Everyone's temperature is checked upon arrival, and all staff, doctors and patients are provided masks to

wear at all times. Doctors and staff wash their hands between every patient. We're also providing a "clean" placard on exam chairs, so patients know the room has been disinfected before they enter. Patients will then stay in the same room for all portions of their exam, limiting mobility around the office. Whatever steps your clinic has in place, make sure you feel safe and comfortable before you go for your appointment.

MAINTAIN YOUR EYE CARE AND PROTECT YOUR SIGHT

If you have glaucoma and you're overdue for your eye treatment, don't wait any longer. Remember that clinics are making special accommodations for high risk patients. Your eye care provider is taking every precaution to assure your safety. Talk to your doctor about the safety measures that are in place to protect your health and your sight.

Kenzo J. Koike, M.D., is a board-certified, fellowship-trained ophthalmologist at Florida Eye Specialists. For more information on Dr. Koike and his specialties treating cataracts and glaucoma, visit FloridaEyeSpecialists.com.

Raise your hand if you've ever had shoulder pain.

5 symptoms you shouldn't ignore

If you have shoulder pain, even raising your hand can hurt. How do you know when it's time to see a doctor?

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1. Clicking or popping in the shoulder joint
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5. Numbness, tingling or burning sensation

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Pappas

Continued from 23

■ In the final analysis, neither party can lay claim to the best financial market performance.

As I conclude this relatively short dispatch, let me suggest five things for us to never forget:

1. We do not have to love what is going on in D.C. to prosper in the stock market.
2. Regardless of whom we favor in the coming election, I remind us not to allow our feelings to disrupt our long-term game plan.
3. Every day, heavily credentialed experts predict a market crash soon. At the same time, equally credentialed experts are predicting a continued boom. Who's right? Both are just guessing.
4. Certain fundamental principles endure — diversification, discipline, consistency and the value of experienced guidance.
5. Predictions are very difficult, especially about the future, which is why I steer clear of Vegas.

In closing, I argue with steadfast conviction that if we want stress-relieving, life-appreciating, joy-delivering, mood-lifting, butt-kicking joy, let's stay away from the television and the newspaper, especially the political section! Instead, let's be grateful for what we have, like the sun shining on our face instead of our grave. ... That should be enough to make us all happy and thankful, regardless of who will be the next president.

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Jacobson

Continued from 23

■ **Purpose** – Nearly 90% of Americans feel that there should be more ways for retirees to use their talents and knowledge for the benefit of their communities and society at large. Retirees want to spend their time in useful, rewarding ways — and they're well capable of doing so, given their decades of life experience. Retirees with a strong sense of purpose have happier, healthier lives and report a higher quality of life.

■ **Finances** – Retirees are less interested in accumulating more wealth than they are in having sufficient resources to achieve the freedom to live their lives as they choose. Yet, retirees frequently find that managing money in retirement can be even more challenging than saving for it. And the "unknowns" can be scary: Almost 70% of those who plan to retire in the next 10 years say they have no idea what their healthcare and long-term care costs will be in retirement.

So, if you're getting close to retirement, and you're considering these factors, how can you best integrate them into a fulfilling, meaningful way of life? You'll want to take a "holistic" approach by asking yourself some key questions: What do you want to be able

to do with your time and money? Are you building the resources necessary to enjoy the lifestyle you've envisioned? Are you prepared for the increasing costs of health care as you age? Have you taken the steps to maintain your financial independence, and avoid burdening your family, in case you need some type of long-term care? Have you created the estate plans necessary to leave the type of legacy you desire?

By addressing these and other issues, possibly with the help of a financial professional, you can set yourself on the path toward the type of retirement that's not really a retirement at all — but rather a new, invigorating chapter of your life.

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



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Artist selected to paint Lightner mural

By Shaun Ryan

At 188 square feet, the Lightner Museum's new mural still won't be the largest painting Joshua Cooper has ever done. The one he painted for the Jacksonville Zoo's "Dinosauria" event was approximately 90 feet long by 8 feet high, or 720 square feet.

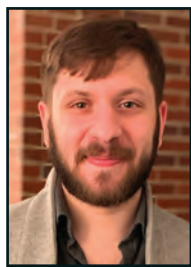
But it will secure the Jacksonville artist an enviable opportunity to have his work permanently displayed among some of the historic treasures of the Nation's Oldest City.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the museum completed renovation of its first floor, including the music room. The floor was redone and walls repainted in the space that houses a collection of 19th-century mechanical musical instruments. The changes left the back wall exposed and ideally suited for a mural.

The museum ran a contest in the spring and summer, inviting artists to submit mural concepts that reflect the Lightner's history, the Gilded Age or the history of music. The winner would receive a \$500 stipend and lifelong museum membership to paint the 23.5-by-8-foot surface.

Cooper was selected. His painting will depict three figures representing the muses but in the style of the early 20th century's Gibson Girls. It will be done in oil and in a realistic style.

The project is especially suited for Cooper, who earned his bachelor's degree from Florida State University.



Joshua Cooper

"I studied late-19th and early-20th century Realist painting and the Realist movement," Cooper said.

In addition to depicting the Ice Age for "Dinosauria," he has painted other murals at the zoo where he is an exhibit technician. But most of his work has been in oil portraiture and he is currently accepting commissions.

Painting a large work takes longer than smaller works, and Cooper projected that the Lightner mural will take him "a little bit less than a month" to complete.

To ensure the image turns out as planned, he has a method that safeguards proportions.

"Before I start painting, I like to do small studies to scale," he said. "That way, I won't have to worry about it. But even before I start painting, I'll lay it out really roughly over the whole surface to get an idea of where things fit and make sure it's proper."

The Lightner Museum is in the former Alcazar Hotel, built in 1888 by Henry Morrison Flagler. It is home to one of America's premier collections of fine and decorative 19th-century and early 20th-century art. Furnishings, paintings, Victorian art glass, cut and blown glass, and natural history specimens are displayed on five floors.

Cooper's mural will be unveiled in the fall.



Photo provided by Joshua Cooper

Joshua Cooper's skill in oil painting can be seen in his "Shana in Sepia" work. Cooper will paint a mural on one wall of the Lightner Museum.

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71						72				73			

THEME: 1980s LYRICS

ACROSS

- Lascaux and Mammoth, e.g.
- At the stern
- Eyeball rudely
- Inuit boat
- And not
- Sing like Sinatra
- Manicurist's file
- Old-fashioned "before"
- "If you ____, I won't cry. I won't waste one single day"
- "Steve walks warily down the street with the brim pulled way ____"
- "She's just a girl who claims I am ____"
- "Play it, ____" from "Casablanca"
- Boris Godunov, e.g.
- "All right stop collaborate and listen, ____ is back.."
- Between Phi and Kappa
- Restriction limiting use of lights during air raid
- J.D. Power awards competitors
- "Oh, back on the chain ____"
- Ann Patchett's novel "Bel ____"
- Slightly
- Algorithmic language
- French "place"
- Kind of potato masher
- Brickowski's brick
- Cleopatra's necklace
- Canine's coat
- Sol or fa
- National Institutes of Health
- "____ Christmas, I gave you my heart"
- Trinitrotoluene
- "You were working as a waitress in a cocktail bar when I ____"
- "I wanna dance with somebody, with somebody who ____"
- Lithograph, for short
- Holstein sound
- Radio sign
- Killed, like dragon
- Commotion
- Yiddish shrew
- Sleep in rough accommodations
- Gourmet mushroom
- Cancel an edit, pl.

DOWN

- Whispered from a prompting booth
- Shells and such
- "Meeting you with a ____ to a kill"
- Brings home the bacon
- First U.S. space station
- Again
- "Hello, is it me you're looking ____?"
- Weight of refuse and chaff, pl.
- Black and white cookie
- One from Goa
- "And I'm never gonna make it like you do, making ____ out of nothing at all"
- Compass reading
- One of religious orders
- Last letter of Greek alphabet
- Experienced
- Sine over cosine

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		9				2	5	
5	2	7	3	4				8

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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.

- "I long to see the sunlight in your hair and tell you time and time again how much ____"
- Northwoods dwelling?
- The Goldbergs sibling
- "Cuase I'm your ____ cool one, and I'm built to please"
- Scotch ingredient
- Kitchen tear-jerker
- Wombs
- "Ooh, what's the matter with the crowd I'm seeing? Don't you know that they're out of ____?"
- Petals holder
- "Wake me up before you ____"
- It creates instant millionaires
- Count on, two words
- One from Laos
- Emissaries
- Poison ivy or Poison oak
- Religious doctrine
- Venus de ____
- Greek Hs
- Not that
- Pilot's stunt
- Not loony
- Catcher's gear
- Geological time periods
- Psychedelic acronym
- Lyric poem

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Lightner's new director brings historic perspective

By Shaun Ryan

The Lightner Museum's new executive director will bring extensive knowledge of the Gilded Age with him when he takes over operations on Sept. 8.

Following a nationwide search, the museum's board of directors selected David Bagnall to oversee one of the pre-eminent collections of historic artifacts and curiosities in the Nation's Oldest City.

"I'm excited about the rich set of narratives that the Lightner Museum has to explore," Bagnall said. "You've got this incredible building, which was originally the Alcazar Hotel — built in 1888 and designed by one of the leading architectural firms of the time, Carrere and Hastings. You've got the story of Henry Flagler and the development of Florida's Atlantic Coast in the Gilded Age. And you've got this diverse collection."

In a news release, board chair Teresa Radzinski cited Bagnall's "comprehensive curatorial, architectural, operating and fundraising experience" and called him "the right person at the right time to take us to the next level."



David Bagnall

A native of the U.K., Bagnall studied art history at the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London, where he earned his master's degree. He moved to the United States in 2002 and Chicago two years later.

There, he worked on a project to restore an 1883 mansion and convert it into The Richard H. Driehaus Museum. Like the Lightner, the Driehaus Museum features Gilded Age treasures.

After a stint there as executive director, Bagnall joined the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust in 2011. The nonprofit preserves and interprets a network of Wright sites around Chicago. Though Wright is known as a modernist, these buildings were from his early career and drew upon the work of his Gilded Age forebears.

"A lot of what I worked on was sort of interpreting him, separating man from myth, placing him within the context of his time, providing a more accurate interpretation of Wright," Bagnall said.

DIRECTOR continues on Page 28



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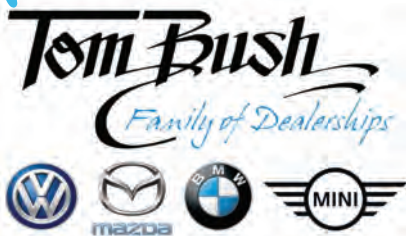
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Jacksonville Symphony moves forward with new season

The Jacksonville Symphony will start 2020-21 its season on Saturday, Sept. 26. Having not performed in Jacoby Symphony Hall as a full orchestra since March 2020, the symphony staff has spent the summer planning, rearranging and finalizing plans to safely open the hall to the

public in September. "It's not been easy," said President and CEO Steven Libman. "No one has ever had to do this before! It's all new: distancing an orchestra, distancing an audience, changing the way the experience in the concert hall looks and feels. The good

news is the one thing that COVID-19 will not change is the way the orchestra sounds. The Jacksonville community can still expect the same high-quality musicianship from their symphony."

The safety of patrons, musicians and staff remains the symphony's top priority. Based on CDC guidelines, and the results of the survey sent to patrons in June, the symphony has developed a comprehensive list of safety protocols that will be in place when the hall opens in September. Seating in Jacoby Symphony Hall will be physically distanced, guaranteeing six feet of separation between most groups of patrons (those who are not physically distanced will have plexi-glass screens between sets of patrons). This has reduced the capacity of the hall from nearly 1,800 to 582.

In addition, patrons will be required to wear masks at all times in most parts of the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, including in Jacoby Symphony Hall. Patrons will also be required to have their temperatures taken before entering the building.

As a result of new safety guidelines, Music Director Courtney Lewis and the Symphony Artistic Team have had to rework programming for the 2020-21 season multiple times, and they have successfully created a wonderful and dynamic season in the span of a few months.

The Florida Blue Masterworks Series has undergone the most changes be-

cause of the time constraints of a concert without an intermission. But what had a greater impact is the number of musicians who can safely perform on the Jacoby Symphony Hall stage. This season, patrons will see no more than 54 musicians on stage at any given time. During a normal season there are often 70, or more, musicians on the stage. All pieces chosen for each concert had to be specifically selected to conform to the necessity of having a smaller orchestra.

"We have strived to choose music that we know our audience will love, while also adhering to our strict safety protocols," Lewis said. "Although it's not the season we first announced, I am nonetheless excited for the 2020-21 season we will perform. We exist to provide our community with live symphonic music, and we will continue to fill that need."

Changes to the pops series have been minimal because the programs can be performed with the 54-person orchestra. Details are still being worked out for performances of "Handel's Messiah" and "First Coast Nutcracker" to provide the same holiday spirit in the safest way. Due to the size of orchestra required and length of performance, the symphony has unfortunately had to remove the Symphonic Night at the Movies Series from the 2020-21 schedule.

Patrons with questions regarding tickets for the season can call (904) 354-5547 or go to www.jaxsymphony.org.



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Director

Continued from 27

Bagnall said the Gilded Age interests him as it is a period where America began to define itself.

"It's a time of great energy and the idea that we can accomplish anything," he said. "I think that's really an inspiring thing to take away from this period."

He cited the "can-do spirit that, I think, is still very important in America today."

Even as the museum contends with the challenges posed by COVID-19, it continues to connect with the public.

A new exhibit featuring 13 pieces of the Lightner's stained-glass collection will open in September. Also in the works: a virtual gallery that will allow participants to design their own Gilded Age mansion using some of the most popular pieces in the museum's collection.

For Bagnall, the new position offers an opportunity to further engage with the era to which he has devoted so much of his career.

"I'm excited to explore the collection, not just as objects of esthetic beauty, but in relation to the arts, industry and commerce from the Gilded Age," he said.

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Sports

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020 · PAGE 29

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Jimmie Johnson banks playoff hopes on Daytona race

7-time Series champion sits at 17th in standings heading into Saturday's Coke Zero 400

By Don Coble

DAYTONA BEACH | Jimmie Johnson is running out of time — and laps — to make history.

One of the most-accomplished drivers in NASCAR history hasn't been able to accept the laurels during a final season that was earned in a career that's included 83 victories and seven championships.

The COVID-19 pandemic robbed him of celebration. A 119-race winless streak has him on the brink of missing this year's playoffs and finishing the final 10 races in the rearview mirror as the other championship contenders steal the spotlight.

Johnson currently is 17th in the standings. The top 16 move onto the playoffs. And there's only one race — Saturday's Coke Zero 400 at the Daytona International Speedway — to transfer into the 10-week main event.

On a good day, Daytona is a handful, especially when blanketed by sultry summer heat. Finishing in one piece often is considered a miracle. Johnson needs all of that ... and more.

To make it on points, the race for the final two post-season spots is down to three drivers — William Byron, Matt DiBenedetto and Johnson. Byron and DiBenedetto currently are above the cutline; Johnson is out.

Not only does Johnson have to finish ahead of his closest competitors, he must hope nobody below the current cutline wins the race to fill one of the automatic spots into the playoffs. Think that can't happen? The last three winners in the summer Daytona race were Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Erik Jones and Justin Haley.

Unlike other legendary drivers like Richard Petty, Darrell Waltrip and Bill Elliott, who worked well past their competitive prime, Johnson hasn't put his career on cruise control. He insists the sport hasn't left him behind. And he wants to go out on top.



Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images

Crew chief Cliff Daniels (left) and Jimmie Johnson talk before last weekend's race at Dover, Delaware.

"I never wanted to have a winless drought or have a winless season," Johnson said. "But I've worked through so many of those emotions over the last couple of years and also understand that there are factors that I can't control that have affected my performance."

Johnson pinned a lot of his hopes on last weekend's doubleheader at the Dover International Speedway. The one-mile concrete bowl was his favorite track and home to 11 of his career wins. Finishes of seventh and third got him back in the playoff mix, but anything short of a victory left Johnson in the dubious position of counting on Daytona for one final stand.

"It's going to be a really interesting race in Daytona from that respect," Johnson said. "But at the same time, it's still Daytona, and in my opinion, 'the big one' or all the wrecks that can happen is really going to determine who makes it into the playoffs. We did the best that we could here [Dover] over these two days, had two respectable results, closed the gap. But now it's kind of in luck's hands or in fate's hands down in Daytona at the plate rate."

Johnson said he won't worry about Saturday's race since he's been in so many difficult spots before. But

he's never been closing in on quitting as a fulltime driver before. There's still an opportunity to become the only eight-time champion in the sport's history.

"I guess actually maybe that's where experience will play through for me this weekend and I'll be able to keep my head on straight, think, keep my emotions in check and really race with a clear and open mind," he said.

Crew chief Chad Knaus has called the shots for every one of Johnson's Cup Series wins and championships. The tandem was separated after Johnson failed to win a race in 2018. Neither have won since.

Knaus now is Byron's crew chief and both teams work under the same roof at Hendrick Motorsports.

"We've kind of seen it coming, right, the last couple weeks," Johnson said. "The thing that is very encouraging is we now have the 21 car [DiBenedetto] there in the mix, so we both can get through, and we'll just have to race smart and see how stages play out and then obviously the finish at the end of the race [this] weekend. You know, at the end of the day for the 24 car [Byron], I wish them the best. They're my teammates. That car and that number, Chad Knaus, William Byron, they're friends, they're teammates, and now that I know there's a path in for both of us, maybe I'll stop thinking so many bad thoughts about those guys and maybe we can both get in."

"With Chad on the box there, you just think of the layers of how it's odd and we're all fighting for that last spot in the playoffs."

Breaking the winless drought has been so consuming, Johnson said he hasn't had time to think about appearing at many tracks for the last time. That disconnect was compounded when the world was forced to shutdown in March by the pandemic.

"Maybe someday down the road I'll look back and think of these last trips to tracks and moments, but I'm just wired a certain way, and I think all competitors are," Johnson said. "You keep looking forward and you don't spend much time putting a lot of emotional value into things."

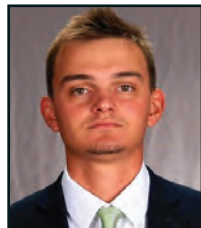
"You know, I've been doing that all year long, and I'm running out of races so I guess at some point it'll probably hit me, but right now it's kind of business as usual and just focusing on the job ahead of me."

Stetson golfer earns medalist honors at JAGA Match Play qualifier

Christopher Williard, of Deland, posted the only sub-par round of the day, a 2-under 70, to grab medalist honors at the JAGA Match Play Championship qualifier Sunday, Aug. 23 at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine.

The former Stetson University golf team captain and 2020-21 graduate student will be one of 32 golfers vying for the 2020 title this weekend at Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club in Jacksonville.

Finishing two shots back at 72 were Andrew Riley of St. Johns/Creekside High School; Evan Thompson of Oakland/Florida Tech and Nick Montes, another



Christopher Williard

Stetson golfer who is working on his MBA.

Four players tied for fifth after shooting 73 — Matthew Kleirock of Jacksonville, Ty Capps of Palm Coast, Jacob Posze of Jacksonville and William Hartford of West Palm Beach/Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Williard, an Ohio native, offset bogeys on Nos. 2 and 16 with birdies on 6, 7, 11 and 13 during his afternoon round at the 6,839-yard Palencia layout.

Thompson suffered bogeys on the 16th and 18th holes to dash his medalist hopes.

The cutoff came at 6-over 78 with all seven players gaining seeds.

Thirty-two players will be seeded into matches that begin Friday at Queen's Harbour. Last year's runner-up and second-year Flagler College assistant golf coach Juan Iturra was exempt from qualifying. He received the No. 1 seed when defending champion Michael Sass of Louisville, Kentucky, was unable to play due to conflicts. Reigning JAGA Senior Amateur champion John Lobb is the No. 2 seed. Also exempt but unable to play was 2019

JAGA Jacksonville Amateur winner Jordan Batchelor of the University of North Florida.

The first five alternates in order are Duke Butler IV (79), Ken Prebola (79), Andrew Porter (79), Chase Mills (80) and Brandon Valvano (80), all residents of the greater Jacksonville area.

With spots available in the qualifier, additional out-of-region entries were accepted over and above the originally stipulated five to round out the 64-man field.

More Match Play Championship information is available at www.jaxareagolf.org or jax.bluegolf.com.

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