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PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

September 10, 2020

Volume 51, No. 45

75 cents

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INSIDE Check it Out!

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

2020 Football Preview

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020
PONTE VEDRA RECORDER

Local football SCHEDULES Kickoff PREVIEW

PVHS, Nease kick off season amid pandemic

"Battle of the Bridge" marks start of new normal for area high school football games

Jaguars open

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Legal Eagles Pages 23-26

SAVE AT 8 SEALS WIN

David Ford watches his shot on the No. 18 hole during the Junior PLAYERS Championship last Sunday at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. Ford won the tournament by two strokes, keyed by a 10-foot par putt on the 8th hole.

For the story, go to page 29

Photo by Don Coble

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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 pandemic, 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.

BRIEFS

St. Johns County launches SJC CARES nonprofit grant recovery program

St. Johns County launched the SJC CARES nonprofit grant recovery program on Sept. 3, to help eligible nonprofit agencies respond to and recover from the economic impact of COVID-19. St. Johns County 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations may be eligible for a grant of up to \$20,000, and funds may be used for expenses related to mortgage or rent, utilities, payroll, PPE equipment, facility hardening, sanitizing/cleaning supplies and other COVID-19-related costs.

For eligibility information or to apply, go to www.sjcf.us/sjccares, call (904) 209-6050, or email sjccares@sjcf.us.

Brief overnight closures scheduled on I-95 North ramps

The Florida Department of Transportation will temporarily close the I-95 northbound entrance and exit ramps at U.S. 1 and the I-95 northbound rest area (mile marker 302) Thursday, Sept. 10.

This brief overnight rolling closure will allow crews to safely resurface the right lane of I-95 northbound within the project area. Electronic message boards will alert drivers of the closure.

The I-95 northbound exit ramp to U.S. 1

and the I-95 entrance ramp from U.S. 1 are expected to be temporarily closed for approximately four hours sometime between 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9 and 7 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, weather and schedule permitting.

Drivers attempting to exit I-95 northbound at U.S. 1 will be detoured to the State Road 206 exit back onto I-95 southbound, where they can access U.S. 1.

Drivers attempting to enter I-95 northbound from U.S. 1 will be detoured onto I-95 southbound to Matanzas Woods Parkway exit, where they can access I-95 northbound.

The ramp to the I-95 northbound rest area south of State Route 206 (mile marker 302) is also expected to be temporarily closed for approximately four hours sometime between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10, weather and schedule permitting. The next rest area is located 29 miles north of the closure at mile marker 331.

The work is part of FDOT's I-95 resurfacing project in St. Johns County, which consists of milling and resurfacing both directions of I-95 from the Flagler County line to just south of State Road 207, including the interstate entrance and exit ramps for State Road 206 and U.S. 1.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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Briefs

Continued from 2

Hubbard Construction is expected to complete the \$22.6 million project in fall 2022.

Ponte Vedra Democratic Club to hold Zoom meeting Oct. 14

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will be conducting a Zoom meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 14. The

meeting will address election 2020 updates, featuring:

- Robin Dion and Marie Garnes: Blue Wave Coalition activities up to the election
- Rhonda DiCamillo: Election Security Task Force updates
- JW Brown, Florida Democratic Party Field Organizer: Volunteer opportunities

To receive Zoom meeting access links, email Jan Kary at Janetkary@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for the Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra results!

Voting in the second annual Ponte Vedra Recorder Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra contest ended Monday, Aug. 31, and the results will appear in a special section of the Recorder on Oct. 8.



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.

To advertise in the Oct. 8 special section of the Recorder, contact your sales representative, email susan@opcfla.com or call (904) 686-3938.



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12 county students test positive for COVID-19

By Shaun Ryan

Twelve public school students in St. Johns County have tested positive for COVID-19 since classes began Aug. 31, according to data from the school district's newly unveiled dashboard.

Another 156 students are quarantined at home for 14 days due to close contact with a person testing positive.

The dashboard provides a weekly update on the number of students and employees who have tested positive for the coronavirus, as well as the number of

students and employees quarantined at home due to close contact with a case. The latest figures are from Friday, Sept. 4.

Though the dashboard doesn't identify which schools the affected students attend, a spokeswoman for the district confirmed that one Ponte Vedra High School student was among those testing positive. That case resulted in 31 others who were asked to self-quarantine.

The district has a total 44,175 students and 5,298 employees.

As of Sept. 4, four staff members have tested positive

and 16 are being quarantined.

When a positive case is discovered, the district identifies close school contacts and reports to the St. Johns County Health Department. The Health Department then sends out letters to the families of the students and follows up to discuss the situation further.

For the new school year, the district has implemented strategies to help limit exposure. Students are required to wear masks, and classrooms have been configured to maintain social distancing. In addition, desk shields have been installed.

County Commission votes to hold line on property taxes

By Shaun Ryan

Citing the economic impact of COVID-19 on taxpayers, the St. Johns County Commission voted unanimously Tuesday, Sept. 8, to hold property taxes to the rolled-back rate for fiscal year 2021.

Going into the first of two budget meetings, a tentative rate of \$7.25 per \$1,000 of a property's taxable value had been proposed. That would have left the rate unchanged from fiscal year 2020.

But, because property in the county has appreciated in value, it would have meant an increase in actual dollars.

Instead, the commission approved the rolled-back rate of \$6.81 per \$1,000 of taxable value. This marks a 3.2% decrease in the rate from last year.

The rolled-back rate generates the same level of funds as currently, accounting for a change in property values.

The final tax rate will be adopted at the second public hearing, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sept. 21.

If the rate remains unchanged, the owner of a home with an assessed value of \$300,000 and a homestead exemption of \$50,000 will pay about \$1,703 in county taxes.

Also Tuesday, the commission approved the tentative budget of \$1.02 billion, down from the proposed \$1.07 billion. The reduction followed a half-hour recess during which the county's Office of Management and Budget recalculated the numbers based upon the commission's decision to consider holding taxes to the rolled-back rate.

Commission Chair Jeb Smith made the initial argument in favor of the rolled-back rate.

"The reason is because of the strain that we've had on our economy, the strain that we've had internally," he said, citing a July unemployment rate of 7.4%, an increase from 2.5% in February.

"We have about three times as many people that are unemployed right now than we did back in January and February," he added, saying that as property values escalate, property owners' contributions continue to rise.

He went on to note losses suffered by the business community.

"When the private sector's had to contract, I believe that government should, as well," he said. "We have healthy reserves that we can go to."

Citing county data, Smith said that in the past four years, revenues have increased on gross taxable value alone by \$69.6 million.

Commissioner Paul Waldron, in his first appearance at a meeting of the board — albeit remotely — after a lengthy battle with COVID-19, voiced support for the rolled-back rate.

But Commissioner Henry Dean voiced opposition to drawing from reserves. He moved to adopt the propose tax rate of \$7.25, but that motion failed on a 3-2 vote with only Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker joining Dean to support it.

In the end, Dean and Blocker joined the majority in voting for the rolled-back rate.



Recorder file photo

9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance set for Friday in St. Augustine

The St. Augustine Fire Department will hold its annual Ceremony of Remembrance on Friday, Sept. 11. The observance is a community gathering to remember those who died in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. It will be held at 8:30 a.m. at the St. Augustine Fire Department's main station, 101 Malaga St.

The public is invited to participate, while following CDC guidelines of wearing masks and social distancing. Masks will be available to anyone who needs one. The ceremony will also be broadcast live online on the fire department's Facebook page, www.Facebook.com/CityStAugFire.

The Ceremony of Remembrance was first held just two days after 9/11 and has continued each year on the anniversary of the attack. The 15-minute program will include a presentation

of the colors; invocation by the Rev. Tom Willis, pastor and rector of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine; a musical presentation; and remarks by St. Augustine Fire Chief Carlos Aviles.

The ceremony will conclude with a minute of silence at 8:45 a.m., timed to coincide with the time the first plane hit the first tower of the World Trade Center in 2001.

Then, the fire department will conduct the "Striking the Four 5's" by ringing its historic 1900 fire bell in four intervals of five rings each. This tradition signifies the last alarm of a firefighter and will be performed in honor of the firefighters, law enforcement officers, military personnel and civilians who died on 9/11.

For more information, contact the fire department at (904) 825-1098 or send an email to cityfire@citystaug.com.

Fire Watch invites residents to help fight veteran suicide

By Shaun Ryan

It's no secret that the veteran suicide rate is on the rise. That's why the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has been investing more money in mental health each year.

In Northeast Florida, five counties have joined together to combat this trend regionally. Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties signed an interlocal agreement in November 2019 creating The Fire Watch, a program designed to get at-risk veterans the support they need while there's still time.

"We certainly have a crisis," said Fire Watch Executive Director Nick Howland. "We have a crisis that is growing. We have a crisis where traditional methods do not seem to work. We're at a point where, if we don't figure out how to reverse the trend now, it's only going to get worse."

Indeed, the rate of veteran suicide is 1.5 times that of civilian suicide.

"We've lost over 6,000 veterans to suicide every year since 2008," Howland said.

In 2017 — the latest year for which data is available — 6,139 U.S. military veterans took their own lives. The highest number was in the over-55 age group, but the highest rate was in the 18-to-34 category.

That's significant, because that's the age at which members of the military are transitioning out of active duty.

While many of the conditions that precipitate veteran



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

suicide are the same as for non-veterans, untreated depression, life-changing events and feelings of hopelessness and loneliness are made worse by long deployments, exposure to conflict, long periods of isolation and PTSD.

And, due to COVID-19 and the isolation brought on by social distancing, Howland expects the numbers for 2020 to be extraordinarily high.

In addition to identifying and resolving weaknesses in the continuum of local resources, The Fire Watch conducts considerable community outreach. One of the key components is the Watch Stander Program, which educates members of the community about risk signs and resources available to veterans.

This is one way area residents can do their part to help those who have served their nation.

To join the effort, all one has to do is go to thefirewatch.org, click on Watch Standers and enroll. The

FIRE WATCH continues on **Page 7**

Racing team to launch charity drive

NASCAR's Stewart-Haas Racing Team will be in Jacksonville on Thursday, Sept. 10, spearheading the annual Highway to Help Heroes charity drive. This 30-mile drive will take place on Feb. 6, with all proceeds benefiting The FOP Foundation Fallen Officers Welfare Relief Fund and K9s for Warriors.

The drive will feature a fleet of supercars, which will be available for local and national corporate sponsorships. In addition, each supercar and driver will honor an officer who has been physically or mentally distressed, as the "front seat rider" on the drive.

"The FOP celebrates the life and sacrifice of police officers who have paid the price for our protection. This drive will help us continue that mission, and for that, we are grateful," said Steve Zona, president of FOP, Lodge 530.

This annual charity event is hosted by Sissine's Office Systems and SAC Collective in collaboration and partnership with Ring Power Corp. The drive will bring nearly 100 participating supercar drivers and more than 500 attendees, in an effort to support the families and officers killed and injured in the line of duty, and those suffering from post-traumatic stress.

"The Highway to Helping Heroes drive is all about helping our heroes — that means our fallen FOP heroes as well as the warriors that we work with every day," Rory Diamond, CEO at K9s For Warriors, said. "We're grateful to receive the support and generosity from the sponsors and participants of this event."



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Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach president Sam Hall has had successful careers stemming from his background in biology and chemistry. A 30-year resident of the First Coast, he is active in the community and enjoys giving back.

Sam Hall



Photo provided by Sam Hall

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell us a little about your career with Anheuser Bush.

I relocated to Jacksonville in 1989 after taking early retirement from Merck Chemical and Pharmaceutical Company. My career with Anheuser Bush was as a microbiology lab analyst in quality assurance. With a degree in biology and a chemistry minor, I was able to be involved with all phases of testing in brewing, starting from the raw materials and brewing process through to the end product. I retired after 25 years with the company.

What advice would you give young people looking to pursue a career in the same line of work?

I encourage young people to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). There are numerous career paths with a science degree. For example, I worked in water pollution control, research in air pollution, chemical quality control as well as quality assurance. The current careers in microbiology are in demand in such areas as research to find cures for diseases like COVID-19.

What do you like best about involvement in Rotary?

Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" appeals to me, because giving back and paying forward good deeds is one of my core values. It gives me a conduit by which I can serve others. I am able to do even more with a group that is committed to the same principles as my own. The membership affords me the opportunity to network with others of varied backgrounds and socialize with those who are like-minded to make the world a better place.

Looking at the year ahead, what activities are being planned by the club? Is there anything you are especially looking to?

The club supports BEAM with its back-to-school efforts such as providing school supplies and its food drive. We donated funds for personal protective equipment (PPE) for teachers in St. Johns County. Through our annual fundraising effort, Mineral City Celebration, we were able to support 27 agencies who applied for grant money to assist them with needs that were identified. Our international project

in Guatemala helps to provide clean and potable water to communities that lack this necessity. Scheduling great speakers is of particular interest to me as I have been able to get a Rotary International director to facilitate our strategic planning, a speaker from Japan and the immediate past president of Rotary International to address our club. With that being said, the club's attendance has been consistently strong if not stronger during the virtual meetings. I am especially looking forward to being able to have activities where the club will be able to interact without fear of the COVID pandemic. Such activities as the Jags game with the district, Big Brothers Big Sisters fundraiser, Jax Symphony, etc., may be put on hold.

A lot of Ponte Vedra residents moved here from somewhere else, so perhaps you have, too. How long have you lived here?

I have lived in the area for a little over 30 years. Initially I thought this area was going to be a stop-off on my way to other places wherever my career would take me. The longer I stayed, the more I enjoyed the people and lifestyle.

What do you like best about residing in this community?

It is hard to find a better quality of life outside of here with all the amenities like the beach, golf courses and family-friendly places that this area has to offer. The Florida sunshine and the laid-back attitude of the culture here is appealing.

How do you like to spend your free time? Do you have hobbies or activities that you enjoy or do you volunteer?

I like spending time with family, especially my soon-to-be three-year-old grandson; jogging on the beach at sunrise; playing golf; and snow-skiing during the winter months. I love traveling abroad. This year alone, I have skied the French Alps and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. I sculpt as a hobby. I have been known to log as many as 10-plus hours a week volunteering. I serve on nonprofit boards like The Beaches Museum and History Park, State Attorney Melissa Nelson's Neighborhood Accountability Board, Community Redevelopment Agency of Jax Beach and as president of First Coast Tiger Bay Club.

Walk to End Alzheimer's fundraiser set for Oct. 3

Participants will walk as individuals, families or small teams in local neighborhoods

The Alzheimer's Association is inviting residents to join the fight against Alzheimer's by participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's on Oct. 3.

This year, instead of hosting a large gathering, the association is encouraging participants to walk as individuals or in small groups on sidewalks, tracks and trails throughout their local neighborhoods.

"This year's Walk to End Alzheimer's will be everywhere," said Wendy Vizek, vice president, constituent events at the Alzheimer's Association. "The pandemic is changing how we walk, but it doesn't change the need to walk. This year, more than ever, we need to come together to support all those affected by Alzheimer's and other dementia. With the dollars raised, the Alzheimer's Association can continue to provide care and support to families during these difficult times while also advancing critical research toward methods of treatment and prevention."

On walk day, a 9 a.m. opening ceremony will feature

local speakers and a presentation of Promise Flowers to honor the personal reasons participants join together to fight Alzheimer's and all other dementia, all delivered to participants' smartphones, tablets and computers.

Also, new features are being added to the Walk to End Alzheimer's mobile app. Participants can track their steps and distance, follow a virtual walk path, manage their Facebook fundraisers and access information and resources from the association and walk sponsors to help those affected by the disease.

A new audio track is available to encourage participants along the way and to congratulate them upon completion of their walk.

For Cindy Flowers, committee chair for the Flagler and St. Johns Walk to End Alzheimer's, the decision to participate was sparked by personal experience.

"As a certified geriatric care manager, I work with many clients with Alzheimer's, so staying involved as a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association allows me to stay abreast of the many support groups and resources they provide for those clients and their family members," she said.

"I also have a personal connection to Alzheimer's because my grandmother had the disease," she added. "Her wish was to live in her home until the end of her life, but because of her Alzheimer's, we had to move her to an assisted living facility, which broke my heart. My hope is that my involvement with raising awareness and funds to end Alzheimer's will keep others from experiencing the devastating results of the disease and the hardship it has on family members and caregivers."

According to walk director Amanda Harris, stories like Flowers' are common among participants who have witnessed its impacts firsthand. In Florida, more than 580,000 people are battling the disease and an additional 1.1 million family members and friends are caring for them. With those numbers expected to increase over the next five years, it is imperative, Harris said, that Walk to End Alzheimer's goes forward.

"Alzheimer's is not taking a hiatus during COVID-19 and neither are we," she said.

To register and receive the latest updates on this year's walk, go to www.alz.org/walk.

Dreams Come True 5K, fun run goes virtual

This year the annual Dreams Come True 5k and 1-Mile Fun Run will be virtual due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Participants in a virtual run simply choose their own means of running or walking whether on a treadmill or a street in their neighborhood.

Dreams Come True is Northeast Florida's only locally based dream-granting organization dedicated to bringing hope

and joy to every First Coast child battling a life-threatening illness.

The event takes on new importance after COVID-19 forced several spring fundraisers for Dreams Come True to be cancelled and more than 60 dreams postponed.

The virtual race can be completed anytime between Sept. 26 and Oct. 18. But one of the sponsors, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty,

has designated Oct. 10 as its race day and has invited residents to join its team or make a donation by going to FloridaNetworkDreamers.com.

Since 2013, Berkshire Hathaway has donated more than \$325,000 to Dreams Come True.

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Fire Watch

Continued from 5

process takes about 45 minutes, and those completing it will receive a wristband, car sticker and a wallet card that tells where to go for help.

Right now, The Fire Watch has a few hundred Watch Standers already signed up. The goal is 10,000, and Howland is encouraging people to get involved.

"Everybody has a role to play in ending this national tragedy," he said.

In the 10 months since The Fire Watch

was first formed, many people have stepped up to help the cause.

"We've had just amazing support from the community," said Howland, "from our elected leaders, from the business community and, most importantly, from our other veteran service organizations."

In particular, K9s For Warriors, the Cohen Veterans Network, the Wounded Warrior Project and the United Way have been especially supportive.

To learn more about The Fire Watch or to see a list of 400 resources available to Northeast Florida veterans, go to thefirewatch.org.



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

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

"Flowers lift the spirit & refresh the soul"



Kathy Esfahani
Columnist

LOW MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPING

Want to spruce up your yard but don't want "high maintenance" plantings?

Every flower and plant has some type of maintenance, but you can find evergreens and colorful plants that you don't

have to do too much!

A few tips: You should base plant choices on more interesting foliage than flowers. Flowers often require more time, deadheading and replacement. Foliage can be colorful, have interesting shapes, and have neat texture. Variegated versions often offer stripes or splashes of color. By using larger plants that cascade over, you will cover more space with less plantings, hence, less maintenance. Low-ground covers spread over the bottom of the beds create a lush, full look. Plants with a pleasing natural form require less trimming for the preferred appearance and evergreens help keep the maintenance down, as they stay green all year round.

Evergreens: liriopse, Aztec grass, muhly grass, African iris, dwarf fakahatchee, foxtail fern, society garlic

Shrubs: Loropetalum, gold mound, juniper, jack frost, variegated pittosporum, asiatic jasmine

Shade plants: Azaleas, Hawaiian Ti, ginger, ar-



bicola, apostle iris, flax lily, hydrangea, farfugium, cast-iron plant

Drought tolerant: Any succulents, lantana, baby sun rose, sedum, gailardia, dune sunflower, agave, gazania, crown of thorns

Low color: Blue daze, pentas, malopodium, vinca, gazania, gailardia, sedum, gaura

Happy Planting!

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

NOCATEE HAPPENINGS

Newsweek names Nocatee Florida's 'Best Place to Live'

Nocatee is the best place to live in Florida, according to new rankings published in Newsweek magazine.

The list ranks the best place to live in each of the 50 states based on several factors, including cost of living, educational attainment, housing and public schools. The article highlights Nocatee's "carefully designed neighborhoods featuring everything from parks and recreation to shopping, restaurants and more."

The coastal community's location puts it "at the doorstep of golf courses, beaches and the airports of Jacksonville," reported Newsweek.

"Our vision for Nocatee was to create a community that was unmatched in Northeast Florida," said Rick Ray, president and CEO of The PARC Group, Nocatee's master developer. "We're honored to see Nocatee ranked as the best place to live in Florida and to see it consistently recognized at the national level."

Nocatee, which repeatedly ranks as a top 10 best-selling master-planned community in the United States, continues to grow with plans for new amenities, neighborhoods, restaurants and businesses, including First Watch Café, Greenwise Market and a new Baptist medical center.

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TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT

Ponte Vedra resident and tour guide Gary Sass shares his experiences from his recent journey hiking the Appalachian Trail in a five-part series to be featured in The Recorder. Here is Part 2.



DAY 2 – OVERLOOK MOUNTAIN AND SHAWANGUNK MOUNTAINS (NEW YORK)

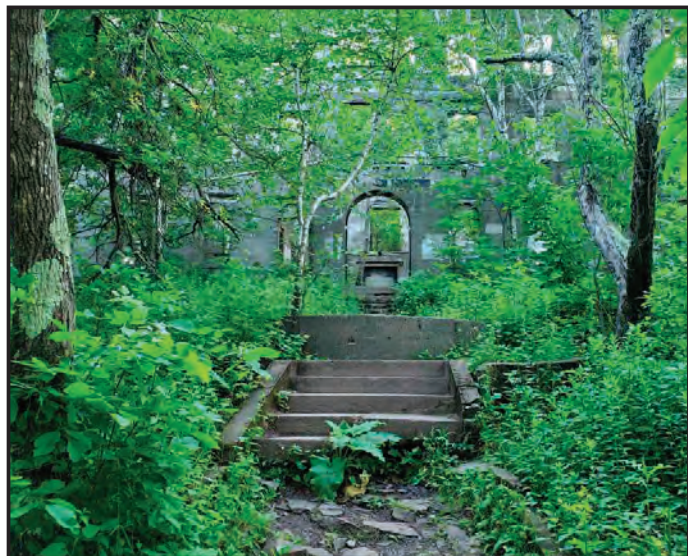
Gary Sass
Journey Columnist

Day two started in Woodstock, New York, a mecca for musicians and artists for many years. The elevation of the town is from the lower slopes of Overlook Mountain. This is part of the Catskill Mountain Range considered to be a “branch route” of the AT according to Benton MacKaye, an original founding father of the famous trail. Despite being off the official 2,190-mile AT route, I knew Overlook Mountain would not disappoint as the next summit to be reached.

I was encouraged that my plan to go from mountain to mountain was coming to fruition. A night-time ritual of driving until I was tired would determine which mountain I would climb the next morning on the way back to Florida. The undetermined plan was to hit highlights in different states on the southbound journey.

To me, the Catskills are familiar territory. I grew up in the mid-Hudson area and have climbed Overlook several times. One indication you are on the proper approach road is when you see prayer flags strung between the trees. A very striking Tibetan Buddhist monastery is located across the street from the start of this trail. There are always cars in the parking lot of the monastery, but I have never seen any people coming and going. I only imagined how the professionals go about their form of meditation while I sought my own solitary path to the mountain peak.

The magic of a sunrise on the mountain top appealed to me. However, this was coupled with the uncertainty of starting a hike in the predawn darkness. The idea of being in your old stomping ground made it more comforting in spite of the dangers. Little did I know at the time, a sunrise hike would become a trend in the upcoming days.



Day 2: Mountain House hotel remains

When you know you are the only one on the trail the adrenaline pumps a little. A good flashlight is worth its weight in gold at 5 a.m. My biggest fear was timber rattlers. Their brown bands are a good camouflage for the dirt trail and an unfortunate encounter could be an abrupt end to my journey. I wondered how many people have knocked on the door to the monastery asking for a snake-bite kit. No doubt there are also brown bears in these parts of upstate New York. The next town



Day 2: Overlook at the summit

to the West is called Bearsville for obvious reasons. It would be a focused 2-mile hike to the top of Overlook Mountain during which I oscillated my flashlight across my feet about 10,000 times.

The elevation gain was steady with no chance of getting lost on the wide dirt pathway. In about an hour I was at the top scouting out a place for reflection. At the summit, you can optionally climb the fire tower and easily take photos from the

several platforms between sets of stairs. There was an enclosure with windows at the very top of the fire tower. The trap door leading to it was locked but this did not affect the bird’s eye view from the tower’s top platform. It was easier on the eyes to contemplate the scenery opposite from the sun. The mountains all around looked more like rolling green hills from the peak of

TRAVEL continues on Page 10

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OBITUARIES

Rosemarie Rusnack

Rosemarie Rusnack nee Sloane, a resident of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL and parishioner of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church and former resident of Hobe Sound, FL and Old Brookville and Westbury, NY, went peacefully home to the Lord on August 24, 2020. Rose, as she was known to family and friends, was born on October 31, 1929 in Brooklyn, New York to James Sloane and Rosemary Sloane nee Duffy and was older sister to Raymond Sloane. A true New Yorker at heart, she lived on Long Island for the majority of her life before retiring to Florida in 1995.

Rose was an avid golfer, gardener, ballroom dancer, genealogy researcher, accomplished quilter and needlepoint artist, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was known for her love of horseracing ("always bet on the grey horse"), feisty, independent spirit, pride in her Irish heritage, Catholic faith and devotion to Mary, and always being impeccably dressed. She was happiest surrounded by family and friends, and will be missed by all.

Rose was predeceased by her husband of 44 years, Dr. Theodore J. Rusnack and survived by her five children, Linda Gail West of Mastic Beach, NY, Geraldine Anne (Jerri) West of Round Rock, Texas, Timothy Warren West (Maureen) of Newport, RI, Laura Mary West (Bruce Howson) of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, Christopher Thomas West (Beth) of Royal Palm Beach, FL and her twelve grandchildren (Nick, Theresa, Patricia, Katie, Danny, Colleen, Lisa, Greg, Kerry, Doug, Jennifer, Jordan) and four great-grandchildren (Samantha, Connor, Reilly, Nora).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Rose's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

A funeral mass and celebration of Rose's life will be held when family and friends can safely come together in 2021.

Maria O. Alves

Maria O. Alves, 86, of Jacksonville Beach, died Aug. 29, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com (904) 249-1100.

Michael Carrara

Michael Carrara, 90, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Sept.

4, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Dieter Von Dombrowski

Dieter Von Dombrowski, 62, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Aug. 27, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center and Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Florence Kroh Greer

Florence Kroh Greer, 86, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 6, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Donald Jordan

Donald Jordan, 88, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died Sept. 6, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

John Earl Kelly

John Earl Kelly, 72, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Aug. 25, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Barbara Ann Kirschner

Barbara Ann Kirschner, 80, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died Aug. 19, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100. www.quinn-shalz.com

Warren Paul Leibfried

Warren Paul Leibfried, 87, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 6, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Elizabeth Bates Lewis

Elizabeth Bates Lewis, 97, of Atlantic Beach, died Sept. 2, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com (904) 249-1100.

Douglas W. Peacock

Douglas W. Peacock, 81, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Sept. 7, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Marjorie Joan Price

Marjorie Joan Price, 91, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died Aug. 25, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Travel

Continued from 9

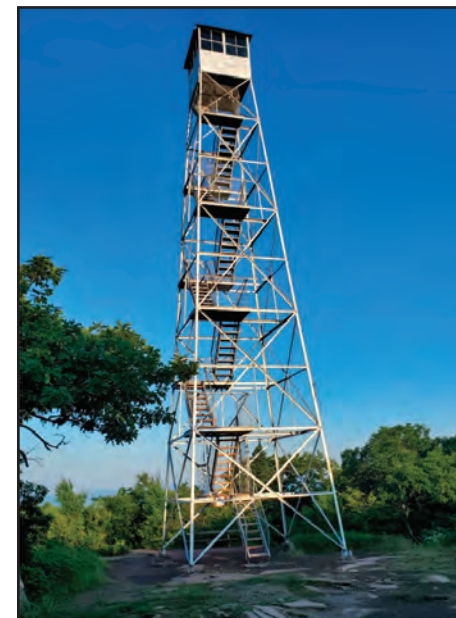
Overlook. A thin cloud cover in the valleys with the mountains bursting through was a mystical sight. With a mountain vista in every direction, Overlook has a truly appropriate name. As I enjoyed the solitude of the early morning panorama, I imagined all others who came before me to be inspired by the Catskills such as the Hudson River School of landscape painters.

Coming down, I clearly saw the whole trail including the Overlook Mountain House ruins which were worthy of a brief stop. As the morning sun streamed through the bare concrete openings, the old hotel was awakening for visitors. Since the 1800s, it was fashionable for wealthy New Yorkers to visit mountain resorts. Fires destroyed previous hotels on this site. The remains of a 1928 re-build are what you see today. It is possible to safely walk through many of the decaying hotel rooms. I just snapped a few photos from the trail so I would not disturb any slithery locals before I made it back to the car.

I was sidetracked from the AT one more time. A friend called me while I was on my way south along the New York State Thruway. He lives in the Shawangunk Mountains near New Paltz, New York, which is a popular destination for rock climbing and hiking. He said I would enjoy the trails in the Mohonk Preserve. I was not convinced. Then he followed up with a description of a walk that ended in a waterfall and a swimming hole. Suddenly, it sounded more like a Huckleberry Finn adventure. Needless to say, as the sun was setting two old friends were still sharing stories about their reckless high school days when the laws were much different. The cold water at the swimming hole did not freeze our memories. Just in case the statute of limitations had yet to expire, the conversation went unrecorded.

The following day I was back on the official AT starting at Bear Mountain, New York. However, an unexpected challenge would alter my priorities.

Look for Part 3 in an upcoming edition of the Ponte Vedra Recorder.



Day 2: Fire tower at peak

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Preview

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020



Recorder

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Local football SCHEDULES

Kickoff PREVIEW

PVHS, Nease kick off season amid pandemic

“Battle of the Bridge” marks start of new normal for area high school football games

Jaguars open season with major changes



Tailgating recipes to enjoy at home



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Photo by Chris Norton

After a delayed start to the season because of COVID-19, high school football is back as rivals Ponte Vedra and Nease continue the "Battle of the Bridge" showdown at 7 p.m. Friday at Nease.

PVHS, Nease kick off challenging season

Sharks' slow approach designed to deliver fast results in trying times

By Don Coble

The message to focus on one play, one game at a time resonates easily with the Ponte Vedra High football team.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put blinders on everyone trying to look past the current moment. Everyone's learned that with the promise of relief too often is followed by the reality of continued frustration.

Second-year head coach Jeff DiSandro said returning to the field required a methodical, yet practical, approach.

Like crawling from the darkness of a complete shutdown, the Sharks started slowly with limited weight room access. They expanded to light workouts with proper distancing and special drills. Most of the communication came through the team's website.

But now it's time to play. Finally. The pads are finally on, the schedule's been set, and the season will start Sept. 11 when the Sharks travel across the Palm Valley Bridge to play Nease.

SHARKS continues on Page 14



Photo by Don Coble

Ponte Vedra coach Jeff DiSandro instructs a player during a recent practice.

Panthers send mental message of leadership, focus on strong finishes

By Paris Moulden

Like others in the area and across the nation, the Nease High football team got sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the message of leadership and finishing strong was carried throughout the program, physically and mentally.

The Panthers struggled last year, often late in the game, finishing with a 1-9 record, which included a 21-14 loss to rival Ponte Vedra in a game Nease led until the final 1½ minutes.

That is one of the main issues second-

year coach Collin Drafts addressed heading into Friday's season opener against the Sharks.

"We just didn't know how to finish, and that's exactly what we've been focusing on," Drafts said. "We're right there with the game on the line, and somebody just needs to step up and make one, two or three more plays and you're looking at a completely different season. That has to be learned. It's a mentality."

And mentality was a big focus of

PANTHERS continues on Page 15



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Nease coach Collin Drafts directs players during spring practice last year.

'Battle of the Bridge' rivalry marks start of the new normalcy for high school sports

By Don Coble

For the first time in months, things are expected to return to normal — make that the new normal — this Friday with the resumption of high school football.

The delayed season opens with traditional rivals Nease and Ponte Vedra highs kicking off the season with a non-conference "Battle of the Bridge" game at Panthers Stadium.

But expect changes — a lot of changes.

If you aren't the parent of a varsity football player, or a member of the Nease band, dance team or cheerleading squad, you can't watch the game in person. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the limited return of fall programs, attendance is limited to 30% capacity at all events. For football, that means a total of 600 fans with 450 tickets going to the home team and 150 to the visitors.

If there are any unsold tickets, they will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis to seniors from the home team.

That's not likely to happen with Nease and Ponte Vedra, Panthers Athletics Director Matt McCool said.

"There's always a demand for tickets for this game," he said. "Now we only have 600 tickets."

Schools, along sports programs, were shuttered on March 13 by the coronavirus. Health department, emergency management, school and athletic officials have



Photo by Jeff Heinemann/theimagecaddy.com

Ponte Vedra High School and Nease kick off the 2020 season Sept. 11 at Nease High School. Due to new attendance rules because of COVID-19. The stands this year will look much different than previous "Battle of the Bridge" showdowns.

worked for months developing a plan to get athletes back in the game and fans in the stands. But to do it, considerable changes had to be made.

Parents of athletes, band members, cheerleaders and dancers have been given a private link to purchase two tickets for each household, according to Ponte Vedra A.D.

Erik Frank. If there any extra tickets, they can be purchased at Go Fan on game day. No tickets will be sold at the stadium.

Fans will be required to socially distance, McCool said. And unlike last week's game at Baker County that's received national attention, distancing and the use of facemasks is required in the stadium, except when seated.

"We had to measure out the stadium and figure out how much space we had with the bands," McCool said. "We will be monitoring the guidelines. It's real important we follow the guidelines so we can continue our sports and keep everyone as safe as possible."


Fans without tickets will not be permitted in the parking lot, McCool said. Fans also will not be allowed to congregate along the fence outside the game.

Additionally, players and coaches will be allowed to stand between the 10-yard lines to insure additional distancing.

"The kids and coaches have been working for a long time — not just here, but everywhere — to make this happen," McCool said. "We're going to take it one week at a time, but it's going to be nice to enjoy some sense of normalcy again."

The game will be livestreamed on nfhsnetwork.com to those who can't get tickets. Fans must subscribe to the network, and to watch Friday's game, enter "Nease" on the search bar.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.





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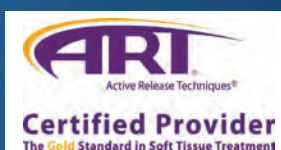
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Dr. Heinz is a Jacksonville native, former starting pitcher for The George Washington University Colonials, and currently resides in the Nocatee community.




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Sharks

Continued from 12

"I'm glad we finally have a football season," DiSandro said. "It's so great for these kids and this community. You have to have a lot of patience to get through this, and that's why we're going to take it one play, one week at a time. We talk about not getting ahead and managing our mistakes. No false starts. No illegal formations. Things like that."

For most of the players, staying in the moment has become a way of life. That's why DiSandro is confident Ponte Veda will build on its 7-3 overall record, including regular season victories against Nease and St. Augustine, and a trip to the Class 6A playoffs.

Another reason is the return of quarterback Jacobi Myers.

The 6-foot-3, 190-pound senior tore his left Achilles tendon in the season-opener last year against Nease.

"Dozens upon dozens of Division I schools are eager for him to put something on tape," DiSandro said. "He can run it. He can throw it. It's really a special story."

Myers is so special, former college offensive coordinator Ed Zaurenbrecher, who's coached at LSU, Florida, Marshall, Wake Forest and Rice, came out of retirement to work with the Sharks' quarterbacks.

"I hope he will have the year we know

he can have," DiSandro said. "He's fully healed. He's ready to go. And he's been fantastic so far."

The Sharks are expected to go as far as Myers can take them. And he will get plenty of help from wide receiver Michael Olkiewicz and running back Campbell Parker, who put on nearly 20 pounds of muscle in the offseason, DiSandro said.

Wide receivers Alex Madson and Jack Polian, along with tight end Jacob Greer also will be featured in the passing game.

Defensively, tackles Evan Fleischer and Zavier Chatman return, and DiSandro said tackle 6-foot, 265-pound senior John Louis Mazzella "will be really disruptive" up front.

Sophomore kicker Davis Ashcroft already is getting looks from college scouts, who project him to be one of the premier kickers in the 2023 graduating classes, while junior punter William Henne returns.

"We've got a good team coming back," DiSandro said. "We're excited to get back on the field. We're making sure we follow all the guidelines to keep everyone safe. It hasn't been easy, but through it all, we haven't heard anyone making an excuse. Life's going to present you with challenges, and these Ponte Veda kids are great. Throughout this whole thing, they were focused on a goal to be back on the field."

To stay there, however, will take one step at a time.



Photo by Don Coble

Sharks quarterback Jacobi Myers prepares to throw a pass during a recent practice.

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Photo by Chris Norton

Nease defenders Creed McClafferty (17) and Kenneth Ponzetti make a tackle against St. Augustine last season. Both players are back on the Panthers' defense this season.

Panthers

Continued from 12

preparation this season, given that physical practices were cut out for months due to the pandemic. Drafts, who was hired in May 2019, said he missed out on the early practices last year and was looking forward to having that extra time to prepare with the team this year. COVID had other plans.

"I remember sending the kids home right before spring break and saying, 'Enjoy your week off, and I'll see you next week, and we'll keep it rolling,'" Drafts said. "Of course, I didn't get to see the kids again until June 15, so it was three months without being able to see the kids.

"I'm really proud of the way our coaching staff handled it, and especially the kids that during that first quarantine early in the year and everybody was out of school in spring of this year and nobody knew what to expect, I feel like our guys did a really good job of staying connected virtually."

Drafts said the team would conduct Zoom meetings once a week and boasted a nearly 100% attendance rate. Players were also expected to do at-home workouts four times a week, recording their sessions and sending the videos to coaches.

"The work we were able to do virtually, which was really new for everybody, I was really pleased with," Drafts said. "I felt like we did the best we could with the hand we were dealt. Once we were finally able to get back in action June 15, it was like we hadn't

really skipped a beat because we didn't really take three months off."

The team is also being diligent with its safety precautions: practicing social distancing, wearing masks, wiping down the weight room and equipment multiple times a day. Drafts said the staff has been good at communicating the importance of staying safe to the players, as well.

"We're lucky we're getting to play the game we love right now, so let's do everything we can to make sure to protect it," he said.

Now, with practices underway and the season set to begin, Drafts is focused on fundamentals and developing team leadership.

"We did a lot this offseason with leadership training and to put more ownership and responsibility on them," Drafts said.

Nease's roster is still relatively young, but the Panthers did incur some losses of standout players, including quarterback Joe Nieves, who signed to play with Shorter University in Rome, Georgia. Taking over his role will likely be either junior Gabe Ohlson or senior Will Carne, a transfer from St. Joseph's Academy.

"It's those two guys battling it out for the starting spot. It's been a quarterback competition," Drafts said. "I haven't officially named a starter for Week 1."

Overall, Drafts said he aims to rebuild and re-establish Nease as one of the premiere programs in St. Johns County, which it has been before.

"The wins will come when you're doing all the other things the right way," he said.



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2020 Regular Season Schedule

| DATE | TIME | OPPONENT |
|----------|---------|------------------|
| Sept. 11 | 7 PM | at Nease |
| Sept. 18 | 7 PM | Palatka |
| Sept. 25 | 7 PM | Menendez |
| Oct. 2 | 7 PM | Matanzas |
| Oct. 9 | 7 PM | at Bartram Trail |
| Oct. 16 | 6 PM | at Englewood |
| Oct. 23 | 7:30 PM | At Suwanee |
| Oct. 30 | 7 PM | at St. Augustine |
| Nov. 6 | 7 PM | Creekside |

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NEASE PANTHERS

2020 Regular Season Schedule

| DATE | TIME | OPPONENT |
|----------|------|------------------|
| Sept. 11 | 7 PM | Ponte Vedra |
| Sept. 18 | 6 PM | at Sandalwood |
| Sept. 25 | 7 PM | Yulee |
| Oct. 2 | 7 PM | Mandarin |
| Oct. 9 | 7 PM | at Creekside |
| Oct. 16 | 7 PM | Bartram Trail |
| Oct. 23 | 7 PM | at St. Augustine |
| Oct. 30 | 7 PM | at Oakleaf |
| Nov. 6 | 7 PM | Atlantic Coast |

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|----------|------|--------------------|
| Sept. 11 | 6 PM | Parker |
| Sept. 18 | 6 PM | Fleming Island |
| Sept. 25 | 6 PM | Flagler Palm Coast |
| Oct. 2 | 6 PM | at Atlantic Coast |
| Oct. 9 | 6 PM | Ribault |
| Oct. 16 | 6 PM | Buchholz |
| Oct. 23 | 6 PM | at First Coast |
| Oct. 30 | 7 PM | at Creekside |
| Nov. 5 | 6 PM | Mandarin |

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FLORIDA GATORS

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| DATE | TIME | OPPONENT |
|----------|---------|---------------------------|
| Sept. 26 | Noon | at Ole Miss |
| Oct. 3 | Noon | South Carolina |
| Oct. 10 | TBA | at Texas A&M |
| Oct. 17 | 3:30 PM | LSU |
| Oct. 24 | TBA | Missouri |
| Nov. 7 | 3:30 PM | Florida (at Jacksonville) |
| Nov. 14 | TBA | Arkansas |
| Nov. 21 | TBA | at Vanderbilt |
| Nov. 28 | TBA | Kentucky |
| Dec. 5 | TBA | at Tennessee |

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GEORGIA BULLDOGS

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| DATE | TIME | OPPONENT |
|----------|---------|---------------------------|
| Sept. 26 | 4 PM | at Arkansas |
| Oct. 3 | 7:30 PM | Auburn |
| Oct. 10 | TBA | Tennessee |
| Oct. 17 | 8 PM | at Alabama |
| Oct. 24 | TBA | at Kentucky |
| Nov. 7 | 3:30 PM | Florida (at Jacksonville) |
| Nov. 14 | TBA | at Missouri |
| Nov. 21 | TBA | Mississippi State |
| Nov. 28 | TBA | at South Carolina |
| Dec. 5 | TBA | Vanderbilt |

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Jaguars open season with a lot on the line

QB, head coach and GM's future with team could depend on young squad

By Don Coble

Gardner Minshew said he's will play for the Jacksonville Jaguars this season as if his job depended on success.

It probably does.

But the same goes for head coach Doug Marrone and general manager Dave Caldwell.

The team that's only had one winning season in the past 12 years will open the season at TIAA Bank Field on Sunday at 1 p.m. against the Indianapolis Colts. And they will do it with 16 rookies and seven second-year players on the roster.

Given a mandate by owner Shad Kahn to be a winner, the front office is wagering their futures with the franchise on a healthy dose of youthful exuberance.

"I love this team," Caldwell said. "It's going to be a young team ... but we feel good about it."

After dealing veterans like defensive end Calais Campbell, cornerback A.J. Bouye, defensive end Yannick Ngakou, running back Leonard Fournette and safety Ronnie Harrison in the offseason, the Jaguars clearly are committed to a youth movement.

Minshew is quick to discount Jacksonville is trying to lose to improve its chances to draft Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence in next spring's draft.

"People see it from afar, and they say, 'Oh, they're losing their biggest names,'" Minshew said. "That's not how we feel. If we're tanking, Coach Marrone, [General Manager] Dave Caldwell and me are probably going to be out



Photo provided by the Jacksonville Jaguars

The Jaguars open the season Sunday against the Indianapolis Colts after several big roster moves, including trading away defensive stars Yannick Ngakou (91) and Calais Campbell (93).

of jobs. A lot of those other guys in the locker room are not going to let that crap happen. That's absolutely not anything we envision happening."

Minshew was a sixth-round draft pick in 2018. He played at four difference colleges, before finding a home with the Jaguars. He quickly won the support of his teammates — and the Jaguars fanbase — with his flashy style, both on and off the field, after high-priced free agent Nick Foles was injured in the first quarter of the first game last year.

Minshew had flashes of success during his rookie season, throwing for 21 touchdowns with only six interceptions. He completed nearly 61% of his passes for 3,271 yards.

Minshew knows those numbers will have to improve if Jacksonville is going to be successful.

"Yeah, I mean, we've come a long way in this last year," Minshew said. "It's been a lot of fun. But you know what, I feel like I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be. I feel like I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be."

"I'm super grateful for the people I've had around me, that have gotten me to this point, that have helped me prepare for this. And I'm appreciative for the faith that people have put into me, to give me this position. It's a responsibility that I don't take lightly, and it's something that I look forward to earning every day, every week."

But he can't get better without a better supporting cast. Only four other teams had a worse run defense. And with Fournette gone, the Jaguars are going to shuttle as many as four running backs — three who've never had an NFL carry — into the rotation.

"Experience really does help you learn," Minshew said. "I know from my last year getting those reps is better than any classroom learning or practice learning that you could do, but I'm also very excited. With that youth comes a lot of energy, a lot of excitement — and not much ego."

"I think everybody's coming together in a great way. More than anything, I'm just excited to get everybody out there for the first time and really see what we've got."

Jacksonville opens with consecutive games against AFC South opponents. Following a Sept. 20 trip to Tennessee, the Jaguars will enter a four-game stretch — Miami, Cincinnati, Houston and Detroit — that should help define their season.

And it should help determine the futures of the coaching staff, front office and, perhaps, the quarterback.

"I'm excited to see what we can do," Marrone said. "A lot of those things have changed. As it goes, I think it will start building up and building up. That's how we want to do it with our players."

Tailgating time: Some tasty recipes to celebrate football season at home

By Cassidy Lankford

Although conventional tailgating may not be an option this year, tailgating from home provides a way for loved ones to gather together during football season.

For many people, football season means so much more than simply watching a game on TV. Football season is a time for people to gather together in community celebration, making their favorite tried-and-true recipes and spending time with their loved ones. With COVID-19 running rampant, conventional tailgating may no longer be an option — but that does not have to spell the end of tailgating as we know it.

Although assembling in tailgating lots and attending football games in masses may not be an option for 2020's football season, there are still ways to tailgate in a way that is safe for you and your loved ones. Although tailgating at home may not be the same experience as gathering in the lots near TIAA Bank Field, home tailgates can still provide the same sense of community and cheer as any tailgating experience.

When people think about tailgating, one of the first things that comes to mind is the food. Whether it's chicken wings, cupcakes or burgers, everyone's favorite part of tailgating is the mouthwatering dishes that are shared between friends. Whether you're tailgating at home with a few loved ones or

gathering with the masses by the stadium, delectable treats can be enjoyed no matter what. Below are a few recipes to add a tasty twist to your home tailgating fun:

SAUSAGE, BEAN AND SPINACH DIP

Total Time: 45 minutes

Yield: Approximately six cups

Ingredients:

- 1 sweet onion, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 (1-lb) package hot ground pork sausage
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp. fresh chopped thyme
- ½ cup dry white wine
- 1 (8 oz) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 (6 oz) package baby spinach, coarsely chopped
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1 (15 oz) can pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- ½ cup (2 oz) shredded Parmesan cheese
- Serve with: corn chip scoops, pretzels, bell pepper strips

Preparation instructions:

Step 1: Preheat oven to 375. Cook diced onion and next 2 ingredients in a large skillet over medium-high heat, stirring often, 8 to 10 minutes or until meat crumbles and is no longer pink. Drain. Stir in garlic and thyme; cook 1 minute. Stir in wine; cook 2 minutes or until liquid has almost completely evaporated.

Step 2: Add cream cheese, and cook, stirring constantly, 2 minutes or until cream cheese is melted. Stir in spinach and salt, and cook, stirring constantly, 2 minutes or until spinach is wilted.

Gently stir in beans. Pour mixture into a 2-qt. baking dish; sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Step 3: Bake at 375° for 18 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Serve with corn chip scoops, bell pepper strips, and pretzel rods.

DOUBLE CHOCOLATE FOOTBALL CUPCAKES

Yield: 18-24 cupcakes

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup warm water
- 3/4 cup buttermilk
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 8 oz. unsweetened chocolate, chopped
- 6 cups confectioners' sugar
- 16 Tbs. (2 sticks) unsalted butter
- 6 Tbs. milk, plus more, if needed
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp. salt

Preparation instructions:

Step 1: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line standard muffin tins with paper liners; set aside.

Step 2: Sift together cocoa powder, flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, and salt into a large bowl.

Step 3: Add eggs, warm water, buttermilk, oil, and vanilla, and mix until smooth, about 3 minutes. Scrape down the sides and bottom of bowl to assure batter is well mixed.

Step 4: Divide batter evenly among muffin cups, filling each 2/3 full.

Step 5: Bake until tops spring back when touched, about 20 minutes, rotating pan once if needed.

Step 6: Transfer to a wire rack; let cool completely.

Instructions for frosting:

Step 1: Have all the ingredients at room temperature.

Step 2: Put the chocolate in the top pan of a double boiler set over but not touching simmering water in the bottom pan. Stir until the chocolate is melted and smooth. Let cool to room temperature.

Step 3: In a large bowl combine the confectioners' sugar, butter, the 6 Tbs. milk, the vanilla and salt and beat with an electric mixer on low speed until combined, about 1 minute. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides of the bowl. Increase the speed to medium and beat for 2 minutes, then reduce the speed to low.

Step 4: Reserve about a 1/2 cup of the frosting at this point to make the laces

Step 5: Add the chocolate gradually and beat until combined, then increase the speed to medium and beat for 1 minute more.

Step 6: If the frosting is dry, add more milk, 1 tsp. at a time, until it is creamy but still holds peaks.

Decorating instructions:

Step 1: Using a small star tip in a pastry bag, zigzag the chocolate frosting in a diamond shape on the cooled cupcakes. Then put the reserved vanilla frosting into a bag with a small round tip and pipe on the laces.

Step 2: Enjoy!



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|-----------------|---------|-------------------------|
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| Sept. 20 | 1 PM | at Tennessee Titans |
| Sept. 24 | 8:20 PM | Miami Dolphins |
| Oct. 4 | 1 PM | at Cincinnati Bengals |
| Oct. 11 | 1 PM | at Houston Texans |
| Oct. 18 | 1 PM | Detroit Lions |
| BYE WEEK | | |
| Nov. 1 | 4:05 PM | at Los Angeles Chargers |
| Nov. 8 | 1 PM | Houston Texans |
| Nov. 15 | 1 PM | at Green Bay Packers |
| Nov. 22 | 1 PM | Pittsburgh Steelers |
| Nov. 29 | 1 PM | Cleveland Browns |
| Dec. 6 | 1 PM | at Minnesota Vikings |
| Dec. 13 | 1 PM | Tennessee Titans |
| Dec. 20 | 1 PM | at Baltimore Ravens |
| Dec. 27 | 1 PM | Chicago Bears |
| Jan. 3 | 1 PM | at Indianapolis Colts |

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Business Weekly

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TABLE TALK

with LEIGH CORT

Michael's: 'I've kept doing the dream — and painting history'

It's a universal truth that familiar foods soothe in troubled times while we even find comfort in a chef's signature soup. A mood-elevating meal may be a short drive from home where we discover a steak house where only the meat and red wines matter — or perhaps we crave settling into a cozy trattoria where a bowl of pasta can set the world right again. Luckily, Michael's hasn't lost its swagger.

Somehow, chef Michael Lugo's award-winning restaurant, Michael's, in historic downtown St. Augustine, thrills and satisfies many palates. We desperately need the dreamers, the idealists and the risk-takers like Lugo. It's joyously life-affirming to let his restaurant take you where you may never have been or thought you wanted to venture in the past. The story about Michael's restaurant and Michael himself is compelling. Simply, Lugo's comfortable, yet sophisticated, dining style with a seasonal menu, award-winning wine list and exquisite food paints a beautiful picture and conveys his personal story!



Photo by Leigh Cort

Restaurant Michael's, owned by chef Michael Lugo (above), offers a sophisticated and unique dining experience in the downtown St. Augustine.

TABLE TALK continues on Page 27

8 tips for having 'the talk' with elderly parents



Dan Armstrong
Guest Columnist

Talking about estate planning is a difficult, emotional topic but it's essential for every family.

Unless you're certain your parents have an up-to-date will and a wider plan for what should happen in the event of their passing, you shouldn't assume

everything will be taken care of.

According to a 2017 survey, less than half of Americans have a will. If your mother or father dies intestate — meaning without a will — such a situation could lead to added emotional strain and stress. And it could have financial implications for all their children and/or other family members.

The following eight tips can help you discuss the hard topics thoroughly and respectfully and prepare you for the road ahead.

1. PLAN WHAT YOU CAN

Discussing estate planning and all it entails is not something that should happen without any planning. Make a list of topics and questions, then let your parents know what you want to chat about with them.

If possible, set a time and date and choose a private venue that everyone will feel comfortable in. Be aware that you may need to schedule a few conversations as there could be too much to cover in one sitting. Remember to use language that's respectful and supportive, and to take a breather if emotions run high or the stress becomes overwhelming.

2. IDENTIFY KEY PEOPLE

There are several key people you may need to contact for estate planning purposes. Ask your parents for the names and contact details of their:

- Doctors
- Attorney
- Financial planner and/or accountant
- Insurance brokers
- Minister of religion
- Closest friends

Judge John: Observations on laws that affect living at the Beaches – castles in the sand



John Miller
Guest Columnist

Our home is our castle. Nothing more particularly defines us as beach people than our homes on our special island. Depending on what part of the beach you live in, there are different sets of ordinances and perhaps rules and regulations which apply to your home.

Home ownership is the cornerstone of the American Dream. When our country was first formed, we were the first nation in the world to allow for homeownership by common people. This was part of the foundation of our country. In order to acquire a home, one must go through a closing. Like having a

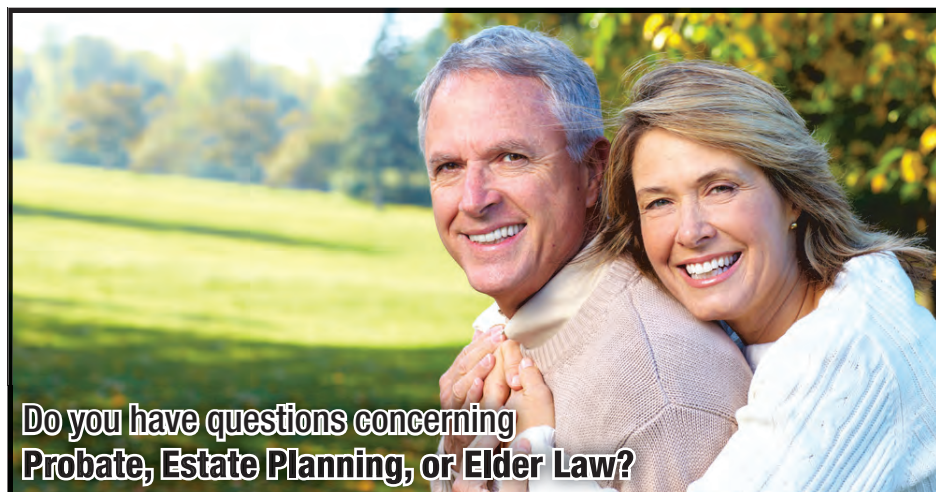
look at the man behind the curtain in Oz, this article will reveal the backstory behind closings.

The closing will be different depending on in what office you sign the documents to buy or sell your home. The law firm/title company is in charge of providing good title and of taking care of the parties, the Realtors and the lenders, among others. Communication is the key component to a successful and trouble-free closing experience.

Lots goes on before the date of closing and behind the scenes to assure a smooth closing. By the time you get to closing, the attorney has performed a review of the chain of title

JUDGE JOHN continues on Page 26

ARMSTRONG continues on Page 26



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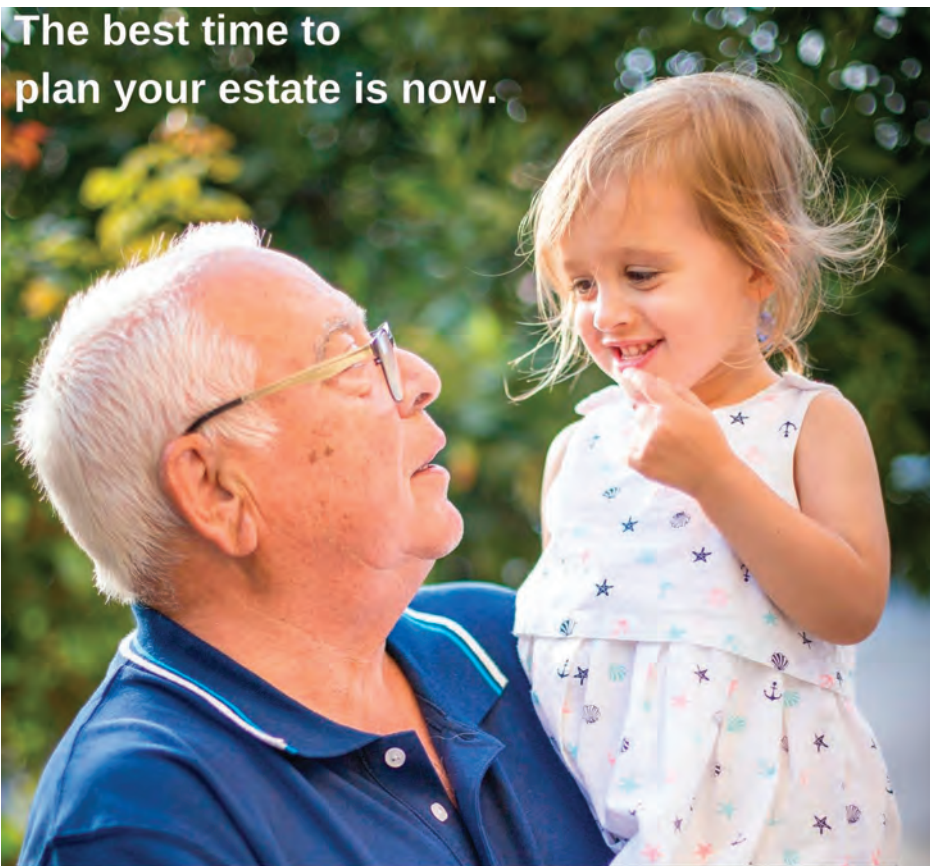
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Criminal Defense Attorney



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

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Rock Solid Law offers complimentary living wills to educators, school staff to start new school year

As educators and school staff across the country continue to express concerns about returning to the classroom amid the COVID-19 pandemic, attorney John Miller, founder of Rock Solid Law, is offering help by waiving his firm's fee to prepare living wills for them, along with offering an additional 10% discount on a last will and testament.

Miller is providing the legal document to any educator or school staff member in Florida who feel they need a backup plan in place just in case they come in contact with COVID-19.

"I personally have two school-age

children, as do other members of our Rock Solid team," Miller said. "We so respect the educators and their support staff who are dedicated to our future generations and are submitting themselves to a significant risk in doing so. We hope that by offering these opportunities, that we can relieve them of some of the stress of their current situation and show our extreme gratitude to them."

Teachers and school staff across Northeast Florida are returning to the classroom with some uncertainty still lingering. Many teachers say they are concerned — even going as far as reaching out to their

doctors to see what this virus could do to them. A lot of teachers are saying that they were so nervous about going back to school and they didn't know what to do.

Rock Solid Law's concern is that everyone should have access to the legal system and not every educator knows a lawyer they can just call up and ask about a living will.

An advance directive for health care, better known as a living will or directive to physician, is a legal document that describes the type of medical care an individual does or does not want in the case they are unable to communicate their

wishes. For instance, an individual would decide if they want to stay on life-support or not.

"We feel like this is so important for everyone who is educating our children to have," Miller said.

Rock Solid Law also posted on its Facebook page it will waive the fee for the preparation of a living will for all educators and school staff.

To get a complimentary living will, email your name, school and mailing address to info@rocksolidlaw.com. The living will requires two witnesses, one of whom is neither a spouse nor a blood relative.

Judge John

Continued from 23

report and removed all encumbrances to title. This is done so that the seller transfers and the buyer receives fee simple, or clear title. The party who is paying for the title insurance gets to choose where to close. In our area, that is usually the seller.

The closing attorney, working with processors and closers, collaborates with the owner, the buyer, the Realtors, lenders, association managers, title underwriter and potentially other parties in order to coordinate the closing. Each participant likely has a different priority. The seller is interested in properly transferring title, and in receiving payment from the sale. The buyer is interested in receiving clear title, the keys to the new home, and in leaving the closing

in time to meet the movers in the driveway. The Realtors' interest is to be sure that the contract that they have produced is closed properly, that the parties are satisfied, that their commission checks are dispersed properly, and often, in non-pandemic times, Realtors attend closings.

The lender's interest at the closing is to be sure that they are in a first mortgage position, and that all of their loan documents are signed correctly. Having collateralized the repayment of the loan they're making, that means that in addition to the note under which the buyer borrows the money, a mortgage is properly executed and will be subsequently recorded, which remains a lien against the property until that note is paid back in full. The attorney has a fiduciary responsibility to the lender to make sure that the lien is perfected in exchange for the lender providing the money for the

buyer to purchase the property.

The attorney may wear several hats. The attorney may be representing one of the parties, and is acting as escrow agent, meaning the attorney must account for receiving all the funds of the transaction, and disbursing them properly. The attorney is likely the title agent. In some instances, there may need to be an escrow for such things as repairs; the attorney can create the escrow agreement, and act as an escrow agent for those funds. The attorney must explain the legal import of each of the documents being signed and is there to answer questions that the buyers and sellers might have about the obligations.

Judge John highly recommends above all of the things that parties use a law firm or title company that has an attorney on board because attorneys are trained in the law of real property, and make sure that the

transaction goes smoothly and legally.

Conclusion: Educate yourself before buying or selling a home in the Jacksonville Beaches area. Why?

1. Beach living is the best.
2. An attorney should handle your closing to be sure that the transaction is managed properly, and you are protected.
3. With a properly conducted closing, all of the parties come out winners.

John Miller is the Special Magistrate for the City of Neptune Beach. His law firm, Rock Solid Law, focuses on Estate Planning, Real Estate Closings and Title, and representing entrepreneurial small Business Owners. (904) 241-1113

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

Armstrong

Continued from 23

3. ADDRESS THE TOPIC OF A WILL

Determine whether there is an existing will in place and whether the document is up to date. If a will was created more than five years ago, check to see if they'd consider reviewing it to ensure it's a true reflection of their wishes. Establish where they keep the document and confirm who they've appointed as the executors. The same goes for any trust that may have been created.

4. TALK ABOUT POWER OF ATTORNEY

Find out whether your parents have appointed someone to manage their financial and other affairs if they become incapacitated. If they haven't given someone power of attorney, suggest they consider doing so.

5. DISCUSS END-OF-LIFE WISHES

Even though the subject may be uncomfortable to talk about, you should discuss your parents' end-of-life wishes with them. Their estate plan will be incomplete without these directives, so it's important

to include them. The form those directives take depends on the state in which you live, and they may include:

- The appointment of a health care proxy who can make medical decisions for your parents if they become incapable of making those decisions themselves. You can obtain the relevant forms from an elder law attorney or from a hospital or nursing home.

- A medical or advance directive that explains what sort of care they would like and whether life support should be used to keep them alive or not. These directives can be included in the document that appoints the health care proxy. The directive must refer to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) when naming the proxy.

- A living will contains instructions regarding the withdrawal or termination of life support under specific conditions, such as your parents becoming terminally ill, becoming comatose, or entering a vegetative state.

- Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST), which provides more explicit directives regarding the type of treatment your parents would or wouldn't want.

6. ASK ABOUT INSURANCE POLICIES

Talk about the type of insurance policies in place. That includes:

- Health insurance — Medicare or private
- Life insurance
- Home insurance
- Long-term care insurance
- Disability insurance

In some cases, there may be seniors' funeral insurance or other policies intended to cover funeral or burial payments. You'll need to know about these, too, and have all their details.

If you haven't already done so, take note of the names and contact details of the insurance brokers. Check where the policy documents are kept, and, if possible, make certified copies of them.

7. REQUEST ACCESS TO TAX RETURNS

It can be helpful to know where tax return paperwork is stored. While these documents may not be necessary after death, they could be required if the estate becomes complicated. Confirm where you can find these documents and that they're all up to date.

8. DISCUSS ALL OTHER PRACTICALITIES

In addition to subjects such as power of attorney and insurance, there are several other practicalities you should include in your conversations.

- Make a list of their accounts — financial accounts such as bank and mutual fund, credit accounts and store accounts
- Check if they are registered organ donors or whether they would consider donating their organs.
- Talk about the memorial service they want and whether they want to be buried, cremated, or some other option.

CONCLUSION

Estate planning conversations are tough no matter how you tackle them. Try your best to be patient with your parents and transparent with other family members about what you're doing. If you have siblings, invite them to be part of the conversation.

Accept that these talks can take time and avoid placing pressure on those involved to get it all done in a few hours. The smaller details are critical and should not be rushed. Lastly, always consult an attorney if you're unsure about the legal aspects or implications of any of the points mentioned above.

Table Talk

Continued from 23

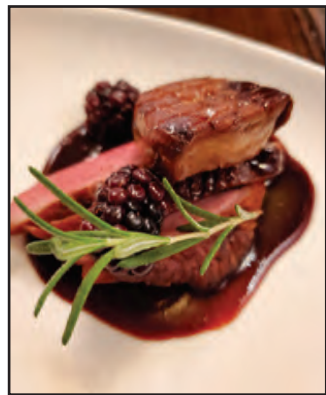
For a decade and a half, Michael has been in the news since opening his own establishment in 2006 on brick-paved Calle Cuna (Cuna Street) in a building that began in 1764. Writers and food critics have savored his story about growing up in Puerto Rico; they have honored his grandmother “Nellie” for inspiring her grandson with foods grown on the farm and learning culinary skills and secrets as a child when he didn’t even know what that meant. His path from Puerto Rico to Texas where he began in the restaurant industry was rich with restaurant and chef mentors who watched Michael cultivate his in-depth knowledge of wines, steaks and hospitality. He is a self-taught chef who pushes himself to the highest level of dining excellence. Somehow, he’s able to rub cultures together and see what color his sparks will be!

Entering into Michael’s, the restaurant feels grown up; you’re engaged quickly with quiet music and a casual ambience and a perfectly set table that makes you feel that you’re the only guests dining. Begin your visit with knowledgeable and well-mannered service. Feel the serenity and subtly textured art in the main dining room or tranquility in the outdoor garden room. Michael’s story becomes apparent through the extreme personalized service and easy to navigate menu. His commitment is about working with a well-informed staff who also respect the artisans from around the globe who share the restaurant’s values.

If you enjoy fine wine, The Wine Spectator has awarded Michael’s wine list with the Award of Excellence for 11 consecutive years. Notably, during Florida’s 500th anniversary, Michael and his honored restaurant were featured on the Food Network with chef Emeril Lagasse. If you choose the nightly chef tasting menu (which changes weekly), note that Lugo is also a sommelier who toured Spain and a plethora of Michelin-star restaurants as he plotted his own ... with a path of a well-heeled wine cellar to share with guests on Calle Cuna. With 400 unique and independent labels, the delicious food and excellent wines live companionably side-by-side.

As Michael’s is quickly becoming popular for its three- or five or seven-course “chef experience” tasting dinners, you can opt to savor the chef’s immense creativity with or without a paired wine. It takes time to sit, sip and swoon over the weekly menu that each server masterfully presents nightly. With small yet fascinating touches from their edible herbs grown in their restaurant garden or discussing the “talking points of wine and food” with chef or sous chef, this is a distinguishing dining option that deserves checking out.

Although the weekly “tasting” menu continues to excite guests through its dramatic changes, there is one dish at Michael’s that shows a sense of humor and playfulness. It’s the “Everything Bagel” appetizer. The major components are lox, goat cheese and caper berries cleverly presented. Here’s where Michael flaunts his



Duck breast and foie gras



Lobster and gnocchi



Dark chocolate tort



“Everything bagel”

culinary confidence and balance of flavors.

Turn over the reins to an exotic dish and you’ll fall in love with the pan-roasted duck breast with seared foie gras gently resting on a puddle of blackberry demi. It’s the little touches that make this chef unique — with the blackberries, blueberries and rosemary garnish. If you’re a fanatic for foie gras, you’ll find it on several of his menus waiting for you to enjoy its delicate and decadent preparations.

Michael’s gnocchi (pan-seared for a perfect first-bite crunch) is a synergy of flavors with richly butter poached lobster, smoked tomatoes and a dreamy saffron corn puree. It’s spectacularly delicious, so I give it a standing ovation that doesn’t require any other dish to introduce or follow it!

The exciting carte du jour is focused on steaks and coastal Spanish-inspired cuisine sprinkled with influences from the finest local ingredients. It’s a dilemma to select an appetizer that is adapted from Michael’s roots where he visits the past and improves upon it — like Plantain Bon Bons (sweet plantains wrapped in smoked bacon with datil guava sauce), montaditos (sautéed steak with criollo tomatoes and avocado

crème in plantain cups) and empanaditas (crispy chicken empanadas served with garlic herb aioli).

Michael pushes the limits on new ideas while maintaining his passion for classically aged beef. The overall experience is as important as the steak itself. Among the oldest type of American restaurant, the steakhouse, Michael’s serves 30-day and 60-day wet- and dry-aged steaks. These processes are similar to fine wines — the more age, the more benefit to the palate.

The overly generous portion of accompanying sides to each signature entrée are as memorable as each meat, fish or chicken entree. Creamy risotto with leeks and Parmesan cheese, crispy brussels sprouts tossed with bacon lardons and smoked tomatoes, truffle fries hand-cut with shaved Parmesan, parsley, sea salt and white truffle oil — are notable!

At Michael’s, desserts are treated affectionately. Given a kiss of sea salt to smooth out the sweetness, the dark chocolate tort might remain in your memory for a lifetime. Its simple name could never equal the complex richness of its dark brooding flavors and beauty. It’s powerfully irresistible. The precious tres leches dessert is equally tempting for an ephemeral light ending! Michael is proudly working with chef Nils Rowland, owner of Crème de Cocoa, as they collaborate to create many of Michael’s desserts. It’s obvious that Michael Lugo has a clear sense of what he wants to do.

For us, that’s a very good thing!

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Jacksonville Symphony plans 2 free concerts in September

The Jacksonville Symphony will host pre-season concerts on Wednesday, Sept. 16, and Thursday, Sept. 17. These concerts will be free to attend.

With limited seating available due to a physically distanced Jacoby Symphony Hall, the symphony asks that seats only be reserved for those sure they can attend the performance. For more information about tickets for the open houses and the 2020-21 season, call the symphony box office at 904-354-5547 or go to www.jaxsymphony.org.

These open house performances will mark the first time that Jacoby Symphony Hall has been open to the public since

March. As of right now, the symphony is one of only a handful of larger orchestras opening their doors for live performances. Recently, the symphony announced the thorough list of health and safety protocols that will be in place for concerts. A full listing of protocols can be found at jaxsymphony.org/about/safety-protocols.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. each day and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

The program for each concert will be the same, conducted by music director Courtney Lewis and featuring music from Tchaikovsky to Sousa. Following new concert protocols, each will only be about an hour with no intermission.

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- Not Sunni
- Mountaineer's tool
- Tolkien creature
- Bebe Rexha's "___ to Be"
- Artificial or man-made
- Snow runner
- Nylon or Kevlar, in chemistry terms
- Scooby-Doo's best friend
- *Between order and genus
- *Marine botany is study of plants living here
- 35mm, e.g.
- Public health agency, acr.
- Partner of void
- Small lynx
- Stewart and Blagojevich
- Grazing lands
- Jawaharlal ___
- g or cm
- Smelling ____, athlete's pick-me-upper
- No neatnik
- Lay to rest
- They are hairy on a hobbit
- Hefty volume
- One in line, during COVID-19 pandemic
- In the middle of
- *Grain-bearing tip of a cereal plant
- Cattle meat
- Fleur-de-___
- *Pollinator attractors
- *Food for a pollinator
- One there at the beginning
- Famous T-Rex
- Lowest deck
- Forearm bones
- Cassius Clay, ___ Muhammad Ali
- Private instructor
- ___-do-well
- Thus far
- Inflict a blow
- Highway hauler
- Icy precipitation
- Dr. Jones, fictional professor of archaeology, to friends
- Filled up
- Biblical personification of material wealth
- Olden-day Celts
- Priest's robe
- Blank leaf in a book
- *Seed holder
- "Death, Be Not Proud" poet
- Mine passages
- *Food manufacturer
- Superlative of better
- Actress Sevigny
- Something in the air
- *Potato, e.g.
- Proofreader's mark
- *Plant support
- "...he found a crooked sixpence upon a crooked ___"
- Sales lure
- Electric fish
- *Not monocots
- Piece of writing
- Pull strings
- Carpet attribute
- Marine eagle
- Russia's famous Peter
- Sans mixers
- Choir voice
- *Plant anchor
- Good times
- Israel
- Kamakawiwo'ole's guitar
- Prefix for prior

DOWN

- Female sib
- "Hamlet" has five
- Sure or uh-huh
- "The Forsyte ____, pl.
- *Product of photosynthesis
- One of a pocketful, according to Mother Goose
- Genesis vessel
- "The Matrix" genre

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Sports

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 · PAGE 29

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Fast start, par putt at No. 8 keys David Ford's Junior PLAYERS Championship victory

By Don Coble

Although David Ford started Sunday's final round of the Junior PLAYERS championship with six birdies in his first 12 holes, the high school senior said the catalyst for his two-stroke victory came with a testy 10-foot par putt at No. 8.

"The save at 8 was the key," Ford said after closing with a tournament-best 6-under-par 66 at TPC Sawgrass' Stadium Course. "I had a little chip. I hadn't chipped one in all week and I forced it a little and ran it by. I had a 10-foot downhill putt, but I made it right in the center."

Ford lives in Peachtree Corners, Georgia, an area north of Atlanta. He's already committed to playing college golf at North Carolina. The Tar Heels will be getting a player who's ranked third in the Rolex Amateur Golf Association rankings, and player who's won four times this year, including his last two AJGA starts.

None, however, were bigger than winning on one of golf's grandest stages.

"It's been hard to get everything in with the pandemic," Ford said. "I really tried to just take it one shot at a time. I don't feel like I made a lot of putts. It happens that way sometimes."

Ford opened with an even-par 72 on Friday to trail first-round leader Evan Vo by five shots. A one-over 73 on Saturday left him seven strokes behind 36-hole leader Preston Summerhays, who fired a 4-under 68.

Ford opened Sunday's final round with birdies at 1, 2, 7, 10, 11 and 12 before stumbling with a bogey at No. 15. But he bounced back with a birdie at the par-5



Preston Summerhays watches his shot during the Junior PLAYERS Championship in Sunday at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

16th to finish the tournament at 5-under 211.

The heat and pressure of playing on the same course that hosts The PLAYERS was overwhelming for many. With temperatures in the mid-90s, tournament organizers positioned volunteers to stationary spots on Sunday instead of assigning one to walk with each group.

"The most-difficult part was the heat," Ford said. "You had to drink a lot of water.

"We had a little wind on the last day and that helped me curve the ball. The key was hitting fairways. I've been struggling with my driver lately, but I found the fairway here. You have to avoid trouble here."

Summerhays hit balls in the water at Nos. 16 and 18 to finish with a 5-over 76

for a sixth-place finish.

Scotty Kennon was one of five players to tie for second place. He bogeyed the final hole for a 1-under 71.

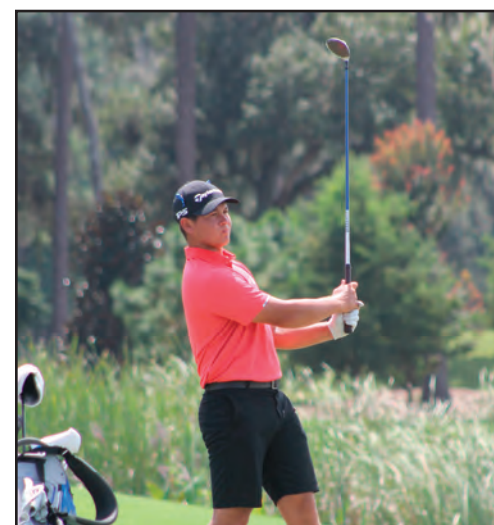
Also in at 3-under 213 were Tommy Morrison (73-72-68), AJGA No. 1-ranked player Kelly Chinn (71-71-71) and Karl Vilips (72-69-72).

There were no scoreboards, but players were able to get delayed scoring on their cellphones. Ford focused solely on golf and didn't pay attention to his position during the final round.

"I didn't look at the leaderboard the whole way," he said. "I honestly didn't expect to see my name on top of the leaderboard when I finished. I didn't think 5-under would win it."



David Ford holds the trophy after winning the Junior PLAYERS Championship.



Karl Vilips hits a shot during Sunday's round. Vilips was one of five players to tie for second place.

North Florida PGA pros compete for section championship

Eighty-seven North Florida PGA pros are in the field between Wednesday, Sept. 9, and Friday, Sept. 11, to compete in the 40th annual North Florida PGA Section Championship, the most elite PGA Section event of the year.

While it may not carry a worldwide audience like the Ryder Cup or PGA Championship, the championship is as big as it gets for the membership of the North Florida Section.

This is especially true when the tournament takes place at Streamsong Golf Resort in Bowling Green, Florida, named "Florida's Highest Rated Golf Course" for the third consecutive year by Golfweek.

The pros are hoping to qualify for the 2021 Arnold

Palmer Invitational in March at Bay Hill Country Club & Lodge. The North Florida PGA is the only section in the country where the Section Champion/Player of the Year earns a spot in the field.

Of the 87 total competitors, seven will also compete for the Women's Section Championship title. Next week's open division field will play 54 holes of individual stroke play on the fabled Gil Hanse design, a Par-73 Championship course. The Women's Division will compete for 36 holes with their final round taking place Thursday, Sept. 10.

Rod Perry, head golf pro at Crane Lakes Golf & Country Club, enters as defending champion who claimed back-to-

back victories in 2018 at Grand Cypress Resort and again in 2019 at Golden Ocala Golf & Equestrian Club.

Four years prior, Perry pulled off a historic three-peat, claiming the title in 2012-2014.

Also in the field is Donny Lee, director of instruction at Donny Lee Golf, who won in 2017, carding an astounding -11 at Reunion Golf Resort.

Also competing is David Hronek, teaching pro at GOLFTEC Sarasota, who won back-to-back championships in 2015 and 2016 with an impressive -12 both years.

Go to nflapga.bluegolf.com for leaderboards and player stats.

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