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Recorder

September 17, 2020

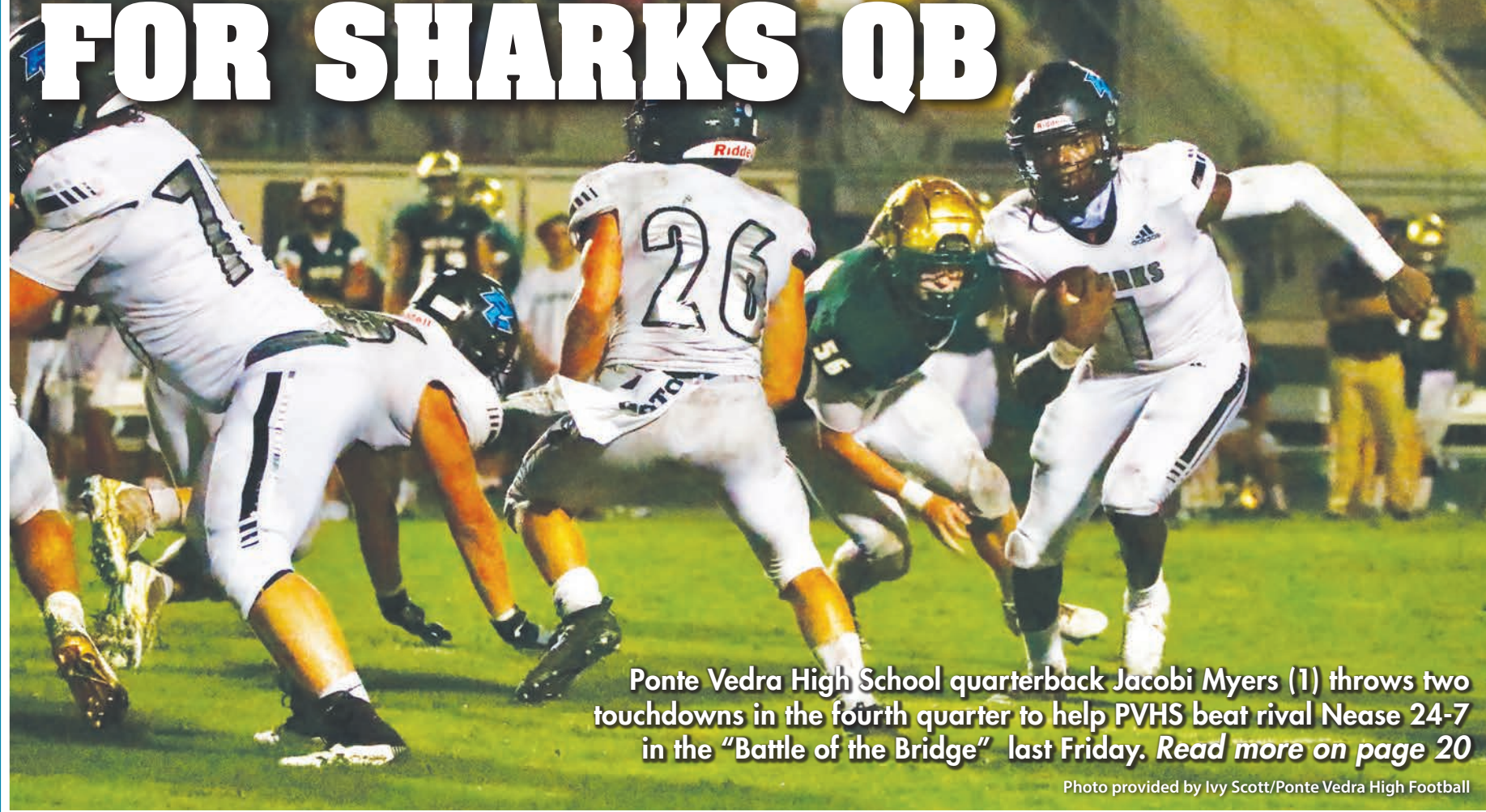
Volume 51, No. 46

75 cents

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FIN-TASTIC FINISH FOR SHARKS QB



Ponte Vedra High School quarterback Jacobi Myers (1) throws two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to help PVHS beat rival Nease 24-7 in the "Battle of the Bridge" last Friday. *Read more on page 20*

Photo provided by Ivy Scott/Ponte Vedra High Football

MORE SPORTS: Course record set in JAGA Senior Championship at St. Johns Golf and Country Club, *page 20*

Jaguars open season with 27-20 victory over AFC South rival Indianapolis, *page 21*



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



Fall Home Improvement

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Business Weekly

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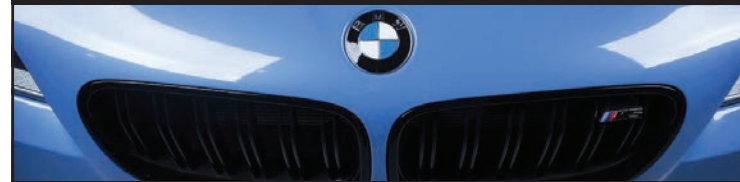


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One of Us

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Send us your news

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

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

What's This?: Because of the COVID-19 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

Motorcyclist dies in accident on Valley Ridge Boulevard in Nocatee

An accident Friday afternoon in Nocatee claimed the life of a motorcyclist.

According to the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the motorcycle was traveling eastbound along a curved section in the 4000 block of Valley Ridge Boulevard when it apparently jumped the curb and ejected the rider.

No other vehicles were involved, and investigators do not believe that speed was a factor.

The rider was treated at the scene and taken to Baptist South Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. The rider's name was not released.

Following the accident, Valley Ridge West at Joellyn Court was closed for a time to traffic in both directions.

County extends SJC CARES Nonprofit Grant Recovery Program deadline

St. Johns County has extended the SJC CARES Nonprofit Grant Recovery Program deadline to Sept. 25 to allow eligible nonprofit agencies additional time to apply for COVID-19 assistance. 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.sjcfl.us/sjccares, call (904) 209-6050 or email sjccares@sjcfl.us.

Old Dixie Highway sidewalk installation underway

St. Johns County began installing a new sidewalk on Old Dixie Highway between Walden Chase Lane and Nease High School on Monday, Sept. 14. The 900-foot sidewalk project is scheduled to be finished in November, and will provide pedestrian access to Nease High School when complete. No traffic closures are anticipated for the duration of this project. For more information, call (904) 209-0266 or go to www.sjcfl.us.

Florida bars allowed to reopen at 50% indoor capacity

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation Secretary Beshears recently announced all bars may reopen to 50% indoor occupancy, effective Monday, Sept. 14, while observing appropriate social distancing as outlined in Phase 2 of the Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery.

DBPR Emergency Order 2020-10 rescinds Emergency Order 2020-09 which previously suspended on premises alcohol sales at bars and other vendors licensed to sell alcoholic beverages.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

S	A	Y	S	O	P	A	S	S	H	I	A	
I	C	E	A	X	O	R	C	M	E	A	N	T
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U	N	I	T	S	A	L	T	S	S	L	O	B
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9	6	4	3	1	7	8	2	5				
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1	3	8	4	2	9	7	5	6				
7	5	3	9	8	1	2	6	4				
8	4	2	7	3	6	5	9	1				
6	1	9	2	4	5	3	7	8				

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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



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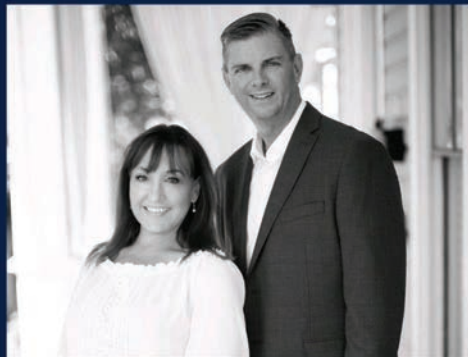
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Stay tuned for the Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra results!

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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Firefighters remember those lost in Sept. 11 attacks during ceremony in St. Augustine



By Shaun Ryan

A large group of local residents and first responders gathered Friday morning on the front lawn of the St. Augustine Fire Department's main station to remember the nearly 3,000 people lost in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The Ceremony of Remembrance marked the 19th anniversary of the al-Qaida attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania. The first ceremony was conducted two days after the attacks and has continued each year on Sept. 11.

St. Augustine Fire Chief Carlos Aviles

praised the men and women of the fire service who responded that day and the days that followed.

"It takes loyalty to remain there for weeks after the attack, painstakingly digging through rubble looking for your fallen brothers," he said. "It takes duty to drop everything that you're doing, whether you're on shift or not, and race into the city as hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing on foot in sheer terror."

The featured speaker was Gerard Durkin, retired Fire Department of New York officer.

"At 9:10 a.m., I was in New Jersey with

REMEMBRANCE continues on Page 5

ABOVE: Retired New York firefighter Gerard Durkin speaks during the St. Augustine Fire Department's Ceremony of Remembrance. Durkin described what he saw on Sept. 11, 2001, when he responded to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

RIGHT: A member of the St. Augustine Fire Department rings a historic bell to honor those killed on Sept. 11, 2001.

Photos by Shaun Ryan



Firefighters bow their heads during a 9/11 Remembrance ceremony in St. Augustine.

Surfers rescue man with dangerous medical condition

By Shaun Ryan

A local man is alive today largely due to the efforts of two fast-thinking surfers.

It was a beautiful Saturday at the beach behind the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, the kind of day that draws families. It was also the kind of day that draws surfers; Hurricane Isaias was offshore on that first day of August, and it was creating ideal surfing waves.

Ben Smith had paddled out on his short board but soon found himself in a rip current.

"I started paddling, and I tried to fight against the rip," he said. "About that time, I started feeling light-headed and dizzy."

Smith has been surfing for more than 30 years, catching waves around the world. In fact, he's rescued a couple of people in that time. But he also has a couple of medical conditions, including atrial fibrillation, that occasionally flare up.

He knew he was in trouble.

He attempted to wave down another surfer, Jeff Tidwell. At first, Tidwell thought Smith was just waving hello, so he waved back. Then he turned to another

surfer, Brogan Taylor, and asked, "Do you know this guy?"

When he turned back, Smith was patting his chest. Tidwell turned to Taylor and yelled, "Hey, man, something's up."

The men paddled over to Smith, Tidwell arriving first. "I was yelling for Brogan, 'Hey, I'm going to need some help; we've got to get this guy to the beach,'" Tidwell said.

The men arranged for Smith to lie on his board and grab onto their ankles so that they could tow him in.

Eventually, they entered what surfers call the impact zone, where the waves are most powerful when they break. Suddenly, a five-foot wave rose up, about to crash down on the three of them.

Taylor and Tidwell knew they would have to separate from Smith. They angled him so that he could possibly ride out the wave. After it passed, Taylor looked for Smith's board, which would be sticking up out of the water if he'd slipped off because he was tethered to the back end. But there was no sign of it.

"I look over at Jeff and I go, 'Where is he?'" said Taylor. "Jeff said right before it hit us, he looked over

at him and said, 'You hold onto that board like your life depends on it.'"

And Smith did just that. They found him and got him to the beach. Taylor ran for help while Tidwell stayed with Smith.

"A lady came out of nowhere," Tidwell recalled. "She said, 'What's going on? I'm a trauma nurse. Can I help?' She literally took control of the scene. She started asking for things out of the lifeguard's bag. She cut his sun shirt off of him. She backed everybody up. She asked for an umbrella for shade. She asked for towels for him to lay on."

Soon, deputies and Fire Rescue arrived and Smith was taken to the hospital.

The episode now behind him, Smith expressed gratitude for the paramedics, the lifeguards, the nurse and everyone else who helped that day. And, especially, the two men who got him to shore.

"These gentlemen were selfless, and we need more of that in our society today," he said. "Every day's a blessing; we've just got to remember it."

"I'm glad I was there to help," said Tidwell. "I would hope somebody would do it for me."

Remembrance

Continued from 4

my wife and my children,” he recalled. “The phone rang. It was my mother-in-law in Brooklyn telling me frantically to turn on the TV.”

He did so and watched as a plane flew into the south tower of the World Trade Center, where his sister-in-law worked. He kissed his wife, hugged his children and raced to the scene 40 minutes away.

“Upon my arrival, I could see the north tower still in flames, but the south tower no longer existed,” he said.

Heading to the site from a fire station, he watched in horror as the north tower collapsed.

Durkin described what he saw that day and how he and his fellow first responders searched through the rubble for anything to help identify the victims.

“With every item I found, I prayed that I would find something that would lead to my sister-in-law,” he said.

In the end, they never found her.

“The empty chair at Thanksgiving and Christmas still haunts us,” he said.

Friday’s ceremony concluded with a minute of silence precisely at 8:45 a.m., timed to coincide with the moment the first plane hit the first tower.

Afterward, a member of the department struck the historic 1900 fire bell in four intervals of five rings each. This is a tradition signifying the last alarm of a



Photo by Shaun Ryan

A large American flag flies Friday above the St. Augustine Fire Department’s annual Ceremony of Remembrance.

firefighter. The ringing was performed to honor the firefighters, law enforcement officers, military personnel and civilians who died on Sept. 11, 2001.



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Local anesthesiologist Dr. Stephanie Hollis is making her dream of becoming an interior designer come true through her new interior design business, Design M.D.

Dr. Stephanie Hollis

As told to Cassidy Lankford

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I am a native Floridian. I went to the University of Florida and trained in medicine there. I've been an anesthesiologist for the past 20 years. I worked for the Baptist Beaches group until the end of last year when I started focusing on interior design full time. I moved to St. Augustine in 2004 with my husband and we've lived on sailboat for the past three years. Since we love sailing and being on the water, this is something we've been saving up for our entire marriage. This is our dream house, and it just so happens that our dream house floats!

How did you get into interior design?

Creativity and art have been passions of mine my whole life. Since college, and even before, I was always designing and creating. I loved redecorating for my family members as a young adult. However, 30 years ago, interior design wasn't thought of as a real career, so my parents encouraged me to pursue a more sustainable career. I loved practicing medicine, but recently I had the opportunity to put my days in medicine behind me and focus on something different that I love just as much as medicine. In 2017, I started Design MD and did it part time until the beginning of this year when I started pursuing it full time.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

I absolutely love the challenge of taking a space that is tired, outdated or not inspirational and making it a space that speaks to the person that occupies it. I love creating a space to fit the occupant's personality — so that they can have a space that they feel like themselves in. I love recreating spaces in a fun, interesting way that no one will forget.

What are some of the challenges that your industry/company is facing?

COVID-19 has been a big challenge because it's harder to get in front of people in a comfortable way and to have that personal interaction the way we're used to having it, so it forces me to get more creative. Another difficulty is that from a budget standpoint, people have unrealistic expectations for what items and services cost. It's challenging when people have an unrealistic idea of the financial investment that goes along with interior design.



Photo provided by Dr. Stephanie Hollis

What are your future goals for your business?

I really want to focus on doing more feature-pieces for people's homes. I do a lot of custom tile backsplashes and custom wall installations — like wood sculpture walls. Rather than traditional furniture styling, I want to focus on finding that one-of-a-kind backsplash or centerpiece for clients that really stands out in their home.

What do you enjoy most about living and working around the beaches and St. Johns County area?

Most of my clients are at the Jacksonville beaches and in Ponte Vedra and St. Augustine. Most of my clients are local business and residential. This area is great in general because you have so many opportunities — there's no limits. You can be crazy with color and style and do almost anything as long as it's executed well. This community is open and so relaxed —

they're more willing to have fun with it.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Sailing and traveling are my favorite things. The best place I've traveled is definitely French Polynesia. We spent month there, we flew there and really had the full experience. We will definitely be taking our sailboat there one day! I also enjoy exercising, swimming and biking — really anything that gets me outside.

Ocean Palms Elementary School's new community-funded Otter Park playground is up and running. OPE third-grader Landon Hunter proposed a donation to the school's playground project on behalf of the Kneeland Hunter Family Fund, which helped make the project possible.

Photos provided by Ocean Palms Elementary

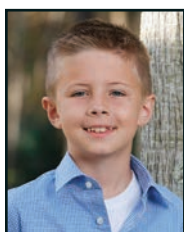


Play in progress on OPE's new community-funded playground

This fall, students were welcomed back to Ocean Palms Elementary School with a playful surprise — a new playground, known to those on campus as The Otter Park.

This colorful, fun-filled play structure was the end result of the Ocean Palm Elementary PTO's efforts last school year to collaborate with sponsors, families and community members alike to raise the nearly \$150,000 needed to replace the existing structure, which was more than 10 years old.

However, this process wasn't without the help of the little hands that would eventually swing, slide and climb across the playground. In fact, one student in



Landon Hunter

particular, third-grader Landon Hunter, had a big hand in bringing joy to his school.

After hearing about the plans and fundraising efforts in the works last school year, Hunter created a proposal and presented it to his family's foundation, the Kneeland Hunter Family Fund. The family donated \$15,000 on behalf of Hunter to the project.

School fundraising events, alongside project sponsors such as Flagler Health+, the JT Townsend Foundation, Memorial Hospital Memorial Health, Training for Warriors, Brown & Brown Insurance, John Merrill Homes and Arthur Ruthenberg Homes also helped make The Otter Park possible.

Florida Department of Education awards OPE for creating change

Ocean Palms Elementary School was recently recognized as the Florida Department of Education's 2019-2020 winner of the Family and Community Involvement Award in the elementary category for Region II. This is the highest award presented by the State Department of Education.

The award was created to recognize innovation, school-level family and community involvement, and partnerships — all of which describe the school's Be the Change initiative, which prompted the award.

Be the Change is a program that brings environmental awareness to the school alongside partnerships with Beaches Go Green and Ponte Vedra High School. Beaches Go Green especially brings attention to the impact of single-use plastic waste and its effect on the environment.

Ponte Vedra High School students provided STEM education as well as presentations on how to educate the community on the need to reduce single-use plastics to the fifth-grade students. Then, with that knowledge, the fifth-grade students led the schoolwide Be the Change project, which focused on refusing, reducing, reusing and recycling. This culminated in the construction of an 8-foot light-up otter installation at the 2019 Deck the Chairs event. The



Photo provided by Ocean Palms Elementary

As part of Be the Change initiative, OPE students constructed an 8-foot light-up otter made of egg cartons, leftover construction materials and hurricane sandbags for the 2019 Deck the Chairs event.

installation was composed of egg cartons, leftover construction materials and hurricane sandbags. Additionally, the school's ambassador students incorporated recycled/repurposed materials in their many annual service projects.



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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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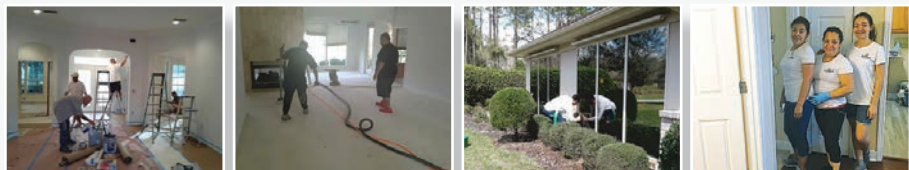
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Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

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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Newcomers Alumnae inducts new board members at luncheon

On Sept. 2, Newcomers Alumnae held its first monthly luncheon since the COVID-19 pandemic started in March.

Members gathered at Marsh Landing Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach and enjoyed chicken piccata with risotto, while also practicing socially distancing.

Donna Berger acted as the mistress of ceremonies during the induction ceremonies of the new board members. The newly elected directors were Maria Woodford and Barbara Stidfole (co-presidents); Sally Lutz (vice president); Louise Johnson (treasurer); Debbie Condit (recording secretary); and Maureen Tinnesz (corresponding secretary).

Borrowing from Dr. Seuss' book, "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" about the journey of life and its challenges, Berger incorporated that theme into present-day events as she conducted the induction ceremonies with a whimsical Seuss backdrop.

To thank them for their service to Newcomers Alumnae, gifts were given to outgoing Co-President Nancy Scott, outgoing Corresponding Secretary Pam Tarleton; outgoing luncheon organizer Dede Leclaire; and outgoing Treasurer Bette Golden. Gifts were also given to Sharon Romans, luncheon organizer; Katie McGuigan, newsletter/directory editor; Vice President Sally Lutz; and Co-Presidents Maria Woodford and Barbara Stidfole.

Newcomers Alumnae's next event will be a Happy Hour at Nona Blue in Ponte Vedra Beach from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17. The next membership luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at Marsh Landing Country Club. Prospective members are invited to go to newcomersalumnae.wildapricot.org for more information.

Newcomers Alumnae is a social group comprised of women who live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach, No-calee, Jacksonville and St. Augustine.



Dede Leclair (from left), Sharon Romans, Katie McGuigan, Pam Tarleton, Donna Berger, Bette Golden, Nancy Scott, Maria Woodford and Debbie Condit attend the Newcomers Alumnae luncheon on Sept. 2.



Photos provided by Brooke Freeman
ABOVE: Newcomers Alumnae members Dede Leclair (from left), Sharon Romans, Katie McGuigan, Pam Tarleton and Bette Golden.

LEFT: Donna Berger acts as MC for the Newcomers Alumnae luncheon.



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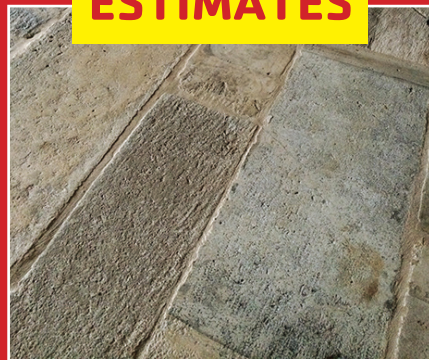
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Photo by Susan Griffin

Members of the Perfection on Wheels BMX stunt team entertain the crowd at the Nocatee Farmers Market last year. The stunt team returns to the farmers market Saturday, Sept. 19.

Expect extreme experience at next Nocatee Farmers Market

Nocatee's Farmers Market is going extreme from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19, at the BMX-Treme Extravaganza.

Attendees can look forward to BMX performances from Perfection on Wheels BMX Stunt Team. Each show is set to include incredible half-pipe tricks and stunts, crowd participation and more. Showtimes are at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.,

and 12:30 p.m. Along with the action-packed theme, the market will include more than 60 local vendors offering items such as organic produce, herbs, spices, unique foods, crafts, jewelry and more.

The Paradise Park Playground will not be open for market attendees. The Nocatee Farmers Market is open to the public and is weather permitting.



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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

"Some people look for a beautiful place. Others make a place beautiful."



Kathy Esfahani
Columnist

CITRUS TREES

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Growing citrus is not only great for fresh fruit, but they are beautiful ornate trees with a wonderful scent. All citrus trees in 9A require a minimum of six hours of sunlight or more. They also require more water than most trees no matter if the weather is hot or cold. Dwarf trees are suited for smaller yards/spaces, whereas a big yard may have many large citrus trees. Fertilizing with specific citrus fertilizer quarterly is key to the success of these trees growing in our zone. Here are some of the most popular in our area:



Meyer lemon, Persian lime, tangerine, Valencia orange, ponderosa lemon, Key



Flower of the Week: Vinca

Photos provided by Kathy Esfahani

lime, ruby red grapefruit, calamondin, Mandarin orange and cocktail citrus tree.

A cocktail citrus tree is grafted with 3-5 fruits including orange, grapefruit, lemons and limes. It's a great option if you only need one citrus tree in your landscaping but want to have multiple fruits. Fun fact: Each year, the cocktail citrus tree can bear different fruit than the year before!

Now that the weather is warming up, it's a perfect time to purchase citrus. Stop by the nursery to see our inventory of citrus trees for the upcoming spring!

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

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

OBITUARIES

David Wright Clarke

David Wright Clarke died in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL on September 13, 2020, aged 96. He was born in West Haven, CT on October 1, 1923 to Dr. Ralph de-Ballard and Lucy French Clarke.

He attended grade and high schools in Wethersfield, CT and graduated from Kimball Union Academy of Meriden, NH in 1942. His Dartmouth College education was interrupted by three years of military service during World War II. He served as a Sergeant in the Medical Corp with the 1251st Engineer Combat Battalion. He resumed his studies at Dartmouth, graduating in 1949 with a BA degree in Economics.



David Wright Clarke

David worked in Mortgage Banking in Hartford, CT; Dallas, TX; Milwaukee, WI; Richmond, VA and Washington D.C. He retired to Florida in 1989 and served with Beaches Habitat for Humanity for 8 years.

His wife of 37 years, Mimi Dudenhoefer, predeceased him. He is survived by his wife of 29 years Keith Averett and five children: Dave, Jr. (Debbie) of Charlotte, NC; Bob (Cece) of St. Petersburg, FL; Tom (Chuck) of Annapolis, MD;

Brian (Ellen) of White Stone, VA; and Sara of Annapolis, MD. He is survived by 16 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. A brother Jim predeceased him.

He will be interred in a private family service in Oaklawn Cemetery, Jacksonville. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Beaches Habitat for Humanity, 797 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach, Florida 32233 (www.beacheshabitat.org).

Arrangements by Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Chapel, 4801 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville 904-737-7171.

Elizabeth Marie Cadle

Elizabeth Marie Cadle, 93, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Sept. 10, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Robert William Caldwell, Jr.

Robert William Caldwell, Jr., 95, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Sept. 13, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Helen Normington

Helen Normington, 90, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Sept. 12, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

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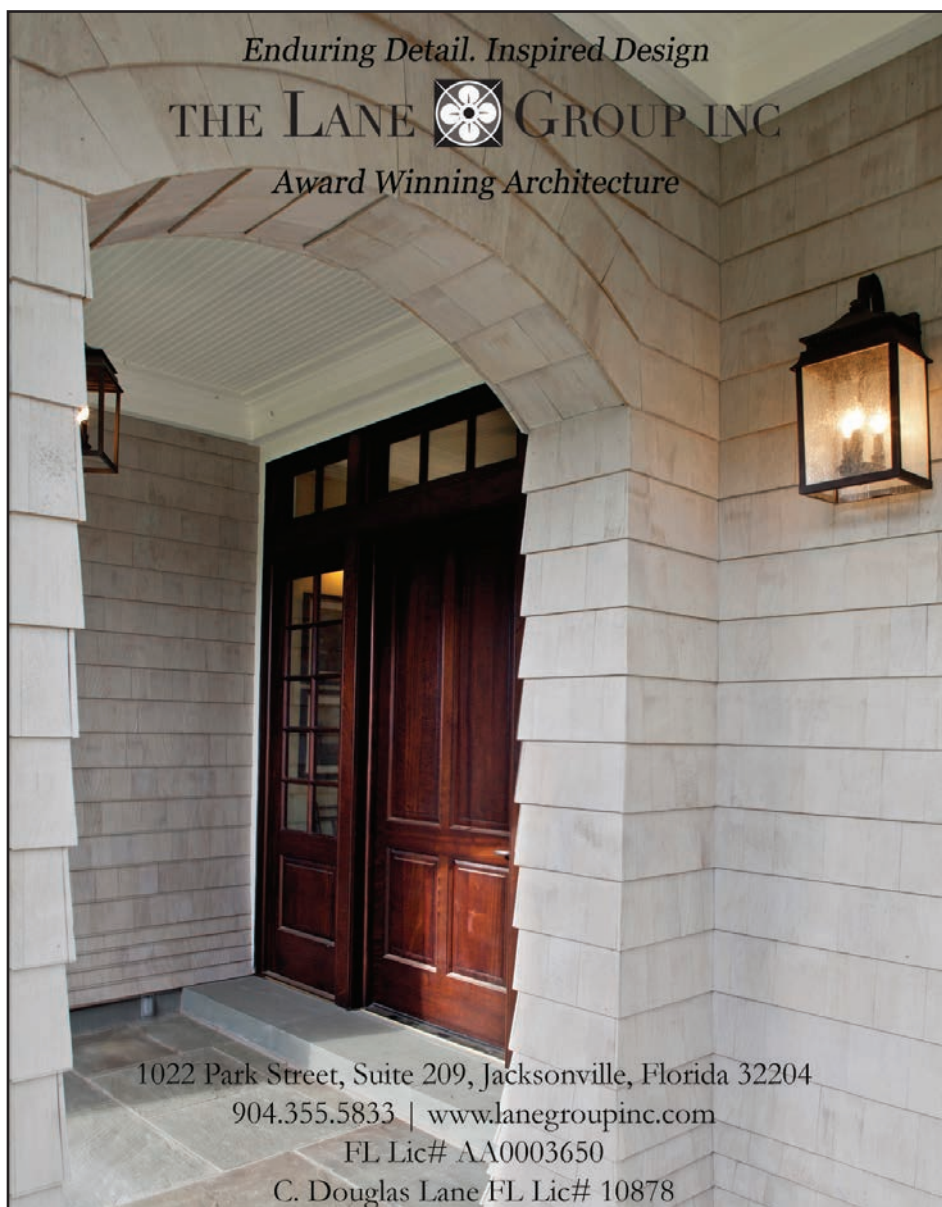
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Family rug-cleaning business transforms oriental rugs through tender loving care

By Kassidy Lankford

A luxurious oriental rug can act as a beautiful centerpiece for any room. For thousands of years, individuals have been placing oriental rugs in their homes to accentuate and decorate their spaces. However, over time, oriental rugs begin to deteriorate and can require a bit of tender loving care. The late Gary Larson of Jacksonville started his family business, Larson Rug Cleaning, in 1980 when he began to sense this need within the community.

When Larson passed away in 2016, the mantle was passed onto his two sons, James and Garrett, and they have been operating the business as a team ever since. Although the family was shocked and saddened by the loss of their father, James and Garrett knew that carrying on the family legacy is what their father would have wanted, so the pair began working together diligently to find a new normal within the family business.

“It’s been hard, but I would not have been able to do it without my brother,” said Garrett Larson, co-owner of Larson



Larson Rug Cleaning offers an array of services including cleansing, hand repairs, moth damage correction and more.

Rug Cleaning and owner of Urban Rug Gallery, a sister business that he started himself in 2018. In addition to the family rug cleaning business, Larson had a



Photos by Lily Larson

James Larson (left) and Garrett Larson are the co-owners and operators of Larson Rug Cleaning, a full-service oriental rug cleaning and repair business.

desire to do more than just cleaning and repairs. “I find rugs from flea markets, other vendors, and even sometimes from customers,” said Larson, explaining that he enjoys hunting for rugs like treasure before fixing them up and reselling them through Urban Rug Gallery.

In addition to cleaning rugs, Larson Rug Cleaning also offers hand-repairs and moth treatments to enhance the beautiful rugs for its customers. With Larson’s rug gallery business, the family is able to offer a full range of services for their customers that includes buying, selling,

cleaning and repairs.

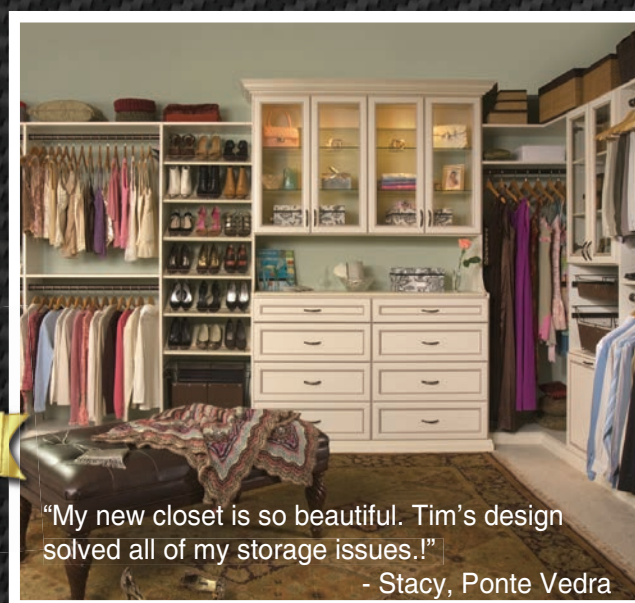
Larson Rug Cleaning and Urban Rug Gallery provide services for customers all over the greater Jacksonville area including Ponte Vedra, Ortega, Fernandina Beach and more. The business offers both pickup and delivery to make the experience as stress-free as possible for customers so all they have to do is sit back and wait for their beautiful oriental rugs to be transformed.

For more information about the rug cleaning process, services and prices, go to www.jacksonvillerrugcleaning.com.

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New store features farmhouse-style furniture, accents

By Shaun Ryan

Christy and Josh Caldwell took a chance opening their store at a time when COVID-19 has meant widespread restrictions on social interaction. But a month after the shop opened, local residents are discovering the unique merchandise sold there.

Rustic Knots, which opened Aug. 15, primarily sells furniture with a farmhouse style, something Christy Caldwell describes as having a “Chip and Joanna Gaines” look, referring to the couple made famous by their “Fixer Upper” television series.

Much of the Rustic Knots stock is either hand-made or hand-painted and refurbished by the store’s vendors, though some new furniture is sold there, as well.

“My whole goal is to get all vendors to either make or refurbish,” said Christy Caldwell.

The Caldwells began to dabble in furniture painting last year and thought it might make for a side business.

“I thought we were pretty good at it,” Christy Caldwell said. “So, we just kind of got a few cheap pieces, painted them, experimenting with different paints, and really enjoyed it.”

At first, they sold their products through a website and later through a store in Macclenny. The couple began to sell home décor along with their furniture, and things were going so well that they decided to open their own store.

It was a big leap of faith and Christy Caldwell decided to quit her fulltime job as they pursued it. Her husband, meanwhile, maintained his fulltime employment.

Then COVID-19 hit, and Gov. Ron DeSantis issued a statewide stay-at-home order. The Caldwells were forced to put their plans on hold. About a month later, that order was lifted for most businesses, and the husband-and-wife team picked up where they left off. They found a space for their store and launched Rustic Knots.



Furniture at Rustic Knots is largely built in a farmhouse style.



Photos provided by Rustic Knots

Rustic Knots opened Aug. 15 in St. Johns.



Rustic Knots features furniture reminiscent of a simpler time.



Much of the stock at Rustic Knots is either hand-built or refurbished.

Statistical projections suggest a potentially prosperous future for the new retail business. That’s because new homes will translate into a demand for furniture. And one doesn’t have to be a statistician to recognize the growth now under way in St. Johns County.

In fact, even the most modest projections by the University of Florida’s Bu-

reau of Economic and Business Research estimate tremendous growth here over the next 25 years. The county’s population is projected to be between 314,000 and 511,900 by 2045.

For all those newcomers, Christy Caldwell has a message.

“Buy a home, come pick out some new furniture,” she said.

Rustic Knots is located at 40 Everest Lane Suite 2 in St. Johns. That’s in the Bartram Promenade. It’s currently open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays. Beginning in October, the store will be closed on Mondays.

The phone number is (904) 588-4685.

Some questions to ask yourself for embracing DIY projects

In addition to spending money to improve their homes, many homeowners are spending their time on projects as well. While DIY projects can provide a sense of fulfillment and personal attachment to one’s home, prospective do-it-yourselfers should ask themselves some questions before picking up their hammers and getting to work.

DO I HAVE ANY PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS?

No matter how much home improvement television shows may simplify projects, prospective DIYers should know that such undertakings are typically very difficult and oftentimes physically demanding. Homeowners with existing health conditions

or other physical limitations may not be capable of performing certain tasks or may need to take frequent breaks, which can delay projects.

DO I HAVE THE TIME?

Many home improvement projects require a significant amount of time to complete. Homeowners whose time is already stretched thin with commitments to work and/or family may not be able to complete projects within a reasonable amount of time. That’s fine if working on a part of the home that won’t affect daily life, but can prove stressful or problematic if the project is in a room, such as a kitchen or bathroom, that residents of the home use each day.

Novice DIYers should be especially honest with themselves about the time they have available to work on the project.

CAN I AFFORD IT?

While DIY might seem more affordable than hiring a contractor, that’s not necessarily true. Novice DIYers may need to buy or rent tools, costs that can add up. Contractors already have the tools necessary to begin and complete projects, so the cost savings of DIY might not be as significant as homeowners think. Before going the DIY route, homeowners should solicit estimates from contractors, comparing the estimates to how much a project will cost if homeowners do it themselves.

CAN I GO IT ALONE?

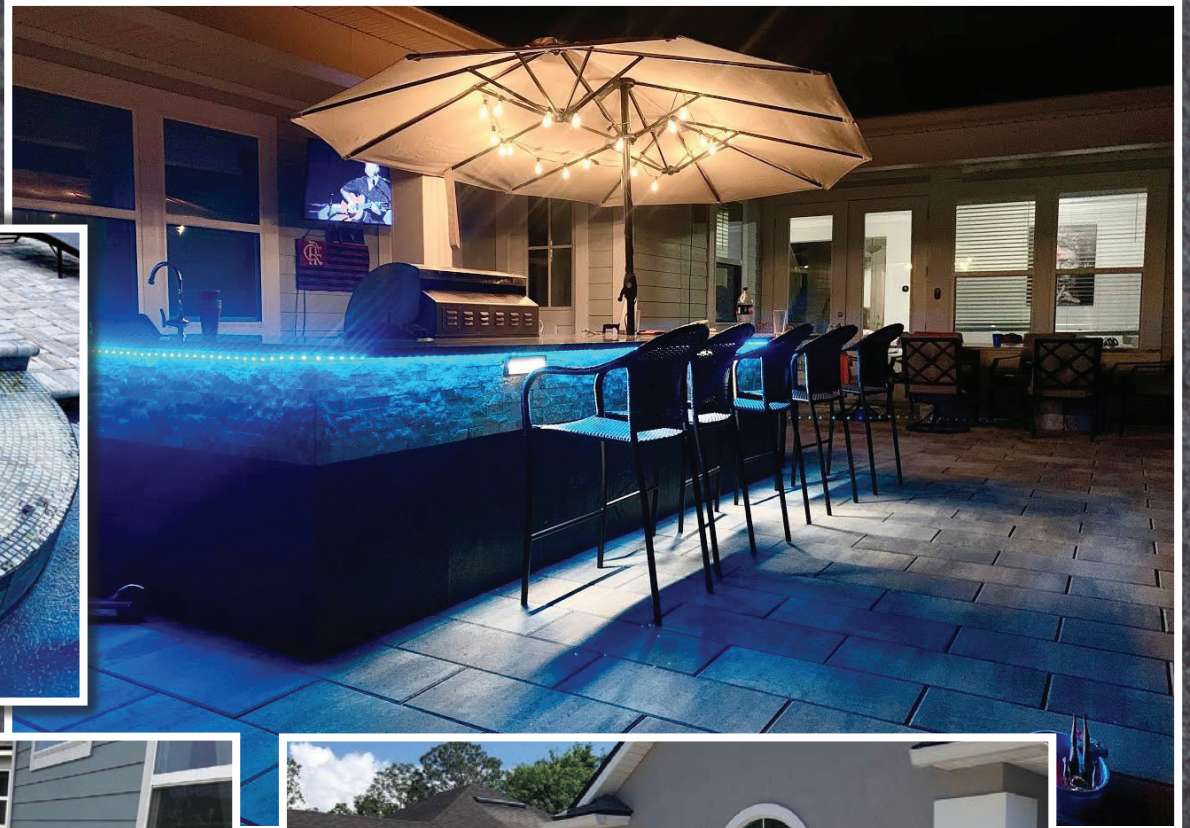
Many home-improvement projects require more than one set of hands, and it’s risky for first-time DIYers to assume they can begin a project and see it through to completion entirely on their own. Homeowners whose friends or relatives are willing to chip in may think that’s enough. However, novice DIYers should enlist the help of someone with home improvement experience. If no such person is available, it may be wise to hire a contractor instead.

Home improvement projects may seem simple on TV. But prospective do-it-yourselfers must make honest assessments of their skills, time and budgets before taking on a DIY project.

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Business Weekly

PAGE 16 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Column: The ability to see your reflection 'from the inside out'

Page 18

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Guests mingle at the ST. Johns County Chamber PVB Division Before Hours event on Sept. 9 at TPC Sawgrass. It was the first in-person event for the Chamber since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

St. Johns County Chamber PVB Division holds Before Hours event at TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse

It was Chamber's 1st face-to-face meeting since start of pandemic

By Kassidy Lankford

On Sept. 9, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held its long-awaited Chamber Before Hours meeting at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse. The event was originally scheduled to take place prior to the onset of COVID-19 and was rescheduled twice during the summer before finally taking place in September.

The event was held at the luxurious 77,000-square-foot clubhouse at TPC Sawgrass. Guests gathered behind the clubhouse to mingle and enjoy breakfast with one another before breaking off into groups to tour the clubhouse facility.

Although the pandemic has brought many social events to a halt, TPC Sawgrass is doing everything it can to allow the Ponte Vedra Beach community to carry on with their lives — safely and responsibly. After implementing rigor-



Photos by Susan Griffin

ous safety procedures, TPC Sawgrass has reopened its facilities for events.

TPC Sawgrass Sales Manager Peter verDorn (left) and other attendees follow suggested CDC safety guidelines by wearing masks during the event.

“We’ve been 100% open for golf throughout the pandemic, but we have been hosting events again since the middle of summer and we are seeing even more events come up now,” said Peter verDorn, sales manager at TPC Sawgrass.

“We have put several rigid safety measures into place to keep our guests safe.”

VerDorn said the team at TPC Sawgrass is adhering to CDC social distancing and capacity guidelines, both during events and in the restaurant.

In addition to adhering to CDC guidelines, TPC Sawgrass has set up numerous sanitization stations throughout its facility, has implemented thorough cleaning procedures, installed

Purpose-driven retirement needs financial strategy



Karsten Jacobson
Columnist

Today’s retirees, and those of tomorrow, have had a sense of purpose their entire lives — and they don’t intend to give it up just because they’ll no longer be working full time. In fact, 55% of recent retirees said retirement is the time for “a new chapter in

life,” compared with just 22% who said it was “a time for rest and relaxation,” according to the 2020 Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. And the same study found that 95% of retirees said it was important to keep learning and growing at every age. But however they find their purpose — contributing to the community, growing intellectually, gaining new experiences and so on — retirees will need to be financially prepared.

How can you prepare for a purposeful retirement? You may want to start by asking yourself these questions:

■ **Will I need to prioritize some of my goals?** As a retiree, you may hope to do any number of things. You might want to learn new skills through hands-on training at a local vocational school or crafts organization. You might want to take up a hobby such as collecting rare wines. You may even want to fix up old houses. And you also might want to expand your view of the world by traveling extensively. If, like almost everyone else, you won’t have unlimited financial resources during your retirement years, you may need to prioritize these goals, worthy as they may all be to your sense of purpose.

■ **Can I still afford to retire at the age I planned?** When you first calculated your ideal retirement age, you might have been counting on your investment portfolio having returned a certain percentage. Or you might have had different goals in mind than you do now. Or you might have had a somewhat different family situation. Changes in any or all of these factors could affect the age at which you choose to retire. But if you conclude that you may need to postpone retirement for a

Chamber

Continued from 16

plexiglass barriers at all of its food-serving stations and more.

“This meeting was a way for local business owners to gather together to get a glimpse into the world of hospitality and show them that it’s still possible to host events in a safe environment,” verDorn said.

He also said that through hard work and careful planning, TPC Sawgrass has seen one of the busiest and most successful Augusts it has ever had in its restaurant.

Despite the pandemic changing the way events are carried out, TPC Sawgrass has done everything possible to keep its guests

happy and remain open for business. In addition to being open for golf and private events, its restaurant is also in operation (with adherence to CDC guidelines) and open to the public.

VerDorn said it is a common misconception the restaurant is private, but the dining space is actually open to the public seven days a week and has plenty of space inside for guests to spread out, along with an abundance of outdoor seating.

Although life as we know it has changed, TPC Sawgrass has found ways to continue serving the St. Johns County community and the team was thrilled to have the opportunity to open its doors to the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce PVB Division to reunite with one another, face-to-face, after many months.

Jacobson

Continued from 16

couple of years, your decision could offer some advantages, such as the ability to contribute more to your IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan. In any case, it’s a good idea to review your retirement plans periodically, perhaps at least once a year.

■ **How can I incorporate philanthropy into my financial strategy?** Giving back to your community may be a key element of your purpose-driven retirement. Yet, with so many educational, civic and cultural groups in existence — including many in your own area — you probably can’t give as much as you’d like to all of them without affecting your own lifestyle today and the legacy you’d like to leave for your family. So, you may want to take two distinct steps. First, consider establishing a budget for how much you will give to charitable groups each year. And, second, think about including philanthropy in your estate plans. Because there are many vehicles and techniques available, you should consult with your legal, tax and financial professionals when drawing

up your estate-planning strategies.

It can be extremely rewarding to live your retirement purposefully — but you’ll find it a lot easier to do when you make the right financial moves.

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

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- Mary Frances M.

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Harry Pappas
Columnist

One of my favorite Christian orators, Ravi Zacharias, tells the jaw-dropping account of Hungarian political prisoner, Andres Thomas.

The true story begins in the year 2000 when Russia released its political prisoners, which included Andres.

He entered prison at 20 years old and was released 55 years later. When Andre was liberated he would not stop talking gibberish and, of course, no one understood a word he was saying. There was much talk about executing the 75-year-old man, as many argued that he was crazy. Someone said, "At least bring in a psychiatrist to evaluate him before you execute him."

So the officials got a Hungarian psychiatrist to assess this alleged lunatic. After a few days of intense evaluation, the doctor said, "This man is not insane. He is speaking in an old Hungarian dialect. Although his prison conditions should have drove him to insanity, he is of sound mind. Give him back to us and we will make him well."

The psychiatrist's wish was granted and Andres was put in a wheelchair and released. When asked about his first request in his newfound freedom, Andres said, "A mirror."

It is hard to imagine but it is true that Andres had not seen his reflection for 55 years. When Andres held the mirror to his face, he quickly put it down and buried his face in his hands and sobbed uncontrollably. What do you think it would be like, for over half a century and not see your reflection? To start out with the robust vitality of youth and now for the first time in more than a half-century, you suddenly see what all those years have taken from you.

Ravi went on with his sense of humor to talk about how we take for granted something like a mirror. He said, "We get up every morning, do our necessary ablutions, put on innocent forms of disfigurement and walk out looking like what we wished we did; but it's really like when you come back from a long journey, you realize you resemble your passport picture more than anything else."

In closing, Ravi asked the audience, "Is there a mirror for our soul, as in a reflection of what we look like from the inside out?"

I suggest that Ravi's question is a great one to ponder. However, before we can contemplate such a profound question, do we know how to define the soul? It is commonly and widely used, such as, "She has a beautiful soul" or "He has such a kind and gentle soul."

Moreover, metaphysicists, theologians and anyone who ponders the

mysteries of human existence have questioned what the soul truly is. How do you define one's "soul?" Frankly, it was not too long ago that I could not articulate the meaning of the soul, but I can now thanks to my friend and Christian psychologist, Dominic Herbst. Dominic says, "The human soul is the part of a person that is not physical. It is a part of us that lasts eternally after our body experiences death. The spirit is the connection to God; the soul is the connection to humanity. The soul is the place where we connect with one another."

Now back to the great lecturer, Ravi Zacharias. If we put a mirror to our soul, would the reflection show kindness, love, understanding, giving and refinement in manners or would it be more akin to hostility, bitterness, entitlement and perhaps rudeness? Perhaps another question to ponder, thanks to the famous Indian-born Canadian-American, Ravi Zacharias, who spent 48 years commending the Christian faith and addressing life's great existential questions of origin, meaning, morality and destiny with eloquence and grace. Sadly, Ravi died on May 19, 2020, in his home in Atlanta after being diagnosed in March of this year with a malignant rare cancer in his spine. Ravi was 74.

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THEME: MOVIE TITLES

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ACROSS

- All thumbs
- *Do this to Shorty
- Practice in the ring
- Popular aquarium dweller
- Fertility clinic stock
- Dreamy
- Brightest star in Cygnus
- Romanian money
- Athlete's stage
- *Ferris Bueller's time away
- *He always rings twice
- G in music
- Dissenting clique
- Billy's Harry to ____'s Sally
- "Brave New World" drug
- Lung pouch
- Crematorium containers
- X-ray units
- Humpy ungulate
- One of oldest cities in China or Welsh girl's name
- Torch's misdeed
- ____ a soul"
- Sudden occurrence of disease
- Crimson rival
- Power system
- "Rock the ____" by The Clash
- Deal with it
- Happy Gilmore's peg
- Bird's groomer
- Tap choice
- *Dr. Strangelove learned to love it, two words
- *No country for these guys, two words
- *One green one in John Wayne flick
- "Eureka!"
- Erasable program-mable read only memory
- Woven wall hanging
- Soldier's bed
- "All the world's a ____"
- R in RIP
- It is
- Boxer turned actor
- *Private that had to be saved
- a.k.a. tears of Chios
- Fauna's partner
- Mozart's "L'____ del Cairo"
- Eponymous comic strip character
- *The hills are alive with the sound of it
- "Fear of Flying" author Jong
- Annoying tiny biters
- *There's something about her
- Telephoned
- Bright
- Eagle's nest
- *Bonnie's partner
- Give the cold shoulder
- Musician's time to shine
- Kathmandu country
- Wooden shoes
- Skirt's edge
- First among siblings
- Olden day calculators
- Like worthless promise
- Tow rope alternative
- At this point
- Does something wrong
- "Don't ____ around the bush"
- Mares' meal
- "-zoic" periods
- Not happening
- *Some like it this way
- *There were three, plus a baby

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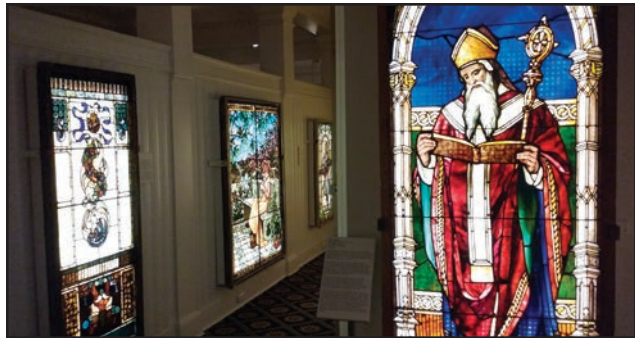
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DOWN

- It would
- Pauper's permanent state
- Europe's highest volcano
- Hunts for food
- No-noes
- The Masters' game
- *It's all about her
- Greyish brown
- Database command
- Lord Byron's composition
- *King of Siam's governess

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

Lightner exhibits restored stained-glass windows



“Illuminate: Lightner Museum’s Stained Glass Rediscovered” includes 12 stained-glass window panels from Otto Lightner’s collection of decorative art.



This window, created at around 1880, was originally installed in a German gymnastic union club in Chicago. It depicts an early version of the German flag on the left and a modified version of the American flag on the right. The initials C.T.G. in the center stand for the German words for German Gymnastic Community.



Photos by Shaun Ryan

Most of the funding for restoration of the museum’s stained-glass window collection was donated by Inez McDonald, shown here with her favorite window of the collection, St. Augustine.



This window showing St. Gregory was created at around 1926 by the Willet Stained Glass Studios.



This window features an image of William Shakespeare and was created at around 1890.



This window, an example of the Aesthetic Movement, depicts Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers and the season of spring. It was created by Tiffany Studios around 1890.

By Shaun Ryan

One of Lightner Museum’s most brilliant treasures is back after a hiatus of two years. Following Hurricane Matthew, museum staff discovered that several pieces in the stained-glass window collection had sustained water damage and needed stabilization.

The windows were carefully removed and restored by Miami-based RLA Conservation, a group of professionally trained conservators and artists specializing in historic architecture, artifacts and sculpture. The windows were cleaned and repairs were made to stabilize the lead supports and wooden frames.

The museum then engaged Building 4 Fabrication of Atlanta, Georgia, to build light boxes that would allow each window to be illuminated from behind and facilitate display.

The end result is “Illuminate: Lightner Museum’s Stained Glass Rediscovered,” a 12-piece exhibition in a new gallery space on the mezzanine above the old pool. The exhibit opened Thursday, Sept. 10.

Museum registrar Kristin Zimmerman called the collection a Lightner staple.

“A lot of people have come in over the years asking where the original stained-glass window room was,” she said. “So, it was really important to take good care of (the windows), to get them restored and put back on display.”

A donation from Inez McDonald, along with additional donations by the Treasury Venue Collection and St. Augustine Historic Inns, funded the restoration of a total 15 windows from the collection of Otto Lightner.

McDonald first got involved after learning that the museum asked for people to “adopt” pieces for restoration.

“I said, ‘That would be a good idea,’” she recalled.

She adopted the largest of the windows, a life-sized image of St. Augustine created circa 1900 by Tiffany Studios. A year later, she inquired about the restoration’s progress and was inspired to do more.

“I asked, ‘What would be the cost of restoring the lot?’” she said. “They gave me a figure, and this is what happened.”

Another of McDonald’s favorites is a window from a German Gymnastic Community clubhouse in Chicago. It was created at around 1880 and depicts an early version of the German flag and a modified American flag.

While some pieces were created by Tiffany Studios, others were the work of Willet Stained Glass and Rudy Brothers Glass Studio. There are portraits, mythological scenes and Art Nouveau designs. Also on display is a Tiffany lamp with dragonfly motif.

The Lightner Museum is located at 75 King St. in St. Augustine.

Gamble Rogers Music Festival performers join Sing Out Loud virtual sessions

St. Augustine musicians who normally perform each year at the Gamble Rogers Music Festival will be a part of virtual performances this year with the Sing Out Loud Festival, streaming live from St. Johns County locations.

The Gamble Rogers Showcase will take place from 1 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, performing from Beluthahatchee Park, located in northwest St. Johns County on the William Bartram Scenic Highway (State Road 13). Beluthahatchee is the former residence of human rights activist and journalist/author Stetson Kennedy.

The lineup on Sept. 20 features The Skinny (Taylor and Pamela Fausset), Jamie DeFrates, Collapsible B (John Dickie and his band), Michael Jordan, The Carpetbaggers and The Obscure Brothers (Bob Patterson and

Charley Simmons).

“Gamblefest is well. We’re keeping the music alive along with the memory of Gamble Rogers,” said Bob Patterson, a founding member of the Gamble Rogers Music Festival who sits on the board of directors of the non-profit organization. “We are in the midst of reinventing ourselves while dealing with the coronavirus experience. We’re grateful for the support from all of our fans.”

The 25th annual Gamble Rogers Music Festival, originally set for the first weekend of May 2020, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Gamble Rogers Music Festival is dedicated to commemorating the life and music of Gamble Rogers, whose passion for balladry, storytelling and the oral tradition helped shaped Ameri-

can folk music. Rogers, a native of Tallahassee, lived in St. Augustine until his death by drowning in 1991 as he attempted to save a tourist caught in a riptide.

In addition to the three-day event held each year, Gamblefest also hosts a monthly concert series. All funds raised help produce the festival each year, and supports arts education in St. Johns County, with donations to arts programs at individual schools.

In addition to the Sing Out Loud virtual concerts, the Gamble Rogers Music Festival partnered with the St. Johns Cultural Council in May for a series of live Facebook concerts.

To view the full Sing Out Loud Festival virtual schedule, go to www.singoutloudfestival.com

Sports

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Send your sports news to
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Sharks QB hasn't lost a step following Achilles surgery

PVHS senior Jacobi Myers throws for 2 fourth-quarter TDs to beat rival Nease

By Don Coble

Jacobi Myers was a little slow getting out of bed the morning after Ponte Vedra High opened the football season with a 24-7 nonconference victory against rival Nease. Muscles ached. There were bumps and bruises.

Unlike the pain suffered a year ago on the eighth play, Myers will again be at full speed Friday night when the Sharks host winless Palatka.

"At one point I was a little nervous," the 6-foot-2 senior quarterback said. "But I was confident."

Myers tore his right Achilles tendon on the eighth play of the season a year ago — also against Nease. A pick-six interception at rain-soaked Panthers Stadium became the catalyst that sparked an emotional, and physical, comeback.

"The interception was a wakeup call," Myers said after completing 13-of-23 passes for 199 yards and two touchdown throws to senior Michael Olkiewicz. "It made me realize I have to play. After that, everything was all right."

After watching all but eight play from the sidelines in 1999, Myers helped Ponte Vedra take quick control of the Battle of the Bridge rivalry, leading the Sharks to a 10-0 lead at halftime on a 25-yard Davis Ashcroft field goal and a Campbell Parker's 1-yard run that capped an 85-yard drive.

The Panthers cut it to 10-7 in the third on Keveon Hodge's 35-yard interception return, but Myers took control with TD passes of 23 and 68 yards in the fourth.



Photo provided by Ivy Scott/Ponte Vedra High Football

The Nease defense tries to wrap up PVHS quarterback Jacobi Myers during last Friday's game at Nease. The Sharks won 24-7.

Because of shutdowns created by the COVID-19 pandemic, both teams only had two weeks of football drills to prepare for the game. Less than five minutes before kick-off, a thunderstorm created another 45-minute delay.

"I think a win is a win," said Sharks head coach Jeff DeSandro. "There are always things we can work on and clean up. That's what we're doing this week in practice."

Myers didn't show any apprehension about being back on the field. He had two surgeries to repair the tear, but he hasn't been limited in practices, DeSandro said.

"After I got cleared, I went straight back to work," Myers said. "I had to get out and play. The injury threw me

BATTLE continues on Page 21

Mike Vallencourt sets course record at JAGA Senior Championship

Orange Park golfer finishes 2nd at event; new Northeast Florida resident Tim Cobb wins by 1 stroke

By Don Coble

Mike Vallencourt left the St. Johns Golf and Country Club without a trophy Tuesday afternoon, but he left an impression that will be etched in Jacksonville Area Golf Association history.

The Orange Park golfer birdied his last seven holes in the final round of the JAGA Senior Amateur for a course-record 10-under-par 62, but it still wasn't enough to win the 50-year-old division.

Vallencourt cut 14 strokes off his first-round score of 76 by making 11 birdies and a three-putt bogey for a 36-hole score of 6-under 136.

Tim Cobb, who moved to Northeast Florida three months ago and joined St. Johns, eventually finished with a 4-under 68 to finish at 7-under 135.

A torrential downpour stopped play for nearly an hour. Vallencourt was in the middle of the fairway at the 18th hole, while Cobb had just made the turn.



Photo by Don Coble

Mike Vallencourt watches his shot during the JAGA Senior Amateur Championship at St. Johns Golf and Country Club.

"It's a good thing I didn't know about what Mike was doing," Cobb said.

Vallencourt ultimately hit his approach at the water-logged final green, and he calmly rolled in a 12-footer to beat the course record by two shots.

"Sometimes you stand over it, you look at it, you decide where you want to hit it and it works," Vallencourt said. "Sometimes things just fall in line."

The 61-year-old player decided to compete in younger Senior division for players between 50-59. Jacksonville's Gary Blackwell (73-74) won the Super Senior division (60-69 years old) at 3-over, while Kingsland, Georgia's Danny Daniels (69-71) won the Grand Senior class (70-plus) at 4-under.

Tuesday's round made the first-round troubles easy to forget for Vallencourt. He started with two bogeys and two double-bogeys in his first 15 holes before rallying with birdies at 16 and 18.

Over a two-day stretch, Vallencourt made 13 birdies in his final 21 holes.

"Seventeen is a 200-yard par-3, so all I wanted to do was hit the green," he said. "I was 25 feet away and I made it. When I stood on the tee at 18, I don't care what they say, you're nervous. I tried to take it one swing at a time.

"I didn't win, but it was way special. The bar has been reset. I had a great time. I've never had anything like that happen before. It's something I'll remember for a long, long time."

Cobb clinched the championship with a bogey-free final round.

SENIOR continues on Page 21

Jaguars open season with win over Colts

By Mike Bonts
Special to the Recorder

The Jacksonville Jaguars defeated the Indianapolis Colts 27-20 victory last Sunday at TIAA Bank Field in the season opener for both teams.

“I’m just super grateful. My mindset today was just to play one play at a time. I have got an offensive coordinator that is calling good plays, receivers that caught the ball, an offensive line that is giving me time, and a running game that really got us ahead of the chains,” said Jacksonville starting QB Gardner Minshew III. “I’m just trying to do my job one play at a time, and I’m very grateful for the opportunities and the people around me.”

Minshew played turnover-free ball and threw three touchdowns. He finished 19 of 20 for 173 yards.

Wide receiver Keelan Cole Sr. led the Jaguars (1-0) with five receptions and hauled in one of Minshew’s TD tosses. DJ Chark Jr. and rookie Laviska Shenault Jr. also caught TD passes.

Jaguars running back James Robinson became the first undrafted rookie running back to start the season opener in the last 30 years. Leonard Fournette’s replacement finished with 90 total yards on 17 touches.

Josh Lambo converted both of his field goal attempts in the victory, the first from 50 yards in the third quarter and a 46-yarder with 2:54 remaining in the game.

Jacksonville cornerback C.J. Henderson intercepted Colts’ QB Philip Rivers (36 of 46, 363 yards, TD), had five tackles and added three passes defended, including a fourth-down target to veteran wideout T.Y. Hilton in the red zone on the Colts’ final play.

“I lost the game. Two drops. Never should’ve happened,” Hilton said. “It’s just one game. We came out strong, we came



Photo provided by the Jacksonville Jaguars

Jaguars safety Andrew Wingard celebrates during Sunday’s win over AFC South rival Indianapolis.

out firm. It’s just the tide turned and I lost the game.”

Defensive captain and linebacker Myles Jack finished with 11 tackles, including one sack. Jack has now posted at least five tackles in nine consecutive games.

Making his Jaguars debut, safety Josh Jones led the team with 12 tackles. This marked Jones’ third career game with double-digit tackles.

The visitors held a 445-241 edge in total yards.

Colts head coach Frank Reich confirmed that starting running back Marlon Mack suffered an Achilles injury Sunday. Mack will undergo further testing to determine the severity of the injury.

The fourth-year veteran out of USF, who is coming off his first-career 1,000-yard rushing season, was off to a solid start in Sunday’s contest in Jacksonville, with four rushing attempts for 26 yards (6.5 avg.) and three receptions for 30 yards, when he went down grabbing his foot in the second

quarter as he tried to haul in another pass from Rivers.

“I really believe that this team will get better as we get going,” said Jaguars’ head coach Doug Marrone.

The Jaguars play at Tennessee Sunday, Sept. 20. Kickoff is slated for 1 p.m.

JAGUARS NOTES

The win marked the Jaguars sixth consecutive home victory against Indianapolis, their third win on Kickoff Weekend in the last four seasons and their first Week 1 home victory since 2011. ... Minshew earned a passer rating of 142.3, and completed passes to 11 different receivers. ... On Monday, third-year CB Sidney Jones IV was promoted from the team’s practice squad, fifth-year S Jarrod Wilson (hamstring) was placed on the reserve/injured list, the Jags signed rookie CB Josh Nurse, first-year RB Craig Reynolds was assigned to the practice squad and rookie CB Amari Henderson was released from the practice squad.

Senior

Continued from 20

Chad Branton of Cartersville, Georgia tied Vallencourt for second place, while St. Augustine’s Billy Lodise, another St. Johns Golf and Country Club member, was fourth at 4-under, while David Anthony of Marsh Landing Country Club was fifth at 3-under.

Other top local finishers included Ponte Vedra Beach’s Ken Moody (69-75) and Francisco Aleman (69-75) in sixth place, Atlantic Beach’s Jody Brothers (74-74) in 11th, St. Johns’ Bart Abstein (74-75) and Steve Horner (71-78), Bob MacMillian (76-74), both of Ponte Vedra Beach, in 16th.

John Lobb’s run at a record-tying three straight — and four of the last five — JAGA Senior Amateur titles was derailed by back-to-back triple bogeys on the 12th and 13th holes during the first round.



Photo by Don Coble

Bob MacMillian, of Ponte Vedra Beach, watches his shot during the JAGA Senior Championship on Tuesday. MacMillian finished tied for 16th.

Battle

Continued from 20

off, but my teammates brought me back. Right now, the important thing is to be back out there.”

Myers said a lot of his stiffness and soreness was of his own doing. “I was the one giving the hits,” he said.

DeSandro said Myers didn’t seem to lose any of his prowess during recovery and rehabilitation.

“He hadn’t played in a game in a long time, but the keys to the car are fully his right now,” the coach said.

Parker finished with a game-high 77 rushing yards, and Olkiewicz, a gangly 6-2, 175-pound senior, had seven catches for 136 yards.

Nease, which now has lost 10 consecutive games against its neighboring rivals, will travel to Sandalwood Friday, Sept. 18. Kickoff is a 6 p.m.

PVHS’ home game will start at 7 p.m.

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<p>Private Party Line Rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$14.00 1 week • \$23.00 2 weeks • \$31.00 3 weeks • \$37.50 4 weeks <p><i>Add lines \$2.15 each</i></p> <p>(Couches, TV's, Beds, Household Items, Etc.)</p>	<p>Commercial Line Rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$22.50 1 week • \$39.00 2 weeks • \$55.50 3 weeks • \$70.00 4 weeks <p><i>Add lines \$2.15 each</i></p> <p>(Animals, Cars, Renting or Selling a Home or to Advertise Your Business or Services)</p>	<p>Employment Spotlight/Real Estate</p> <p>1x2 (2"x2") \$40.50/1 wk • \$70.00/2 wks. • \$100/3 wks. 1x3 (2"x3") \$61.50/1 wk. • \$112.00/2 wks. • \$150.00/3 wks. 2x2 (4"x2") \$82.00/1 wk. • \$153.00/2 wks. • \$200.00/3 wks. 2x3 (4"x3") \$123.00/1 wk. • \$225/2 wks. • \$300/3 wks.</p>	<p>Business & Worship Directory</p> <p>1.5 x 2 \$55.00/month 1.5 x 4 \$96.52/month 1.5 x 6 \$149.52/month</p> <p><i>Rate Guide for: The Recorder</i></p>
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Some seniors choose to reside in a community that offers assistance – either to remain there or receive respite (short term stay) care or a type of therapy while recovering from surgery. Most, ultimately, enjoy being among people their own age, many new friends are made!

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During this current TEMPORARY Covid 19 crisis we wish everyone GOOD HEALTH, you may rest assured that you can pick up an Our Seniors Guide right inside the front door of all regional CVS Pharmacy locations!



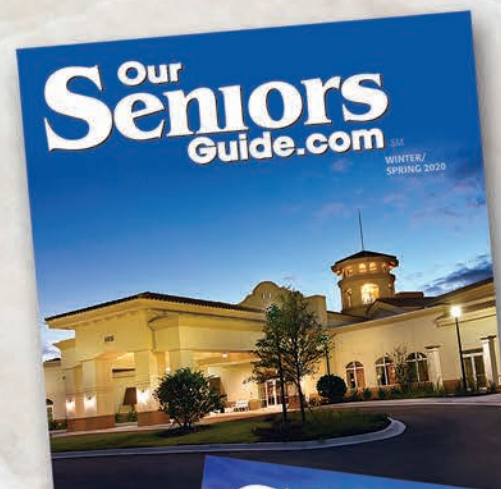
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When my mother needed to leave her own home, I didn't know how to begin looking for an appropriate place. It was a tough time because Mom was in a precarious situation... when I was picking up some prescriptions at CVS I found the Seniors Guide — I ultimately thought that was my lucky day! I found a wide range of communities to visit that would be in an area convenient for me to visit her. She moved there and ended up loving it — making many friends and even took advantage of aiding with the worship services the community offered. It was a lifesaver for her and for me!

Kathy G. Jacksonville Beach, FL



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