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PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

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75 cents

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## IN FULL SWING

Nease graduate Tyler McCumber hits a shot during the Corales Puntacana Championship last weekend. McCumber had a career-best finish with a total 271 to place second at the tournament.

*Read more in Sports on page 28.*

Photo provided by PGA TOUR/Andy Lyons with Getty Images



### INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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



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### 2020 LOTUS EVORA GT

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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 [pvreorderer@opcfla.com](mailto:pvreorderer@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](mailto:don@opcfla.com).

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

### BRIEFS

#### St. Augustine lifts mask mandate

The City of St. Augustine has withdrawn the citywide face-covering mandate it imposed on June 26.

The administrative order issued Monday, Sept. 28, by City Manager John Regan still encouraged residents and visitors to wear masks, practice social distancing and wash their hands. And private businesses may still require masks of the public.

But it rescinds any part of a previous order conflicting with an executive order issued Friday, Sept. 25, by Gov. Ron DeSantis initiating Phase 3 of the state's reopening.

Part of that order suspends individual fines and penalties associated with COVID-19, effectively removing the enforcement of mask mandates and, thus, the mandates themselves.

The mandate remains in effect for meetings of the City Commission, as well as the various boards and committees.

#### Executive order removes most occupancy restrictions on businesses, restaurants

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-244 on Friday, Sept. 25, and transitioned the state to Phase 3 of the COVID-19 reopening process. Effective upon issuance, the new executive order:

- Removes state-level restrictions on busi-

nesses, such as restaurants.

- Provides that no COVID-19 emergency ordinance may prevent an individual from working or operating a business.

- Provides that restaurants may not be limited by a COVID-19 emergency order by any local government to less than 50% of their indoor capacity.

- States that, if a restaurant is limited to less than 100% of its indoor capacity, such COVID-19 emergency order must satisfy the following:

- Quantify the economic impact of each limitation or requirements on those restaurants.

- Explain why each limitation or requirement is necessary for public health.

- Suspends all outstanding fines and penalties, and the collection of such moving forward, applied against individuals related to COVID-19.

Executive Order 20-244 supersedes and eliminates all restrictions of Executive Orders 20-112, 20-123 and 20-139, 20-192, 20-214, and 20-223, except as modified per the state. Go to [www.flgov.com/2020-executive-orders](http://www.flgov.com/2020-executive-orders) to review Executive Order 20-244. For more information, call the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center Hotline between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at (904) 824-5550.

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	N	G	S	T	L	I	S	C	O	P	T	
N	O	O	N	E	U	R	L	L	E	T	O	N
K	N	O	U	T	L	E	U	I	D	I	O	T
H	O	F	B	R	A	U	M	U	N	I	C	H
S	A	P	A	P	S	E						
L	S	D	D	A	H	L	E	N	C	A	M	P
E	P	O	S	C	O	R	M	S	A	V	O	R
D	U	M	A	E	P	E	E	S	V	E	T	O
E	M	E	N	D	S	A	G	O	A	R	T	S
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V	E	L	D	T	A	N	I	T	I	R	E	S
Y	E	A	S	D	A	M	S	N	O	R	T	

3	2	1	9	4	6	8	7	5				
7	9	4	1	5	8	6	3	2				
8	5	6	7	2	3	4	9	1				
1	6	9	3	8	7	2	5	4				
2	7	5	6	1	4	9	8	3				
4	8	3	5	9	2	1	6	7				
6	3	8	4	7	1	5	2	9				
9	4	2	8	3	5	7	1	6				
5	1	7	2	6	9	3	4	8				

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

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# Briefs

Continued from 2

## Beach Blast-Off fireworks show canceled for 2020

At the St. Augustine Beach City Commission meeting Sept. 22, the commission voted unanimously to cancel the city's largest event, the Beach Blast-Off fireworks event.

The annual event, held on New Year's Eve was canceled for 2020 out of an abundance of caution and in consideration of the safety and welfare of the city's residents, visitors, employees and volunteers.

"Regretfully, the City of St. Augustine Beach must cancel our Beach Blast-Off celebration this year," Mayor Margaret England said. "In our continuing effort to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus, it is important to avoid very large crowds and be mindful of the safety for all our residents, visitors, staff and first responders. We are looking into alternative ways and less intensive activities to celebrate the holiday season."

Melinda Conlon, the communications and events coordinator for the city, emphasized the difficult task of maintaining social distancing with an event that attracts thousands of people in a limited space.

"Unfortunately, there is no way to responsibly control the number of people that might come as there is no one point

of entry and exit to the pier." Conlon said. "We are looking into alternative event ideas that will support our local businesses and community but do so in a responsible way. We are working with local businesses and will announce something once the plans are confirmed."

The next regular City Commission meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 5, This is a public meeting, and the public is invited to attend.

Go to [www.staugbch.com](http://www.staugbch.com) for more information.

## 23rd annual Greek Fest is to go in 2020

This year, the 23rd annual St. Augustine Greek Festival will feature popular Greek dishes to go.

Visitors can pre-order authentic Greek foods such as dolmathes, souvlaki, lamb dinners, gyros, pastitsio, moussaka and baklava online by visiting [StAugustineGreekFest.com](http://StAugustineGreekFest.com).

On Oct. 9 and 10, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, located on CR 214, will host a drive-through for easy, contactless pick-up. The drive-through will be open Friday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

In its 23rd year, the annual St. Augustine Greek Fest celebrates the cultural and historical importance of Greek influence on the nation's oldest city.

To place an order or learn more about the St. Augustine Greek Festival, go to [StAugustineGreekFestival.com](http://StAugustineGreekFestival.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](mailto:susan@opcfla.com) or call (904) 686-3938.

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# Candidates speak at coalition meeting

By Shaun Ryan

Local residents had an opportunity to hear from three candidates and ask questions about the issues Monday during a meeting of the Ponte Vedra Beach Coalition. Speakers included County Commissioner Henry Dean, Airport Authority candidate Reba Ludlow and Dave Rogers, who is running for state representative.

Dean, who is opposed by nonparty candidate Merrill Roland, devoted much of his presentation to beach renourishment projects. He called the Vilano-South Ponte Vedra project his “most exciting involvement for the last four years.” He also said the county wants to have another renourishment performed along the Ponte Vedra Beach coast.

He dispelled the notion that climate

change is the cause of so much beach erosion in recent years.

“The reason that’s not true is that we had beaches washing away and needing renourishment 50 years ago,” he said.

He pointed out that much of the erosion was due to poor inlet management.

“We’re not going to close our inlets,” he said. “So, it’s my position that we have no choice but to do beach renourishment.”

Dean said others have told him that the county should just let nature take its course, but he pointed out that, without healthy beaches, tourism is impacted.

“This state rises and falls on tourism,” he said, referring to a study finding that for every dollar spent on beach renourishment, the state takes in \$5.

Dean also addressed his reception of campaign donations made by develop-

ers. He gave examples of donors whose projects he later did not support.

“I think that I have demonstrated through my four years on the commission that I’m not there as a puppet to rubber-stamp development in this county,” he said.

Rogers said he was a lifelong unaffiliated voter until 2016 when he got involved in the political process and registered as a Democrat. He was elected to the St. Johns County Soil and Water Conservation District in 2018 and is now challenging state Rep. Cyndi Stevenson for the District 17 state House seat.

Monday, he said his biggest priority if elected would be to get the Legislature to address climate change as it affects Florida.

“We are facing between two and six feet

of sea level rise between now and 2100,” he said.

He said the state needs a long-term plan to address the issue.

“I’m an ocean engineer, and I understand the things we need to do,” he said. “We need to get started. We are out of time. There is no more time to debate this. We’ve squandered 20, 30 years by denying it exists.”

Ludlow touted her background in accounting and knowledge of local aviation issues. A pilot herself, she has been involved with the airport in varying capacities for the past 35 years.

She called the Northeast Florida Regional Airport “an economic gateway to St. Johns County” and pointed out a need for a board member who can offer an aggressive strategy for local aviation issues.

## New nonprofit to help displaced workers sync talents with opportunities

By Shaun Ryan

COVID-19 has forced many people out of their jobs — in some cases, jobs they have held for years, jobs from which they had one day hoped to retire. Now, those same people face the prospect of having to enter entirely different lines of work.

And the old resume touting years of dedication to a career that no longer exists has been rendered useless.

So, asks the displaced worker, what now?

Enter Raghu Misra, described as a “serial entrepreneur,” the man behind Wired2Perform, a talent-growth platform that’s building workforce agility for the future. Misra has launched a nonprofit to help workers hit hard by recent layoffs: Sapna Foundation.

Sapna is the Hindi word for “dream,” and it’s an appropriate name for Misra’s newest initiative. Misra said his purpose in life has always been to help other people.

“My dream is to have other people’s dreams become reality,” he said.

In fact, he had long wanted to launch Sapna, but other priorities kept it always on the back burner.

The nonprofit is partnering with Wired2Perform, which is uniquely positioned to enable Sapna’s mission.

Job-seekers can take advantage of this new tool by going to [www.sapna.foundation](http://www.sapna.foundation) and signing up. They will create a profile that reveals their skills, interests, talents and aspirations. Prospective em-



Raghu Misra



Isabelle Renault

ployers can then use that information to find candidates who represent an ideal fit for available jobs.

This is particularly useful in cases where the talent pool appears to be shallow for new positions or where a perfect match may be someone who has been working in an unrelated field and may not think to move in a new direction.

Though this would be helpful for those seeking to redefine their career, the nonprofit’s initial launch is focusing on serving those who are unemployed, previously incarcerated, transitioning from military careers or recently graduated from a college or trade school.

COVID-19 has devastated retail, hospitality, travel, tourism and other industries. MGM Resorts International has laid off 18,000, Boeing 19,000, American Airlines 19,000 and Coca-Cola 4,000, to name a few global employers that have had to furlough workers.

But it was an announcement by Jacksonville-based Stein Mart that served as a catalyst for Misra’s initiative.



Photos provided by BEAM

Area schoolchildren receive iPads and laptops as part of BEAM’s Single Parent Program.

## BEAM ensures children of single-parent households succeed this school year

The Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry volunteers and staff have remained on the front lines of the pandemic serving families and workers in Jacksonville’s Beaches area communities who have been hard-hit by the economic impact of COVID-19.

Last weekend, BEAM organized a technology distribution for families enrolled in their Single Parent Program (SPP), an intensive case management program for single mothers, BEAM’s largest food pantry demographic. After receiving a major gift from an anonymous donor, BEAM was able to purchase 19 iPads for elementary-aged children and 11 brand new Dell laptops for middle and high school students. A majority of

the families who received a new computer currently have no computer at home, or share one device with multiple family members.

“I don’t have to share your tablet anymore Mommy, now I have my own,” said Max, as he unwrapped his new iPad alongside his mother.

While Duval County Public Schools provided loaner laptops, the numbers available per household were limited and the units outdated. In addition, a number of single mothers enrolled in the SPP program are in school themselves taking online classes to earn associate’s or bachelor’s degrees. Multiple family



# Nights of Lights will go on, but without usual kick-off gathering

By Shaun Ryan

St. Augustine's annual Nights of Lights will return this year, though with a few changes to keep visitors safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thursday, Sept. 24, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Tourism & Hospitality Council and Historic St. Augustine Area Council hosted a virtual discussion on the topic with local tourism and municipal leaders.

"We all have to work together to make the holiday season the best ever," said St. Augustine City Manager John Regan.

It's a tall order at a time when many businesses are struggling to rebound from an enforced shutdown last spring and social distancing that limits the volume of customers.

"I've spoken with as many as 20 businesses to really understand where people are at and what their needs are," Regan said.

One thing is certain: an event like Nights of Lights draws countless visitors to the Nation's Oldest City, which is critical to the financial well-being of retail shops and eateries.

"It's very important that we participate and make this a very, very big and exciting event," said Richard Goldman, president



Photo provided by FloridaHistoricCoast.com

**The popular Nights of Lights in St. Augustine will go on in 2020, but with changes.**

and CEO of St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau. He pointed out that Nights of Lights has shown its value in helping local business to come back following recent hurricanes.

Economics aside, there is another reason to turn on those 3 million tiny lights this year.

"So many residents have talked to me

about the importance from an emotional perspective of having a very traditional Christmas season, to bring back joy, to just celebrate," said Regan. "I think we're all ready for that on so many levels."

The Nights of Lights will be a week longer this year, running from Nov. 14 through Jan. 31. And the city's lighting program will be expanded, as well, with improvements, though Regan declined to

offer any spoilers.

In addition, Melissa Wissel, St. Augustine manager of communications, encouraged businesses to try some new things to attract visitor's attention, such as special window displays.

In perhaps the biggest change this year, the annual Light Up! Night has been cancelled. This event crowds about 7,000 people into the area of the Plaza de la Constitucion to witness the ceremonial flipping of the switch.

Asked how the event will kick off without Light Up! Night, Regan said the city was open to suggestions.

Also cancelled is the shuttle that brings visitors into town from outside parking areas. To help compensate, the city intends to add parking on Francis Field.

Meanwhile, St. Augustine Beach intends to hold its annual Surf Illumination event, according to the island city's communications and events coordinator, Melinda Conlon. However, the annual New Year's Eve Beach Blast-Off has been cancelled.

Asked if Nights of Lights will attract as many visitors this year, Regan could only express hope. Currently, capacity at the city's parking garage is down from recent years. Whether that indicates a trend that will continue into the holiday season "remains to be seen," Regan said.



Recorder file photo

**The Deck the Chairs event in Jacksonville Beach will be held Nov. 21 to Jan. 1.**

## Deck The Chairs is on for 2020

Brilliant displays are staple of Jacksonville holidays

By Shaun Ryan

The Grinch named COVID-19 could not keep a Beaches holiday favorite from coming back this year.

Jacksonville Beach Deck the Chairs will be on display from Nov. 21 to Jan. 1. The unusual event features 40 brightly decorated lifeguard chairs, festive music and a 100-foot glowing octopus.

The displays are creative, dazzling and popular, and an estimated 60,000 visitors make a point of seeing the chairs each year.

"The crowds get better and better every year," said Deck the Chairs founder Kurtis Loftus.

Local businesses and organizations sponsor and decorate the displays, which will be showcased in Latham Plaza and the Seawalk Pavilion area.

The event is free and open to the public. The display lights are on from 5 p.m. to 1 p.m. each night.

Throughout 2020, organizers worked closely with city officials to prepare for a safe and accessible exhibit. Several adjustments have been made to meet the challenge posed to holiday events everywhere by the coronavirus pandemic.

Programming and interactivity with the lighted chair displays will be limited. There will also be changes to the park space layout with extra space between chairs and less fencing along the sidewalks.

Other safety precautions will include hand-sanitizing stations, a first aid/isolation tent and informational signs regarding public health policies.

"The COVID pandemic has taken its toll on our Beaches community," said Loftus. "Business has been especially hit hard. Our hope is that the lights and free display will once again bring people into the Seawalk Pavilion and Latham Plaza park space, and that after visiting with us, they spend time and money with our friends in the service sector."

The event has proven important to local businesses. Restaurants in the area

have reported a 20-30% increase in business during the event compared with the same period before Deck The Chairs began in 2013.

The event is operated by a nonprofit organization, Deck The Chairs.

This year, visitors may notice that many popular features from 2019 will be improved. Beaches Go Green, a nonprofit that spreads awareness about waste and how it affects the environment, is installing a new light program in the Octopus Garden and syncing it to music.

In addition, lights and sounds will be improved at the 30-foot, 9,000-light tree.

"For the past seven seasons, this event has been a staple of the Jax Beach community," said Malcolm Marvin Jr., Deck the Chairs executive director. "We're honored to be here for our eighth season and to continue our mission of promoting the arts and arts education, especially during this challenging time."

Several sponsors will be returning this year, while new ones have signed on.

To learn more or to volunteer, go to [deckthechairs.org](http://deckthechairs.org).



## *Matt Price is a Ponte Vedra resident and commercial banking relationship manager with Regions Bank in Jacksonville.*

*As told to Cassidy Lankford*

### **Tell me about your background role.**

As a commercial banking relationship manager, I work directly with small businesses to assist them with their finances. In my role, I manage about 70 commercial relationships and work with small business owners in the Jacksonville area. I attended college at Georgia Southern University and started working in finance right out of college. When I started my career, I worked for Bank of America in the lobby and started at Regions 16 years ago.

### **What do you find to be the most inspirational aspect of your role?**

I love working face-to-face with small business owners. Although I don't own my own company, working with these business owners gives me a lot of insight about what it's like to be a business owner. I've learned about the amount of time that it takes to build and run a business, along with all of the risks that have to be taken as a business owner. I love being able to work with these businesses owners to assist them with their finances. I have gained a lot of knowledge and appreciation for small businesses.

### **What is special to you about working with small businesses over larger corporations?**

I like working with small businesses over corporations because so many American citizens are employed by small businesses. The majority of the small businesses I work with are family-owned and a lot of these businesses date back three or four generations. Some of the companies I've worked with have started out in a small garage and have eventually moved up to operating out of a fully functioning, high-tech warehouse. It's really amazing to watch the evolution of these businesses as I work with them.

### **What do you find to be the most challenging aspect of your role?**

I've seen some of the greatest challenges come about because of COVID-19. A lot of small businesses are suffering and I've been working with them to help rebuild their finances, and this has definitely been a challenge. Regions has processed over 50,000 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) applications since the start of the pandemic and has funded about \$5 billion through the program. The biggest challenge I've faced is getting through this pandemic and helping our clients recover from the impact of COVID-19. However, despite these challenges, we are seeing a lot of improvements since the start of the pandemic.

### **What do you love most about the Ponte Vedra community?**

The main reason I love living in the Ponte Vedra community is the safety aspect of it. As a father, I love raising my child here because I feel that it is a safe community and a great place to raise a family. I also love the location – the proximity of Ponte Vedra to everything else is great. We are close to downtown, close to St. Augustine, and close to the beach. I also love that I have everything I need right within the Ponte Vedra community and never have to stray far from home.

### **What do you enjoy doing with your family outside of your work with Regions?**

We are a big tennis family. My wife and I, along with our 15-year-old son, all love playing tennis. We



# Matt Price

Photo provided by Matt Price

love that it is an outdoor activity and great exercise. On the weekends, there's always something going on whether it be a tournament, playing with our tennis

league, or playing together as a family. It's also been a great activity during the pandemic because it's one thing we can all safely do together.



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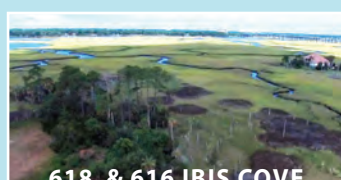
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**128 DEER HAVEN DR.**  
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**2345 & 2347 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.**  
\$945,000 - Oceanfront Lots



**2483 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.**  
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**328 CLEARWATER DR.**  
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**208 MARIELA COURT**  
\$815,000



**212 MARIELA COURT**  
\$791,000



**278 KIWI PALM CT.**  
\$749,000



**5115 OTTER-CREEK DR.**  
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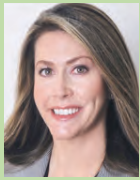
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All properties listed are in Ponte Vedra unless otherwise noted.



# REPLENISH THE PANTRIES

## Drive Thru/Drop Off Food Drive

**Saturday, October 3, 9:00 a.m. – noon**  
 Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church Parking Lot  
 76 South Roscoe, Ponte Vedra Beach

• Non-Perishable Food Items • No Glass • No Expired Dates

### ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

*“Together we can make a difference.”*

*Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset, United Way of St. Johns County and Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church*

For more information, contact Paula Roderick at [admin@PonteVedraBeachSunsetRotary.org](mailto:admin@PonteVedraBeachSunsetRotary.org) or (904) 280-8933



Subscribe to the Recorder!  
 Call (904) 285-8831.

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

*“Never underestimate the healing power of a quiet moment in the garden.”*



**Kathy Esfahani**  
 Columnist

### PLANTERS

Container gardening is growing plants in containers instead of in the ground. These planters can contain a mixture of annuals, perennials, herbs, citrus, tropicals and more.

They have much versatility as you can choose any type of planter and location. The most popular areas to have container planters are by the front door, in garden beds, on back patios and near pools. You can get creative with unique planters, such as planting in old bird baths, wood crates, pallet gardens boxes, etc.

Once you decide on a planter area, determine the sun exposure in this location to be able to choose appropriate plants:

- You want to have a variety of heights and colors to catch the eye.
- Use rich potting soil for the success of your flowers.
- Pebbles on the bottom of the pot create good and easy drainage,

*Flower of the Week: Supertunia*



Photo provided by Kathy Esfahani

- Start with the largest or tallest plant in the center to the back of the pot. Then, continue with a burst of color filling around the middle.
- Lastly, add cascading flowers or succulents to create an “overflow” look to finish your beautiful planter.

**Email Kathy at [kathys.creative.gardens@gmail.com](mailto:kathys.creative.gardens@gmail.com) for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future.**

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

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# Ben & Jerry's opens in Nocatee

By Shaun Ryan

The wait is over for local ice cream lovers. Ben & Jerry's Ponte Vedra Ice Cream Shop at Nocatee held its grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Franchise owners Steven Chubbuck and wife Jessica Shaw conducted the festivities with some help from some local cheerleaders, pageant winners and the Ben & Jerry's cow.

In addition, since the event followed National Voter Registration Day, Chubbuck reached out to local political party representatives to participate by registering voters. The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club accepted the invitation, and club members were on hand to assist prospective voters.

The new store, at 295 Pine Lake Drive, Suite C101, features the ice cream flavors that Ben & Jerry's fans want. The top-selling flavors last year were Half Baked, Cherry Garcia, The Tonight Dough and Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough.

Those who suspect Ben & Jerry's ice cream is superior to many other brands are correct. In keeping with industry standards, it is categorized as "super-premium," which means it has a higher butterfat content and has less air whipped into it. No preservatives, chemical stabilizers or artificial ingredients are used.

In addition, the brand uses premium-quality extracts and fruits, nutmeats, chocolates, liqueurs, cookies and candies. The only

sweetener used is pure cane sugar.

When partnering with suppliers and distributors, the brand supports fair trade labor practices, ethical treatment of cattle, reduced CO2 emissions and more.

Between 7% and 10% of profits from the brand supports the Ben & Jerry's Foundation, which encourages philanthropy and social and environmental justice.

Chubbuck, too, is always looking for ways to invest in the community.

Though the public perception of Ben & Jerry's is often derived from the foundation's predominantly progressive set of core values, Chubbuck's focus is on local needs.

"My own social mission is to build the community, the entire community," he said. He pointed out that he is an active firefighter and the son of police officers.

Even as the new store prepared to open its doors, Chubbuck was raising funds for local causes. He bought T-shirts to be sold as a fundraiser by the Palm Valley Academy cheerleading squad. In turn the cheerleaders took part in the grand opening, at which further donations were accepted.

The new Ben & Jerry's shop is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For further information, go to [benjerry.com/nocatee](http://benjerry.com/nocatee).

For a tour of the Ben & Jerry's ice cream-making process, go to [benjerry.com/flavors/how-we-make-ice-cream](http://benjerry.com/flavors/how-we-make-ice-cream).



Provided photo

Palm Valley Academy cheerleaders join the Ben & Jerry's cow and others in cutting the ribbon during the grand opening of the ice cream shop in Nocatee.



### Stunning Riverfront Estate

Riverfront/ San Marco  
Instantly makes you feel you've been swept away to a chateau in France. Exquisitely designed with extensive custom finishes, this 10,204-sq.-ft. home is a masterpiece in design and built for entertaining.  
**5 bedroom, 6 full bath, 5 half bath \$5,995,000**



### Pristine Waterfront

Immaculately maintained home located on a cul de sac on the largest lake in Marsh Landing features a spacious floor plan, first floor master, and expansive 180-degree water views showcased throughout.  
**4 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms \$1,175,000**



### Oceanfront Oasis

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



### Sophisticated Coastal Luxury

A masterpiece of design and craftsmanship, this custom beach home on Ponte Vedra Blvd was thoughtfully designed by Nesting Place Interiors & Heritage Homes and offers a neutral coastal palette with panoramic views of the Ocean & the Guana.  
**4 bedrooms, 3F/2H bathrooms \$3,600,000**



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### Private Beach Sanctuary

With gated entry and thoughtfully designed landscaping, this Ponte Vedra Blvd home backs up to the Guana, and features stunning rich wood floors, detailed built-ins, screened-in pool, and a temperature-controlled wine cellar.  
**4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms \$1,700,000**



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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 4.



**Gary Sass**  
Journey Columnist

#### DAY 4 – BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS (VIRGINIA)

Day 4 started on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia. The Appalachian Trail (AT) crisscrosses the parkway for about 100 miles. Of the “longest continually marked trail in the world” from Maine to Georgia, 25% is in Virginia. This was going to be a busy hiking and sightseeing day on the first designated “national scenic trail” in the U.S.

As I drove along the Blue Ridge Parkway early in the morning, there were many places to pull over and take in the scenic overlook. I stopped to enjoy the vista and also took a short hike following the AT marker. This was the flattest part of my six day hiking journey as I walked along the ridge. At the Sharp Top Overlook parking area, I read the placard that described Sharp Top Mountain. I was fascinated to learn during construction of the Washington Monument, proud Virginians incorrectly believed this mountain was the tallest in the state. To honor George Washington, they sent a piece of stone from Sharp Top to be part of the obelisk monument. The sign also proclaimed the trail was a mere 1.5 strenuous miles to the peak. My attention switched from the easy ridge trail I was on to the historic mountain in the distance.

Sharp Top is one of three mountains in the Peaks of Otter area overlooking the town of Bedford, Virginia. The description I read of the trail to the summit of Sharp Top as “strenuous” was accurate. It was the first time I felt winded from taking big steps that seemed to be going straight up like an earth ladder. I heard people behind me which only made me go faster. At this point in time in the solo journey, no one had passed me hiking and I was not about to relinquish that minor feat.

At the rocky peak, there were places to sit and places to stay out of the wind. Thankfully many people had spent a lot of energy fashioning smaller stones around the bigger stones to create this little sanctu-



**Day 4: Sharp Top Mountain**

ary. The steady wind was an immediate cool down from the climb and added a sense of danger on top of the huge boulders. There was someone at the top who was willing to snap a quick photo of me so I could record another milestone.

I had wasted no time scrambling up Sharp Top so I figured I would add a side trail while I was here. There was a sign for “Buzzard’s Roost” that caught my attention. Note to self; avoid going to lookout points named after high flying birds of prey. When I arrived at the named outcropping, I saw cameras, hats and other belongings resting at the bottom of a deep crevice. There was no chance of retrieving any dropped items in this fissure. My forward progress was reduced to a crawl using my hands, knees and feet. I decided to err on the side of caution while attempting to climb farther during high winds. Half way up the rocks was far enough; this overlook was meant for buzzards only.

On the steep walk down, I realized my new hiking boots made a huge difference. No longer were my toes pressing against the front of my shoe. I was delighted I took the advice of the store clerk and bought a pair one size bigger than my normal shoe size. A telepathic thank you would have to suffice.

Roanoke, Virginia was my next pit stop. I needed to re-energize for the eight mile hike in the afternoon on the AT. I had read about the 270-degree panorama from a formation called MacAfee Knob. This



**Day 4: Buzzards Roost**

geological feature is located on Catawba Mountain not far away. It was a beautiful Saturday, so I figured I would see more people on this hike than all the others.

When I arrived at the trailhead parking lot to MacAfee Knob it was full. I hoped that a morning climber would soon be leaving and my intuition was right. A parking spot opened up and within a few minutes I was on the trail. I cannot explain my excitement to spend the next 100 minutes doing this cardio challenge to the top. When other hikers heard my footsteps, they would just step to the side. I used a hoo-rag as both a neck gaiter and a protective face mask which I quickly pulled up around my nose and mouth as I passed them. Despite being in the outdoors, I practiced social distancing as best as I could.

This summit was arguably the most famous along the AT. To be photographed on the rock that projects over the cliff is a must for all hikers. Like a diving board over a pool, there was a flat rock on the top that overlooks Catawba Valley. You can sit on the edge of the rock with your feet on a ledge just at the right level below. In the photo you appear to be hanging over the edge. However, with your feet secured underneath, the danger is mitigated. This section of the AT was prominently featured in the 2015 major motion picture, “A Walk in the Woods,” starring Nick Nolte and Robert Redford.

The way down went very quickly. There was only one place that I made a mental



**Day 4: MacAfee Knob overlooking Catawba Valley**

note of a hard turn where multiple trails came together. I was alerted to it upon arrival because there was a group of younger hikers at the intersection unsure of the right direction to proceed. After I showed them the trail markers, they were good to go. Another mile later in the descent I heard some other people in the distance. They were the loudest hikers I had ever encountered. Young girls with no masks and no trail etiquette were creating the noise pollution. I thought, maybe they should be warned of the timber rattler in the middle of the trail about a half-mile away. Should I tell them not to worry since the poisonous snake was easy to spot in the middle of the trail? I figured if I made up a tall tale like that, a little focus would replace the noise. For the next 15 minutes, the trail turned into a blanket of roots so they would have been seeing imaginary snakes the whole time. Instead, I bit my tongue and let them carry on as is. The people’s path was for everyone.

After the hike, I ate quickly in the parking lot while contemplating the tedious ride ahead of me. Then I perked up with the idea of a road soda. The combination of my big YETI Rambler, a cup full of ice and a beer would surely be a treat to be sipped for hours on the way to North Carolina. Life was good but the next mountain would be better.

**Look for Part 5 in an upcoming edition of the Ponte Vedra Recorder.**

## Sapna

Continued from 4

After 112 years in business, the department store chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in August. Hundreds of stores would be closed and thousands of employees laid off.

“I woke up that night asking myself, ‘Raghu, what are you waiting for?’” he said.

The idea has inspired others.

“The response has been, frankly, phenomenal,” Misra said.

In fact, former Jacksonville mayor John Delaney has signed on to become a partner in the initiative.

“The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce is enthusiastic about this new and innovative workforce development platform,” said Isabelle Renault, Chamber president and CEO. “More businesses are seeking the competitive advantages of locating here, and Sapna Foundation is one more strong way to connect with and build a skilled workforce that is happier and more productive by putting the right people in the right positions.”

## BEAM

Continued from 4

members using one computer to complete schoolwork is nearly impossible.

“We wanted to do something special for the families because this year has been especially challenging. The parents are already abiding to strict budgets and new computers for their children were just not feasible,” said Gracie Simendinger, director of development for BEAM. “Fortunately, we had an incredible donor reach out to see how they could support the single mothers

during these difficult times. We received a donation to cover the cost of brand new units for every SPP school-aged child to support their academic success.”

BEAM’s Single Parent Program is currently assisting 41 mothers and their children. BEAM’s Single Parent Program is designed to interrupt the cycle of poverty for local single mothers and their children. Personalized case management and other services such as goal-setting workshops, parenting workshops and financial education are available for up to three years to enable single parents in our beach communities to reach their self-sufficiency goals.





ST. JOHNS COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Ponte Vedra Beach Division

CHAMBER  
CONNECTIONS

MEET THE PVB DIVISION BOARD 2020-2021



CHAIR: MATT PRICE



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Ponte Vedra  
Recorder

October 2020





**Isabelle Renault**  
President/CEO,  
St. Johns County  
Chamber of Commerce

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

### St. Johns Chamber strategic planning goes virtual

The St. Johns County Chamber, for the first time in its history and as a result of the COVID 19, held its Annual Strategic Planning Session on-line virtually.

Thirty-eight participants met via Zoom on August 26 and Sept. 2 to review the Chamber's quick response to the pandemic outbreak. Local businesses needed accurate timely resources and information and the Chamber provided a resource center on its website to provide resources to local businesses.

The Chamber continues to provide new information and virtual webinars to Chamber members and has begun incorporating innovative networking opportunities during the virtual events.

The Planning Session was attended by the 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 board of directors. I was joined by the Chamber lead volunteer St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and

Chairman Mark Nighbor, as well as representatives of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division--Incoming Chair Matt Price, Regions Bank, and Ponte Vedra Beach Division Director Karen Everett and Senior Coordinator Lucia Miller.

The meeting was facilitated by Nancy Dering Mock and members discussed new priorities and projects to meet the needs of the Chamber's 1100 members during FY 2020-2021.

Subsequently, the Ponte Vedra Beach Division held its annual planning sessions virtually as part of an extended September Board of Directors meeting. Planning will continue at its Oct. 13 board meeting.

Visit the Chamber's website at [www.sjcchamber.com](http://www.sjcchamber.com) and go to Business Recovery to view videos created to share information, read documents full of useful and timely information and make plans to attend upcoming events.

## Next Leadership St. Johns Class to begin in 2021

Applications for the next class of Leadership St. Johns will be accepted soon for the program that will begin next year.

Several residents of Ponte Vedra Beach were among the 2019-2020 class. This year-long program selects participants from all sectors of industry, commerce and public service across St. Johns County.

Andrew Aleman, managing attorney, St. Johns Title, Ponte Vedra Beach; Suzan Lupton, branch VP, VyStar Credit Union, Ponte Vedra Beach; and Matt Price, Regions Bank vice president/commercial banking, Ponte Vedra Beach, were selected for the 2020 class, which accomplished a great deal despite being shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the pandemic, the class of 2020's project created a wildly successful online virtual auction which raised well over \$10,000 for the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County.

The LSJ program began in 2001 and has more than 350 alumni including Flagler College President Joseph Joyner, Superintendent of Schools Tim Forson, Flagler Health + CEO Jason Barrett, local entrepreneur and St. Augustine Distillery founding partner Phillip McDaniel, St. Johns County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker and St. Augustine Fire Chief Carlos Aviles among many other notable graduates.

The Leadership St. Johns Program was established to educate, connect and encourage elite and emerging professionals as they strive to make a positive impact on the local economy and community.

According to Bob Porter, the Chamber's LSJ program director, LSJ graduates continue to be mentored by



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

**The Leadership St. Johns Class of 2020 poses during a visit to the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.**

program alumni who maintain and promote a positive difference in the region.

"The program provides a way to recognize talented individuals who will benefit from the experience and who can utilize the opportunity to advance their organizational and personal professional goals," Porter said. "Additionally, strong connections established among class members are invaluable throughout one's career and beyond."

The Chamber will begin accepting applications for the next class this fall.

Additional information and the application can be found at [www.sjcchamber.com/leadership-st.-johns](http://www.sjcchamber.com/leadership-st.-johns). The application will be available later this fall. The 2021 program is expected to end with a graduation ceremony and dinner in September. Class members must be committed to meeting one day each month to experience a full day of policy briefings and onsite tours providing an in-depth overview of the challenges and opportunities faced by St.

**LEADERSHIP** continues on **Page 14**

## Women with Vision Council among several comprised of Chamber members

Members in the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce are also members of the Chamber's seven councils and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division. Connections readers are encouraged to attend events held in the Ponte Vedra Beach area as well as council meetings in other parts of the county.

For example, the Women with Vision Council (WWV) meets monthly virtually or at the Palencia Club on the first Thursday of each month. The luncheons feature lively speakers intended to support

the Council's mission: To mentor, inspire, and empower professionals — particularly women in business — through education and collaboration as a means to embrace their vision, purpose and value.

The council focuses on activities, resources, and events designed to ignite a passion for business and encourage positive contributions to the community while inspiring council members to love the lives they live.

The council is led by Rachael Mueller,

chair, Girl Scouts of Gateway Council; Melissa Rowe, immediate past chairman, PuroClean Emergency Restoration Services; Julie Fuller, vice chair, FASTSIGNS of St. Augustine; Jennifer Nestor, communications chair, Flagler Health +; Shelley Pearl, membership chair, College Nannies, Sitters +Tutors; and Stephanie McFee, director, Women's Business Development Council of Florida.

These professional women have worked hard to build the foundation for successful

Council events.

As part of their initiative, the WWV Council awards one scholarship to one deserving applicant to the Leadership St. Johns Program. The recipient for the 2019-2020 class was Chelsea Reppin, Director of Development, St. Augustine Youth Services.

To learn more about the WWV Council, go to [www.sjcchamber.com/business-councils](http://www.sjcchamber.com/business-councils). The next WWV Council luncheon is Thursday, Oct. 1.



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Karen B. Everett**  
 Director PVB Division,  
 St. Johns County  
 Chamber of Commerce

I shared that we were all experiencing a tear in the matrix in the June Connections. Well, we're all learning to repair the tear and move on with our businesses and lives wisely and safely.

Thank you for responding to our recent survey about in-person and virtual events. Most of you replied that you were ready to attend in-person events that followed CDC Guidelines and encouraged masks. And most respondents agreed that the virtual events being offered do provide value.

We may have in-person events in the near future; in the meantime, please join us for our virtual events that contain virtual networking. The events are all listed on our website, [www.sjcchamber.com](http://www.sjcchamber.com).

Another question asked on the survey revealed that many members aren't aware of the Member Information Center (MIC). Use your log in and password to explore the MIC. Many valuable virtual events have been recorded and are available to view via the MIC.

Today, we begin our new fiscal year and celebrate our new board of directors for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division. Led by

Chair Matt Price (Regions Bank), the new board will include returning members Gloria Dongara (Immediate Past Chair/AAA), Pamela Bomba (Vice Chair/Pivot CPAs), Jen Hendrich (THE PLAYERS Championship PGA TOUR), Christine Swanbeck (Ruth's Chris Steak House) and Kathleen Floryan (exp Realty). New board members include CW Cook (Sawgrass Country Club), Peter verDorn (TPC Sawgrass); Susan Griffin (Ponte Vedra Recorder), Suzan Lupton (VyStar Credit Union) and Felicia Cox (Iberia Bank).

Special thanks to past board members for their time and support: Rob Schlingmann (The Plantation at Ponte Vedra), Lori Adams (Cabi Independent Fashion Stylist), Kim Scott (The Morgan Company) and Ricki Taylor (Synovus Mortgage).

Please come by the Ponte Vedra Beach Office, also known as the Visitor Information Center and leave your collateral for our visitors and fellow members. We remain a safe Visitor Center and have taken the pledge.

*Regards,  
 Karen*

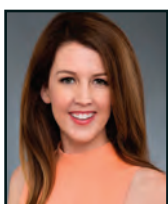
## 2020-2021 PVB DIVISION AMBASSADORS



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**Kari Zerrahn**  
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**Rachael Mueller**  
 Community Outreach  
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**Ali Walker**  
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**Lori Adams**  
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 Fashion Stylist

## Chamber's PVB Division Ambassadors collect items to support Health Heroes

The PVB Division Ambassadors of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce are collecting items to support Health Heroes at Baptist Medical Center South by providing individually wrapped goodies.

- Snacks
- Energy bars
- Drinks
- Small hand lotion
- Chapstick

Donations can be brought to the PVB Division office through Friday, Oct. 16. The address is 200 Solana Road, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.

For more information, call PVB Division

office at (904) 285-2004 or email [rmueller@girlscouts-gateway.org](mailto:rmueller@girlscouts-gateway.org).

The mission of the Ambassadors is to represent the Chamber by exhibiting the highest degree of professionalism, knowledge and integrity to our members and the business community. Ambassadors serve as the greeting arm of the Chamber to promote new member participation and retention through ribbon cuttings, new member visits and phone calls, community outreach events and mentorships. The St. Johns County Chamber values its ambassadors and the work they do to promote our members and to give back to the community.

## UPCOMING PONTE VEDRA BEACH DIVISION EVENTS

### VIRTUAL PVB DIVISION CHAMBER AT NOON

**Date:** Oct. 14

**Time:** Noon-1 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom meeting

**Speaker:** Myron Pincomb, Principal of The Pincomb Group

**Topic:** Social Entrepreneurialism

**Series Sponsor:** Fields Auto Group

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL QUARTERLY BREAKFAST

Save the date for the next Economic Development Council Quarterly Breakfast with State Sen. Travis Hutson, on Friday, Dec. 4, at 8 a.m. More details regarding the format of this event and registration will soon be available at [www.sjcchamber.com](http://www.sjcchamber.com).

For more information and to register, go to [www.sjcchamber.com](http://www.sjcchamber.com).

## 2020-21 PVB DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### MATT PRICE, Board Chair 2020-2021

Regions Bank Vice President/Commercial Banking Relationship Manager

Price was born and raised in Albany, Georgia, and graduated from Georgia Southern University in 2001. Currently, he is vice president of Commercial Banking for Regions Bank. He was hired by Regions in 2006, and has built a successful career in banking for the past 18 years. Price recently served as chair for the Division's Ambassador program, and was also recognized as Ambassador of the Year in 2017. He has been married to his wife Paige for 16 years, has a ninth-grader at Ponte Vedra High School, and you can regularly find the entire family on a local tennis court.



### GLORIA DONGARA, Immediate Past Chair 2019-2020

AAA-The Auto Club Group

Dongara is the Financial Services agent at the Auto Club Group in Ponte Vedra Beach and St. Augustine. She specializes in life insurance, banking, indexed annuities and fixed annuities. Prior to AAA, she had 23-plus years of experience in corporate America, specifically heading the Global Corporate Markets Anti-Money Laundering area as well as Client Services and Cash Management. She has lived in Ponte Vedra for more than 28 years and served as an Ambassador on the St. John's County Chamber for three years and has been on the board of directors for three years. Dongara is now the incoming chair of the St. Johns County the Board of Directors, Ponte Vedra Division.



## Board

Continued from 13



**PAMELA BOMBA, CPA, Vice Chair**  
Tax Principal, Pivot CPAs

Bomba is a tax partner with Pivot CPAs, where she began her career in 2005 after receiving her B.A. in Business Administration and Masters of Accountancy from the University of North Florida. She has always lived in Northeast Florida and now calls Palm Valley home. While she has a strong background in all areas of taxation, Bomba primarily specializes in consulting and compliance for large, multi-state corporations, partnerships, and their owners. She has extensive experience with different tax sectors including local, state and federal taxation and financial accounting. Bomba is a member of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In the community, she serves on the finance committee of The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Pamela is a mentor with the Jacksonville Women's Business Center and is a member of the Accounting and Financial Women's Alliance. She also actively volunteers with Junior Achievement.



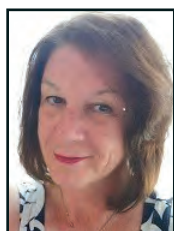
**CHRISTINE SWANBECK**  
General Manager, Ruth's Chris Steak House-PVB

Swanbeck is the general manager at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Ponte Vedra Beach, where she works day in and day out to improve every guest's experience through a high standard of service and high quality food. Swanbeck believes that building relationships is the foundation for any successful business. However, it is especially important for the hospitality industry. Swanbeck's professional journey began when she studied for four years at Florida State University, earning degrees in Hospitality and Business, while being the captain of the women's cross country and track team.



**JEN HENDRICH**  
Community Outreach manager,  
THE PLAYERS Championship/PGA TOUR

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Hendrich holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications. She has worked for the PGA TOUR for more than seven years and is currently the Community Outreach manager for THE PLAYERS Championship, where she helps grow community awareness of the tournament through marketing, PR and charitable efforts. Prior to her job at the TOUR, Hendrich worked as an account coordinator at Burdette Ketchum, a full-service marketing firm in Jacksonville. For the past 11 years, she has served on the board of the Jacksonville Chapter of the UT Alumni Association, a group created for people who are interested in the distinguished record and future progress of The University of Tennessee. She is also currently on the board of the Ponte Vedra Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, where she helps the chamber increase membership and deliver continuous value-added service to its current members. Hendrich has been a resident of Northeast Florida for 10 years. She and her English bulldog, Banks, live in Jacksonville.



**KATHLEEN FLORYAN**

Broker Associate, exp Realty

Floryan has been successfully selling properties and helping people buy homes as a consistent "Top Producer" year after year. She works full time in real estate. Through the toughest real estate markets since 2006, Floryan lists and sells residential real estate within all of the communities, in all price ranges throughout the St Johns County and Beaches area. Homes listed with her have an average day on market of less than 45 days. Floryan's passion is specializing in luxury homes in Ponte Vedra Beach that include oceanfront, golf-course homes and condos, gated and non-gated neighborhoods and other waterfront such as marsh front, Intracoastal or riverfront properties. She also sells in the newest community west of Ponte Vedra Beach called Nocatee. She is a certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist, a certified short sale specialist, a certified residential resort and 2nd Home Specialist, certified Nocatee Realtor, certified Doctors Agent and Certified Express Offers Agent. Floryan is proud to be a broker associate currently with eXp Realty.



**SUSAN GRIFFIN**

Publisher, Ponte Vedra Recorder

Griffin is publisher of the Ponte Vedra Recorder, the community paper of record serving Ponte Vedra and the Beaches since 1969 and now Nocatee. She also serves as publisher of the bi-monthly First Coast Register magazine. She has been with the Recorder for 20-plus years, joining the paper as an advertising account executive and becoming sales manager before being named publisher. Prior to joining the Recorder, Griffin owned travel agencies in Florida and Georgia. She is returning to the board of directors for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division; she previously served on the board as a director and as chairman. She has been actively involved with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce since 1997. She also serves on the board of directors of the Overlook V Office condominiums and is on the board of directors for the Florida Media Association.



**C.W. COOK**

General Manager and COO,  
Sawgrass Country Club

Cook started his adult work career serving in the U.S. Air Force in the military club division. With this initial grounding, he left the military and furthered his education by graduating with a bachelor's degree in Hospitality Management from Florida International University, and a master's degree in Hospitality Administration from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Along the way, Cook has spent over 25 years managing at some of the finest private clubs in the country with the last number of years of that service being the GM/COO of Sawgrass Country Club. Cook is a member of the prestigious Club Managers Association of America Honor Society, holds the coveted Certified Club Manager (CCM) and Certified Chief Executive (CCE) designations and is one of only 23 Master Club Managers (MCM) worldwide.



**SUZAN LUPTON**

Branch Vice President, VyStar Credit Union –  
PVB Branch

Lupton was born and raised in Uganda. After high school, she received a full government scholarship to law school. A year into her law degree, she also received a full volleyball scholarship to South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. She left Uganda for the U.S. in 2002 to play volleyball and pursue a degree in criminal justice with the intent of enrolling in an American law school to complete her degree. This however changed after working as a legal intern while in college. After graduation, she moved to Jacksonville in 2006 where she worked briefly as a collection's agent, insurance adjuster and finally landed at VyStar Credit Union in 2007. She became the branch vice president for VyStar's location in Ponte Vedra in 2016 and has served in that capacity since. Her primary focus is to serve the financial needs of VyStar's members and bring credit union services to more people through education and guidance on how to leverage products and services to either make money or save money. She also obtained her master's in Business Administration from Florida International University in 2015. Outside of work, Lupton enjoys time with friends and family, traveling, working out and most recently joined a group called "Happy Feet," which promotes healthy living by encouraging an active lifestyle. Participants encourage and challenge each other to keep moving.



**PETER VERDORN**

Sales Manager, TPC Sawgrass

VerDorn is the sales manager at TPC Sawgrass, assisting companies and groups of all sizes to host meetings, events, private dinners and golf. His focus is to be actively involved in the community and bring awareness to the clubhouse, showcasing everything TPC Sawgrass has to offer. VerDorn, his wife, Erin, and 2-year-old daughter, Penny, recently moved to Ponte Vedra from New Jersey to be closer to family and enjoy a new lifestyle. He has an extensive background in golf and hospitality, with more than 11 years of experience both in the public and private sector. He specializes in business development and believes that relationships are the key to success in any industry. VerDorn and his family are extremely happy to call Ponte Vedra home and he looks forward to continually helping people in the community.



**FELICIA COX**

Vice President, Iberia Bank

Cox has more than 35 years of retail banking experience in North Florida. She started her career in banking with Barnett Bank, while attending high school in a school work program. She became part of the Iberia Bank team five years ago with the acquisition of Florida Bank. Currently, Cox is the retail group manager for the North Florida market. She joined Florida Bank 13 years ago in 2007. Cox is a native of the North Florida market, and actively serves as a volunteer in the community where she grew up. She is a past two-term chairman of the St Johns Chamber of Commerce, Ponte Vedra Division. Cox has a bachelor's degree in Business Management from Edward Waters College in Jacksonville.

## Leadership

Continued from 12

Johns County's many industries, government agencies and nonprofits. The course will begin with a one-and-a-half-day

retreat, eight full class days and conclude with an evening graduation in fall 2021. Class members who successfully graduate from the program are accepted into the prestigious ranks of leadership alumni in St. Johns County and across Florida. Many LSJ graduates have gone on to the

prestigious state-wide Leadership Florida program.

Isabelle Renault, the Chamber's president/CEO and a graduate of Leadership St. Johns and Leadership Florida, suggested involvement in LSJ can be a stepping stone to participating in nonprofit and volunteer

government advisory boards as well as involvement in future elected office.

"We also want our class members to consider using the skills honed through the LSJ experience to engage actively in the governing of St. Johns County," Renault said.





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Source: *Real Value of Joining a Local Chamber of Commerce*  
Shapiro Group, 2012.

PV2-LV45045



# Ponte Vedra Auto Show rescheduled

Annual car show to take place Nov. 15 at Nocatee Event Field

Officials from the Ponte Vedra Auto Show have announced a change of date for the 2020 event, postponing the annual auto show until Nov. 15.

“This event date change from Sept. 27 to Sunday Nov. 15 will allow our staff, the show participants and our business partners more time to plan for another fantastic

auto show at the beautiful Nocatee Event Field in Ponte Vedra,” said Justin Felker, president of the Ponte Vedra Auto Show. “The date change, from historically early September to a later date, will remain permanent for all future Ponte Vedra Auto Show events and should result in cooler weather for the attendees and participants. We also like the later date because it coincides with other regional events which will attract additional interest in our car show. We are already planning new features, attractions and participant events for our show in 2021

so keep a close eye on our website for those exciting updates.”

The Ponte Vedra Auto Show is an annual car show produced by Art n Motion LLC, in association with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the St. Johns County Visitors Bureau. The show is free to attend and includes many of the world’s finest automobiles competing for awards in 25 categories.

Interested participants can register for the Ponte Vedra Auto Show at [pvautoshow.com](http://pvautoshow.com).

## COVID-19 impacts hurricane preparations

By Shaun Ryan

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

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

Perhaps the biggest changes this year have been brought about by the ongoing need to

remain safe from the coronavirus.

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

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

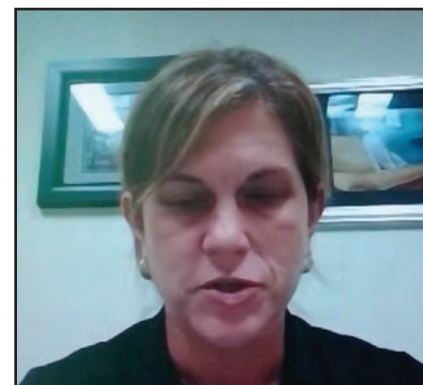
“We are taking steps regarding our sheltering to ensure social distancing,” Wilson said. “In the past, we may have opened five or six shelters. Now, we have to cut capacity in half. We’re going to have to open additional shelters so we have less people in each shelter.”

She pointed out that businesses can apply

what they learned during the recent shut-down, when many employees had to work from home. Those same lessons can be adapted to help businesses function should a hurricane strike.

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

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



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

**HURRICANE** continues on **Page 17**

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I’m Greg Scobee, your dedicated sales consultant from Effectv, the advertising sales division of Comcast Cable. I have 25 years of TV Advertising experience and have called St. Augustine home for over 35 years.

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# Chamber hosts candidate event, straw poll

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted a live virtual town hall meeting Thursday, Aug. 13, with the candidates for County Commission seat 1 and has tabulated the results of voting in the virtual straw poll held this week. The straw poll was open Aug. 11-14.

More than 1,600 votes were cast and, while the poll is unofficial, the results demonstrate an interesting path ahead for the candidates.

The Chamber pivoted to a virtual program for Politics in St. Johns in 2020 but still presented a non-partisan showcase for candidates to post videos and answer queries from residents.

A first-time virtual town hall was held Aug. 13 via the Chamber's Facebook among the three candidates for County Commissioner District 1. The town hall was recorded and has been posted to [sjcchamber.com](http://sjcchamber.com).

"We are proud to be able to provide a platform to help St. Johns County residents make an informed voting decision," Isabelle Renault, Chamber president and CEO, said.

The program enabled voters to "get to know" the candidates seeking public office and ask them questions prior to the Aug. 18 primary and the Nov. 3 general election.

The 2020 Politics in St. Johns was sponsored by Advanced Disposal, Advanced Business Solutions, FPL,

Ameris Bank and Northrop Grumman.

For more information about Politics in St. Johns 2020, go to [sjcchamber.com](http://sjcchamber.com).

At the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections website, [votesjc.com](http://votesjc.com), residents can review the official 2020 candidate list. The primary election was Tuesday, August 18, and the general election is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Early voting will be Oct. 19-31.

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

## Innovation, problem-solving focus of virtual Chamber at Noon event

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce PVB Division held a virtual Chamber at Noon event on Aug. 12.

Sara Frasca gave Chamber members a presentation about how to use fresh approaches to growth, creativity and transformation.

An innovation expert, Frasca honed her skills in senior leadership roles in both corporate America and the world of startups. Frasca now serves as an innovation consultant and helps leading organizations cultivate human imagination, build a culture of innovation and solve complex problems in creative ways. Frasca is the go-to resource for leaders seeking competitive advantage and sustainable success by harnessing innovation.

Frasca's talk at the Chamber at Noon was one of the monthly events sponsored by Fields Auto Group. Watch for news from the Chamber about the monthly events, usually held on the third Wednesday of the month.

## Hurricane

Continued from 16

The WeatherSTEM tool provides weather information in real time.

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

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

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

Residents who sign up will receive

notifications either on their phones or by text or email.

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

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

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

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# Northrop Grumman VP addresses Economic Development Council

By Shaun Ryan

After Randy Bradley took the helm at the local Northrop Grumman facility in January, he quickly found himself working to keep things running despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As it turned out, there were no layoffs at the St. Augustine Aircraft Integration Center of Excellence where Bradley is vice president and site leader.

“I would say our company did a great job with getting me prepared,” he said in a presentation Friday, Aug. 28, during a virtual meeting of the Economic Development Council hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Indeed, before Bradley moved into his new position he had time to develop under his predecessor and came to the job with an extensive background, two things that no doubt contributed to his effectiveness.

The former U.S. Marine earned his degree at Southern Illinois University and joined Northrop Aircraft in 1990, four years before it merged with Grumman

Aerospace. After a five-year stint with the Honeywell Corp., he returned to Northrop Grumman and worked in various capacities leading up to his current role.

He has been involved with a number of aircraft and spacecraft projects, including environmental control systems for the International Space Station. In 2013, he came to St. Augustine where he has been involved in work on the Navy’s E-2D Advanced Hawkeye and other projects.

“If you look at the movie ‘Top Gun’ you will see a lot of Grumman products,” Bradley said. “A lot of those products were modified here in St. Augustine.”

The E-2D is the main focus at the local facility, which is one of the largest employers in the county. It’s a big job. The aircraft has tens of thousands of parts. In fact, during the process of assembling one, workers drill more than a million holes.

“The E2 is probably one of the longest running programs that the Navy has,” Bradley said. “It started in the ‘50s and here we are in 2020 still talking about E-2Ds. That goes to show the evolution and



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

**Northrop Grumman Vice President Randy Bradley (center) spoke during a virtual Economic Development Council meeting hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Aug. 28. With Bradley are SJC Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Renault (left) and Mike Kopphenhfer, chairman of the Chamber’s Economic Development Council.**

the growth of that product and the need for it.”

Another project the local plant has been working on is modifying aircraft to add air-refueling, which extends flying time. “We’re very excited about that,” said Bradley.

This spring, the facility will start building conformal fuel tanks for the F-18, which extend the endurance of the aircraft.

Bradley said Northrop Grumman has a great relationship with the community and is involved with STEM classes at local high schools.

On a more personal note, he enjoys living in the Nation’s Oldest City.

“My wife and I really make this a home now,” he said. “We’ve gotten to love this community. We talk about it all the time. This is where we want to settle down — in St. Augustine.”



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**Dr. Ryan Heinz**  
Licensed Chiropractor

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

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








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Photo by Susan Griffin

Dr. Ryan Heinz (center), with St. Johns County Chamber members, family and staff members, cuts the ribbon to celebrate the opening of True Wellness Health Center in the Nocatee Town Center on Thursday, Aug. 27.

# New wellness center brings chiropractic care to Nocatee community

By Cassidy Lankford

For Dr. Ryan Heinz, chiropractic care is more than a few cracks to the back. When patients visit Heinz's new Nocatee practice, they receive far more than the five-minute, spine-snapping visit that many chiropractors offer. Nestled in the heart of the Nocatee Town Center, True Wellness Health Center is a haven for patients of all ages to receive a customized treatment plan for their health needs.

"I'm not selling my patients on 30-visit plan packages," said Heinz, explaining that chiropractic care is not one size fits all. "I come up with a treatment plan that is customized to the specific condition of the patient and we re-evaluate the progress at each visit."

Heinz said he likes to spend at least 30 minutes per visit (or even longer at the initial appointment) with patients to get a deeper feel for their health needs.

Heinz is a Jacksonville native who recently went back to his roots after living in New Jersey. As a college baseball player, Heinz suffered a stress fracture in his lower spine and was unable to find any relief. Medical professionals couldn't help him and he was at a loss, his quality of life and his sanity dwindling. It wasn't until he visited a chiropractor while he was at home on Christmas break that he finally found relief. It was then that Heinz decided to leave his baseball days in the rearview mirror and pursue a higher education in chiropractic care.

Heinz practiced in the New Jersey area for a number of years, but when he felt it was time to open his own clinic he knew that returning to his roots was his best

option. Around Thanksgiving 2019, Heinz packed his bags and began his journey to opening his chiropractic clinic in Nocatee.

"I love working with the Nocatee and Ponte Vedra community because everyone is so welcoming," Heinz said, noting New Jersey lacked the 'at-home' community feeling that is so prominently felt in the Ponte Vedra area. "I've gained a lot of business through word-of-mouth, just because patients are sharing their experience here with the rest of the community."

Heinz shared his love for the Ponte Vedra area and said even the art on the walls of his clinic all comes from local Ponte Vedra and Jacksonville artists.

"Ponte Vedra has a very special, family feel," added Jennifer McLendon, office manager at True Wellness Health Center

For Heinz, providing chiropractic care to the Ponte Vedra community is not just a job — it is a passion. Helping patients improve their quality of life and reduce their pain is something that brings Heinz great joy.

Although True Wellness Health Center has only been open since June 2020, its business is already growing. It celebrated its opening with a ribbon cutting on Thursday, Aug. 27, and the team is excited to continue its journey providing care to the Ponte Vedra community.

"The most rewarding part of my job is watching a patient come in with pain and seeing their smile come back by the time they leave," Heinz said.

True Wellness Health Center is open Mondays from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m.-noon. For inquiries and appointments, call (904) 626-2681.

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- Mary Frances M.

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# 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 Cassidy 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 rigorous safety procedures, TPC Sawgrass has reopened its facilities for events.

“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 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

**ABOVE:** 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.

**RIGHT:** St. Johns County Chamber President/CEO Isabelle Renault with TPC Sawgrass General Manager Derek Sprague.

Photos by Susan Griffin



**TPC Sawgrass Sales Manager Peter verDorn attends the Chamber event while following suggested CDC safety guidelines.**

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**Donald and Janice Jones of CycleHere Media give some pointers on improving a business's virtual presence during a Chamber at Noon online meeting Sept. 16.**  
Photo from virtual meeting



# Speakers address ways to heighten virtual presence at Chamber at Noon meeting

By Shaun Ryan

Last year, maintaining an effective virtual presence was a staple for most businesses. This year, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting financial impact, it has become even more important.

On Wednesday, Sept. 16, local businesses had an opportunity to learn more about how to best connect with customers online. Janice and Donald Jones of CycleHere Media gave a presentation on the topic during the Chamber at Noon virtual meeting of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

Founded in 2012 and based in St. Augustine, CycleHere Media provides video marketing, consulting and production services throughout Florida. It specializes in boosting public awareness, customer engagement and reputation value for government agencies, destinations and private businesses.

Janice Jones named three main components of a business's "virtual front door": the website, social platforms and email.

"Before COVID, we were all there — we were working on these; we were building them — that was part of just business these days, being out there virtually," said Donald Jones. "But it's obviously so much more important at this point to fine-tune that, focus it on what your message is."

Janice Jones said the public should always find something current on websites and social media. And when speaking to a client or customer via online conferencing, the speaker should always look directly into the camera — not at the screen showing the other party's image.

"Eye contact," said Donald Jones. "We think about that when we are in person. When we're in a Chamber event or a meeting or we're sitting down face-to-face on a one-on-one client meeting, you're looking in their eye. But with computers and all the screens, it's natural for us to ... look a little bit off."

Janice Jones also suggested keeping distractions out of the background, putting some light on the speaker's face and

using expressions while communicating.

She also emphasized thinking of the website as more than just an electronic flier.

"If you can share your process within your website, then you're taking that customer, that potential client, and you're walking them in the door," she said.

Likewise, social media is more than a commercial aired to a passive audience. There's a reason it's called "social."

One taco shop, for instance, intersperses humor and family news with photos of tacos and recipes. People are drawn to the site and hopefully get the urge to eat some tacos.

One tool the Joneses didn't want their audience to take for granted was email. Janice Jones cited a survey that found 86% of professionals prefer to use email when communicating for business purposes.

"So, I'm asking you: Could you be more personable through your emails?" she said.

The Joneses use a service called BombBomb, which allows them to send a video in an email, a different way to communicate visually.

"These are all ways that you can add value," said Janice Jones. "That's what we're hoping to do, to inspire you to add a little value in the ways and the means that you can from your desktop or your home or wherever you're working from right now."

# Chamber holds annual golf event at Palencia Club

The tradition was kept alive with some minor tweaking at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's annual golf outing on Sept. 29 at Palencia.

Presenting sponsor CenterState Bank welcomed a limited number for an afternoon of golf at one of St. Augustine's most prestigious courses — The Palencia Club.

Combining the best of business and pleasure, the 2020 annual Golf Classic hosted business and community leaders

and provided the perfect blend of traditional play with a modern twist at nearly every hole.

"While the 2020 event was missing a few traditional elements like an awards ceremony, we added a few surprises and everyone enjoyed the day," said Isabelle Renault, president and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. "We hope to return to a traditional golf tournament in June 2021, but I heard that a good time was had by all participants this year!"



Photo by Susan Griffin

Food and refreshments are served to guests during the Chamber's Before Hours event at TPC Sawgrass on Sept. 9.

## Before Hours

Continued from 20

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.

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# Business Weekly

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Contributed photo

Dome Headwear is a full-service, custom headwear supplier.

## Dome Headwear marks 10 years, named to Inc. list

By Shaun Ryan

August was a big month for Jacksonville Beach-based Dome Headwear. It marked the 10th anniversary for the full-service, custom headwear supplier. It also marked the announcement by Inc. Magazine that Dome had been named to its annual Inc. 5000 list.

“To be included on such a prestigious list is, in any

year, very gratifying,” said company co-founder Jeff Whitaker. “But with 2020 being our 10-year anniversary, and after all the adversity that our company, our industry and our country has experienced this year, we’re especially humbled and proud of the recognition.”

The list recognizes the most successful indepen-

DOME continues on Page 26

## Deficit attention disorder: When will it matter?



Harry Pappas  
Columnist

There is a big pink elephant in the room and only a few want to talk about it. Some economists have been warning about the ever-increasing national debt and annual budget deficit for decades. Nevertheless, the apocalypse they fear never seems to materialize, so, the government just keeps on spending. Is this fiscally reckless and irresponsible or are the fiscal hawks simply over-reacting?

Before we delve into the gist of this narrative, let’s take a brief stroll down memory lane. On Sept. 15, 1985, just a few months after I became a registered financial advisor, a headline and opening sentence from the New York Times read as follows:

### A \$2 TRILLION NATIONAL DEBT: NOT JUST ANOTHER MILESTONE

“A national debt of \$2 trillion, which the United States is nearing, is one of those milestones like the population’s reaching 200 million, or the nation turning 200 years old. Two trillion dollars. A two plus 12 zeros. To count the pennies, one a second for 24 hours a day, would take 63,419 years. It is 12 times all the cash in the land and equal to all the wages Americans will be paid this year.” A few weeks later on Oct. 27, 1985, a Los Angeles Times headline and opening paragraph read as follows:

### FEDERAL DEFICIT HITS A RECORD \$211.9 BILLION

“The federal government reported Friday that it spent \$211.9 billion more than it received in revenues during the last fiscal year, resulting in the largest annual budget deficit in U.S. history”.

PAPPAS continues on Page 26

## Margaritaville nearing completion, prebooking now



Contributed rendering

The new Margaritaville Beach Hotel will include a retail shop featuring themed merchandise.

By Shaun Ryan

Construction is nearly complete on the Margaritaville Beach Hotel in Jacksonville Beach, and future visitors may pre-book their stays now, though the resort’s opening date is still six months away.

The eight-story, Jimmy Buffett-inspired hotel will be located on the ocean at 715 1st St. North. It will feature 202 guest rooms with the brand’s “casual-luxe design,” signature food and beverage concepts, a fitness center, meeting space and an outdoor recreation area with a beachside pool and fire pits.

The hotel’s U-shape was designed to

maximize the number of ocean-view rooms. There will be an internal parking garage and expanded city bike lanes.

According to the company, the design team worked with the state’s Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission to create well-lit beachfront pedestrian areas that will also help conserve sea turtle populations. Lighting is always a concern along the coast, as hatchlings tend to follow landside lights rather than crawl toward the ocean.

The resort’s website touts the coastal location, specifically mentioning the nearby

MARGARITAVILLE continues on Page 25



# Vacation like royalty at the King and Prince resort



**Leigh Cort**  
Table Talk / Unbound  
Travels  
leigh@leighcortpublicity.com

Capture a blazing sunrise from your balcony, a dusky purple sunset, a playful dolphin peeking out of the ocean for an instant. Where can a traveler find a place of solitude for a few days that might become an unforgettable getaway? Perhaps it's time to stop dreaming about life and live the dream! At The King and Prince Beach and Golf Resort, you're surrounded by natural habitats that allow for relaxation and introspection to discover yourself without reserve.

St. Simons Island is an idyllic destination when you yearn for the sound of waves, seagulls and quiet. Luckily, I knew where to find it (so did the Timucuan and Guale Indians in approximately 2000 B.C.). The island enjoyed one of the richest sagas of European occupation and unfolding dramas of English, Spanish and African history. Wars, forts, the timber era and plantations overlap generations — while the rich delta soil of the island was ideal for agriculture, primarily cotton.

Prominently situated on the pulsating shores of the Atlantic Ocean, the King and Prince Hotel (circa 1935) has been luring guests to St. Simons Island for nearly a century. It's almost synonymous with the magic and mystery of the island itself. The island's hidden pathways, hundreds of years of moss-draped live oak trees, secretive cemeteries, ruins of antebellum mansions and familiar Southern family names offer a glimpse into the soul of the island from the beginning of the hotel. Combining history, contemporary amenities and ambience, the King and Prince has prospered over the decades and continues to embrace its heritage.

## KING AND PRINCE OCEANFRONT LAWN FOR WEDDINGS AND PARTIES

A vacation at The King and Prince begins as you drive across the causeway over the Intracoastal Waterway, colorful marshlands waving in the breeze and transporting you to another time in life ... although the island isn't just a page in a history book; it's a sanctuary for international visitors that could be royalty or everyday folks. There's an island sentiment that everyone is a friend with a twinkle in their eye. They, too, feel like they discovered paradise — and they have.

## OCEANFRONT ROOM AT THE KING AND PRINCE

Nestled in a residential neighborhood, the hotel's architecture is distinctively Mediterranean — yellow stucco with terra cotta tile roof. Green awnings, oceanfront swings for two and manicured gardens slowed me down to a gentler pace. The first activity was to slide my balcony door open and inhale the ocean breeze and expansive beach fragrance. Everything played in slow motion. Bicycling on the island is a marvelous way to explore, especially with more than 40 miles of contiguous paths that are safely hidden from the road through forests and along waterways. Only a block from the hotel is Ocean Motion, where you can choose the bike style and size including a helmet, lock and basket. Immediately I felt confident that I could meander and explore the "Village" — a Mecca of shops, restaurants, historic lighthouse, fishing pier, galleries and a retro slice-of-life reminiscent of an island of yesteryear.

From the ice cream and sweet shops to boutique island clothing, furnishings and keepsake shops, you feel the bright cheeriness of people everywhere — making me yearn for a cone of some cleverly concocted ice cream flavor before getting back on my beach buggy. During low tide, there is hard-packed sand everywhere on the East Beach side of the Island. During my unhurried bike



Photos provided  
by Leigh Cort



**Oceanfront Room at The King and Prince**

ride back to the hotel, I circled around the magnificent St. Simons Island Lighthouse (original was built in 1810) a 75-foot tall early federal octagonal lighthouse topped by a 10-foot oil-burning lamp. By 1872, the U.S. government constructed a new lighthouse to replace the original building — a 104-foot brick structure, where visitors climb the cast-iron spiral stairway with 129 steps. It's something not to miss during any visit. If you're a ghost hunter, you might enjoy the accounts of hauntings by the ghost of lightkeeper Frederick Osborne!

Since history is everywhere on the island and nobody tells the story better than native son Cap Fendig, whose family's presence goes back to the mid 1800s, hop aboard one of his scheduled Lighthouse Trolleys tours and enjoy his passionate colorful stories. Visit a superb collection of landmarks, making stops at Christ Church, Fort Frederica, Bloody Marsh and surprising "must see" treasures. Cap and his drivers impart local vignettes about where to dine, shop, drink in history and have fun. For a glimpse of the coastal waters surrounding St. Simons Island, he also conveys true island magic while leading boating and fishing excursion; he's been opening the door for guests for more than 40 years as you cruise through marshlands, creeks, rivers and small winding waterways to view bird habitats, dolphin sightings, alligator haunts and fish jumping everywhere!

## KING AND PRINCE OCEANFRONT POOLS

Isn't it time to return to The King and Prince and relax like royalty? As the day faded into late afternoon, I found myself yearning to relax at the hotel, a paradise swathed in sea foam. The décor of my oceanfront room is traditionally contemporary, all welcomed amenities from WiFi to a mini fridge, clean crisp linens, oversized bath and a large private balcony. The sparkling pools couldn't be a more enticing. Find a quiet corner chaise lounge and take in one of the most expansive views of the St. Simons Sound. Off in the distance shrimp boats are the only specks to dot the horizon, and occasional beachcombers remind me of the



**Hampton Club at the King and Prince Golf Club**

uncrowded tranquility that I had hoped my getaway would offer.

I can't imagine dining anywhere on the island except at ECHO, The King and Prince's oceanfront restaurant that offers mouth-watering menus each meal of the day, distinctive Southern-inspired dishes prepared with love by their culinary team. From the front desk staff to ECHO servers and bartenders, you can enjoy the feeling of relaxed Southern hospitality whether dining inside with a window view of the Atlantic Ocean or sitting outside on the breezy al fresco verandah. Although St. Simons Island is well-known for the 50+ fabulous restaurants with a short stroll or short drive, ECHO fulfills your dining imagination without leaving the beach!

Waking early at The King and Prince to catch the blazing sunrise adds a special brushstroke to any vacation. The sound and smell of fresh sea air could lure you to an early morning walk along the beach, a happy time when islanders and visitors are invited to take their dogs out for a romp in the surf. Hotel gardeners tending flowers, guests sipping coffee on lawn swings and easy morning exercise rituals can be spotted.

It's a beautiful time to read a book and enjoy breakfast. Executive Chef James Flack believes in purveying the highest quality of local and regional ingredients that make every dish delicious. ECHO is equal to many award-winning fine-dining restaurants and dietary requests are always acknowledged and satisfied. The chef continues to "wow" and surprise guests with the hotel's signature specialties year after year. Breakfast for me? Along with coffee and the famous King and Prince muffins, I have three favorites: seafood omelete with fresh blue crab, wild Georgia shrimp, gouda cheese and house potatoes; praline French toast (grilled brioche topped with local pecan syrup, whipped cream and bacon); and warm peach Parfait with warmed peaches, yogurt and house-made granola. Yum!





Contributed renderings

**Joe Merchant's Coffee and Provisions will offer Margaritaville Beach Hotel guests a place to get that cup of joe.**



**Guests will be able to keep in shape during their stays with a fitness room at the resort.**

## Margaritaville

Continued from 23

beaches, fishing pier and water sports and more than 70 golf courses within driving distance.

MSB Hotels IV of Ormond Beach purchased the property in October 2017 for \$11 million, and workers broke ground at the 1.14-acre site on March 8, 2019. The hotel is being developed by Elite Hospitality of Ormond Beach.

The resort will include a two-story LandShark Bar & Grill, which is inspired by the traditional beach bars of the Atlantic Coast, and a "LandShark Lookout" observation deck. This open-air patio will offer views overlooking the white sand beach. Joe Merchant's Coffee and Provisions will offer signature gourmet coffee to get the day started.

Each room will include a mini-fridge, coffee maker, 49-inch LCD Smart TV and premium Margaritaville signature bedding. Walk-in showers and plush bathrobes add to the ambiance of luxury.

The website allows visitors to prebook their future stays. The resort will open to the public in April 2021. Go to [www.margaritavilleresorts.com/margaritaville-hotel-jacksonville-beach](http://www.margaritavilleresorts.com/margaritaville-hotel-jacksonville-beach) to learn more.

# Lessons from experienced investors



**Karsten Jacobson**  
Columnist

Those who have lived a long time have done a lot, seen a lot — and can teach us a lot. And that's certainly true when it comes to investing.

Consider some of the lessons you might learn from experienced investors:

■ **Regulate your emotions.** In the investment world, there's always something coming at us that could sound scary: political flashpoints, economic news, and even those once-in-a-generation occurrences, such as the CO-

VID-19 pandemic. But older people may take these events in stride; in fact, baby boomers and members of the Silent Generation (born between 1925 and 1945) are coping better emotionally with the impacts of COVID-19 than younger age cohorts, according to the 2020 Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. And by keeping control of your emotions, you may be less likely to make moves such as selling quality investments with good fundamentals just because their prices have fallen in the midst of an overall market decline.

■ **Learn from experience.** By definition, the older we get, the more experiences we will have. And most people do indeed learn from experience. Investors, too, benefit from having seen and done things before. Did you chase a "hot" stock only to have found it cooled off before you bought it? Did you buy too many of the same type of investments, only to see your portfolio take a bigger hit during a downturn than it would have if you had diversified? In the investment arena, as in most walks of life, patterns emerge, and once you learn to recognize them, you can learn from past mistakes.

■ **Know yourself.** When we reach a certain age, most of

us know ourselves pretty well. But you don't have to wait decades to gain this knowledge — at least not when it comes to investing. For example, you should quickly gain a good sense of your ability to withstand risk. How? Just consider how you react when the market declines sharply. If you find yourself losing sleep over your losses — even if they're just on paper — you might be taking on too much risk for your own comfort level. Conversely, if market downturns don't bother you as much as lack of growth in your portfolio, you might be investing too conservatively for your own risk tolerance.

■ **Take a longer-term perspective.** When we're young, we sometimes are more inclined to desire instant gratification — we want results now. Translated into the investment world, this could mean we want to see big returns in a short period. However, despite the popular mythology, it's quite hard to turn enormous profits on investments overnight — or even over weeks or months. But as the years pass, we learn the value of thinking long-term — how investments we made years ago, and have added to steadily, are now yielding results that can help build the resources we need to reach our objectives.

■ **Don't go it alone.** Some of us, when we're young, have a tendency to think we have all the answers and don't need much help in our endeavors. But age gives us the wisdom to recognize that, although we may have acquired much knowledge over the years, we can still use some help in specialized areas, such as creating a long-term investment strategy.

These suggestions are appropriate for anyone — and they can help you on your journey toward your goals.

*FP*®, 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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## Dome

Continued from 23

dent, small companies in the United States. The annual event honoring companies on the list will be held virtually Oct. 23-27.

The secret of Dome's success may lie not just in its ability to fill orders with a low minimum, high customization and quick turnaround, but also with its commitment to forming relationships with its customers and the belief that every hat has a story.

"We try to dive into what makes (each customer) unique, and what we can do to tell that story and to give them a much better product than they would get just from going to some promotional products company that's going to throw their logo on top of a regular product," explained Whitaker.

He recalled a local brewery that came to Dome for hats sporting the business logo. Whitaker suggested some design additions based on his knowledge of the company and tested his idea by giving the brewery two dozen of them.

"They were gone within minutes," he recalled.

A company's hat will be worn by dozens, hundreds or even thousands of people.

"That hat, just like an advertisement or a picture on your Instagram, is going to have thousands — maybe even millions — of impressions of people seeing it," Whitaker said. "How do you want to represent your brand?"

After graduating from the University of Florida, Whitaker moved to Colorado where he got a job selling custom hats.

"I had a few years of experience doing that and realized I loved it and wanted to start my own company," he said. "But I couldn't do it alone."

He called a friend from college, Chris Hetland. The men had both played on the Florida Gators National Championship team in 2006.

They sat down at a local Irish bar, had a few beers and discussed Whitaker's idea. Chris was sold. He quit his job selling commercial real estate in Georgia, and the men founded their company with \$500 in cash. For the first six months, they worked out of Whitaker's living room.

Two big breaks proved key to the company's success. Football helmet manufacturer Riddell and entertainment merchandise company Richards & Southern each placed large orders, helping Dome to establish its brand.

Staff has also been an important part of that success. Whitaker singled out longtime staff members Phuoc Huynh, who heads up graphic design, and Katrin Casey, who handles marketing and branding.

"If it wasn't for Kat and Phuoc coming along, we never would have made it," said Whitaker.

## Cort

Continued from 24

### KING AND PRINCE MUFFINS

For golfers, there is another dimension of The King and Prince. It's the magnificent Hampton Club for a day of golf. It continues to receive national awards like the recent 2019 Golf Advisor, ranking in the Top 50 U.S. Courses as the BEST ... an extremely beautiful course, particularly on the back-nine marsh holes. ... For 30 years, it has stood the test of time with its layout amongst ancient forests, vast salt marshes and dramatic island holes that once belonged to an 18th-century antebellum plantation... where cotton, rice and indigo dominated. Located at the crossroads of the Hampton and Frederica rivers, four of the holes are gently carved from the marsh islands that bring their golfers a rarely forgotten experience! Guests can arrange hotel transportation to the course located at the northern tip of St. Simons Island daily.

A candlelit dinner is the perfect ending to any getaway, a flight from reality that will always be a precious memory. It's an unpretentious bill of fare — somehow making familiar + unexpected = delicious partners. Each day brings a creative reinvention of the obvious. This season watch for herb-crusted salmon Carbonara on house-made spaghetti; boursin and fig-stuffed



King and Prince Muffins



Moonshine Cocktail at the Beach

Paloma (tequila, sparkling grapefruit soda, jalapeno and cilantro simple syrup, fresh lime juice) — or — High Tide (Rumhaven coconut rum, New Amsterdam vodka, Southern Comfort, Amaretto and fresh fruit juices). Anybody in the mood for a Moonshine Cocktail?

As sunset slips into darkness over the ocean, I know I have found a place of enchantment that will call me back to being part of St. Simons Island's history, where beauty surrounds and the haunting allure of The King and Prince will embrace travelers for years to come.

Georgia poet Sidney Lanier said it best over 100 years ago: "Oh, what is abroad in the marsh and the terminal sea/Somehow my soul seems suddenly free..."

For more information, go to [www.KingandPrince.com](http://www.KingandPrince.com)

## Pappas

Continued from 23

So here we are 35 years later and the story is the same; increasing budget deficits and national debt. According to Thebalance.com, The U.S. federal budget deficit is projected to reach a record of \$3.3 trillion in 2020 compared to \$211.9 billion 35 years ago. This increase is largely a result of government spending in reaction to the coronavirus pandemic. U.S. federal outlays for 2020 total \$6.6 trillion, which is \$2.2 trillion more than in 2019. Revenue for 2020 is projected to be \$3.3 trillion, too, which leaves the deficit at \$3.3 trillion. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects that this deficit for 2020 will be 16% of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), which is the largest it's been since 1945.

To make an arguably concerning situation worse, the national debt of the United States is at an astonishing record of more than \$27 trillion, which is serious cheddah! Thanks to the incredibly informative website, The Peter G. Peterson Foundation, that mind-boggling number means that if every person in the United States paid \$81,104, we could pay off our national debt! Yikes! Forgive me for my incredulity (you like that fancy word?), but is it just me or is there a massive disconnect here? As a side note, and at the risk of hurting your intelligence, a budget deficit occurs when the country's expenditures exceed its income within a specified fiscal year. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell says the day of reckoning is still coming but isn't here yet. The insistent catchphrase of "new all-time record debt and deficit" has been played so often since I became

an advisor close to four decades ago, that it sounds like a broken record. For readers born after the age of vinyl, the term refers to when the needle is stuck in a groove, repeating a phrase repeatedly until you either move the arm or throw the record at a wall in disgust! Nevertheless, how high must the national debt and deficit get before it will matter?

Many argue that major economies as the United States do not need to worry about running a deficit or increasing its debt because our central banks can just print money. I do not know about you, but this just does not seem right. This printing of new money approach reminds me of the following Mark Twain quote, "It's not what we don't know that gets us in trouble. It's what we know for sure that just ain't so." Perhaps we are indifferent to our debt because it doesn't affect us today. In other words, let's just kick the can down the road for now. Stated maybe more clearly, we are like the man falling from a 60-story building, who at the 40th floor thinks "so far, so good." I have argued for 35 years that our growing debt will inevitably lead to a financial train wreck. Goes to show you how much I know, as I have been dead wrong for 35 years! Regardless, that's my story and I am sticking with it! I echo the words of wisdom from the corn-fed capitalist, Warren Buffet, who said, "When you combine ignorance and borrowed money, the consequences can get interesting." I am afraid that when we start to notice the big pink elephant in the room, it might be too late. Perhaps a crisis has already begun, but we just don't know it yet.

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Alexis Magnano, a 16-year-old student at Ponte Vedra High School, has created an art program designed to engage with residents of local nursing homes and share her love of art with them.

# PVHS student shares love of art with senior citizens of Ponte Vedra

By Cassidy Lankford

When Alexis Magnano was 12 years old, she began to notice an unfulfilled need in the Ponte Vedra community. She felt that senior citizens are often overlooked, and she felt within her heart a need to tackle this issue and create a change within the community.

Accompanied by her older brother Chase, Magnano began creating art lessons and projects to share with residents of local nursing homes and retirement communities. Now at age 16, Magnano has expanded her project and has begun including her fellow Ponte Vedra High School students to further serve the elderly community of Ponte Vedra through art.

“Before the pandemic, we would go into nursing homes as often as we could and teach the residents art history lessons,” Magnano stated. “We would create art projects based on the lessons to do with the residents,” she said, explaining that despite the pandemic, she is still carrying out these activities but has begun conducting the lessons over Zoom for the safety of the residents.

Although Magnano and her brother started this project alone, Magnano has been working to expand her network to further her services to the elderly community. Over the summer, accompanied by a few of her friends, Magnano created a community service-based art camp in which she and her fellow campers painted pictures to gift to the residents. Now that school is back in session, Magnano has decided to start a club at PVHS called Smart Art so that she will be able to continue her art program on a larger scale.

“Alexis has been working hard to start the Smart Art club and is now recruiting other students to join her,” said Elizabeth Paul, Magnano’s mother. “They have also reached out to another nursing home in Jacksonville to share the art program with the residents,” Paul went on, explain-



Photos provided by Elizabeth Paul

Magnano, along with her brother, friends and fellow PVHS students, work together to create art classes and projects for residents of local nursing homes.

ing that this is a way to keep residents engaged even when they are locked inside during the pandemic.

“I’ve found that the elderly are a group that are often not focused on by teens,” Magnano said, explaining her love for helping the elderly through art. “A lot of them have a passion for art, and this is a way for them to express that,” said Magnano, explaining that she applies her knowledge from her AP art history classes to share art projects with the nursing home residents.

Although the elderly community is often overlooked by everyone else, Magnano has made it her mission to change this and share her love of art with the Ponte Vedra community. Through her Smart Art club, she is starting a revolution and is confident that she will continue to see her services grow to create a much needed impact for the benefit of senior citizens.

**THEME: IN THE KITCHEN**

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**ACROSS**

- 1. Capital of Ghana
- 6. Paris in Tour de France
- 9. Wild ox of India
- 13. Admiral's group
- 14. "Mele Kalikimaka" wreath
- 15. Julian Barnes "The \_\_\_ of an Ending"
- 16. Telephone company
- 17. Acronym in a bottle
- 18. Birth-related
- 19. \*Set briefly on fire
- 21. \*Separate solids from fat in melted butter
- 23. \*Crusty dessert
- 24. Uncouth person
- 25. Westminster broadcaster, acr.
- 28. Coffee break spot
- 30. \*Scald quickly in boiling water
- 35. Like desert
- 37. Like Civil War reenactment battle
- 39. \*Like old chips
- 40. Delhi dress
- 41. Subculture language
- 43. \*Good or bad it emanates from stoves
- 44. "As the World \_\_\_"
- 46. Like Jekyll and Hyde's personality
- 47. This over matter?
- 48. Encryption device, a.k.a. \_\_\_ machine
- 50. Practice in the ring
- 52. Low-\_\_\_ image
- 53. Competitive advantage
- 55. NBA coach "\_\_\_" Rivers
- 57. \*Dissolve browned food bits with liquids
- 61. \*Thicken by simmering
- 64. Love, to Catherine Deneuve
- 65. Pigeon sound
- 67. Pianist's exercise
- 69. Resembling a fish
- 70. Hawaiian Mauna
- 71. Smart candy?
- 72. Tire swing holder
- 73. Bruin legend Bobby
- 74. \*Yummy reward
- 9. Wheel in grandfather clock
- 10. \_\_\_-perspirant
- 11. Defender of skies
- 12. Count on
- 15. Growls angrily
- 20. What lighthouse does
- 22. Williams sister's return
- 24. On account of
- 25. \*Turkey action
- 26. Hitler's Eva
- 27. Wispy clouds
- 29. \*Incorporate an ingredient
- 31. Niels Bohr's study object
- 32. Rock bottom
- 33. Star Wars attacker
- 34. Shepherds' flocks
- 36. Sound at door
- 38. \_\_\_ sack
- 42. Clearing in the woods
- 45. Viscous
- 49. Wood-shaping tool
- 51. Capybara, e.g.
- 54. GEICO's mascot
- 56. Like a button, but more so
- 57. Cuckoo
- 58. Dubai dignitary
- 59. Departed
- 60. Debussy's "Clair de \_\_\_"
- 61. Serengeti sound
- 62. \*Preserve by adding salt
- 63. Old Norse texts
- 66. "\_\_\_ the ram-parts..."
- 68. D.C. time

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# Sports

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Send your sports news to  
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## Nease's McCumber encouraged with 2nd-place finish at Corales Puntacana

By Don Coble

The difference between first and second place at last weekend's Corales Puntacana Championship was \$3.28 million, but that's all right with former Nease High golfer Tyler McCumber.

He birdied his final hole Sunday at the Corales Course for a closing round of 6-under-66 to be the leader in the clubhouse, but his chance for a first PGA Tour victory ended after Hudson Swafford recovered from a double-bogey at the 13th and a bogey at the 15th hole with a birdie at 17 to win on the Dominican Republic.

"It was a good week," McCumber said. "I was just really trying to stay in the moment there on the back nine. I knew if I chipped away, with the amount of wind that was blowing, especially with the finishing holes being into, any shot's sort of stolen down the stretch there if you make a birdie. Yeah, I felt like I stayed really patient and played pretty solid all day, especially the back nine."

Swafford, the only player to shoot in the 60s in all four rounds, finished at 18-under 270. McCumber (65-71-69-66) was one shot back.

McCumber was tied for the lead after the first round, but he faded during rounds two and three. His comeback on Sunday, however, resulted in a career-best finish, easily out-distancing a tie for 19th place at the 2018 Corales tournament.

"You know, the last time I played here two years ago I was in the last group



Photo provided by PGA TOUR/Andy Lyons with Getty Images  
**Tyler McCumber (right) congratulates Hudson Swafford after Swafford's win at the Corales Puntacana Resort and Club Championship last Sunday.**

here, it was actually my first PGA TOUR event and playing with Bryce Garnett when he won," he said. "I didn't really have a great Sunday, so I think I had a

little bit of motivation going into today to just really try to make as many birdies as I could and sort of stay aggressive. I learned a lot from that final round, being

in a good position and kind of not really capitalizing on it, but learning a lot. I feel like I applied that today, which was good.

"Definitely just take the momentum, move on to the next week, for sure. All the stuff I was working on I feel like I did pretty well this week, staying patient and staying focused. So a lot of positives out this week obviously. And hats off to him for a clutch finish, too, birdieing 17 and two-putting from where he [Swafford] did on 18, it's just really good."

Mackenzie Hughes (16-under), finished third, followed by Nate Lashley (15-under) in fourth and Adam Long (14-under) in fifth.

The 2020 PGA Tour season officially ended with the Tour Championship Sept. 4-7 at the East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta. With the exception of the U.S. Open the Masters, which were postponed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 season opened with the Safeway Open on from Sept. 10-13. With only two tournaments in the books, McCumber now is tied for fifth in the FedExCup standings. McCumber said he plans to play in the next tournament, the Sanderson Farms Championship this weekend at in Jackson, Mississippi.

"I think you can take confidence out of it. Keep using that word 'momentum,' I don't know why I like it so much, but yeah, any good finishes out here, try to roll with them and keep it going," McCumber said.

With a tournament-best 23 birdies, McCumber also won the weekly RSM Birdies Fore Love program to earn \$50,000 for his charity of choice.

## PVHS, Nease look to extend winning streaks at home this week

By Don Coble

After starting the season with two losses — and no touchdowns from the offense — Nease High football coach Collin Drafts changed the team's focus ahead of last week's game against Yulee.

"We had six keys to winning games at the beginning, but we decided to make it just one practice," the coach said after the

Panthers used a 19-point third quarter and withstood a fourth-quarter rally by the Hornets in a 39-34 victory. "Our motto is P.I.E. — practice is everything. Our success would be determined by how well we do on the practice field."

Ponte Vedra High used a different method to run past Menendez on the road — keeping quarterback Jacobi Myers and running back Campbell Park involved.

Myers threw for 160 yards and two TDs and he ran for an additional 58 yards and a score, while Campbell rambled for 220 yards and a touchdown in 37-10 victory.

Nease improved to 1-2, while the Sharks, who've outscored their first three opponents 103-17 by only giving up just one offensive touchdown, now are 3-0.

Drafts said in addition to working through the delays and uncertainty of the

COVID-19 pandemic, it's been difficult to turn around an attitude that too often crumbles at the first sign of trouble.

"We've got kids who've worked extremely hard," he said, "but we haven't been able to point to any success. It's hard on the defense when the offense doesn't score in two games. We really needed to



# Jaguars run into hot QB in 31-13 loss to Dolphins

Jacksonville falls to 1-2; faces winless Bengals next

**By Mike Bonts**  
Special to the Recorder

The Miami Dolphins came into TIAA Bank Field last week winless. A turnover festival against New England. A porous defense that gave up big plays against Buffalo.

So, who would have thought the Jaguars would have any problem with their state NFL neighbors? But Jacksonville fell to the Dolphins, 31-13 on Thursday Night Football.

The Jaguars are back in action on Sunday when they travel to Cincinnati to face another winless club, the Bengals (0-2-1).

The Bengals had chances to win it in Philadelphia, they could not hold on to a 23-16 lead with just over three minutes left in regulation and tied the Eagles 23-23. Their first tie in four years.

The Jaguars did make roster moves ahead of the second road trip of the season.

They signed kicker Steven Hauschka and the promoted defensive tackle Daniel Ekuale to the active roster from the team's practice squad. To make room on the roster, the club released defensive lineman Timmy Jernigan, waived/injured kicker Brandon Wright (groin) and placed linebacker Leon



Photo provided by Jacksonville Jaguars

**Jaguars QB Gardner Minshew looks for a receiver during last Sunday's game against Miami.**

Jacobs (knee) on the reserve/injured list.

The Jaguars also signed offensive lineman Jared Hilbers and kicker Aldrick Rosas to the team's practice squad.

On TNF Miami QB Ryan Fitzpatrick completed 18-of-20 passes against the Jags breaking the South Florida team's record for completion percentage in a game with a minimum of 20 attempts.

Fitzpatrick is the first NFL QB since at least 1950 to beat the same opponent as the starting signal caller with six different

teams. He has now beaten the Jaguars as starting quarterback for Cincinnati, Buffalo, Tennessee, Houston, N.Y. Jets and Miami.

Miami's 18-point win was the team's largest margin of victory since a 26-point win against Denver in 2017. Miami (1-2) held Jacksonville to just 72 rushing yards. It was Jacksonville's lowest total of the season and Miami's lowest total allowed since 2019 against Cincinnati.

"There are times we get the ball moving,

then something just kills the drive," said Jacksonville QB Gardner Minshew. "There are things we've done in these three weeks that have been really good. There are things we have done that are kind of killing us. So, we are going to take this break to look back, evaluate, and move forward."

Minshew completed 30-of-42 passes for 274 yards and no touchdowns with one interception.

Jacksonville (1-2) undrafted rookie running back James Robinson caught six passes for 83 yards and rushed 11 times for 46 yards and two TDs against Miami.

In the fourth quarter, defensive end Josh Allen sacked Fitzpatrick. Jaguars linebacker Myles Jack recorded a game-high 11 tackles, marking his third straight game with 11 tackles. Middle linebacker Joe Schobert posted eight tackles, including one tackle for loss against Miami. Jaguars safety Josh Jones finished second on the team with eight tackles.

## NOTES

Miami has now evened the all-time series with Jacksonville at five games apiece (including one Jacksonville playoff victory). ... Through three games, the Jaguars have scored TDs on eight of their nine red zone drives (88.9 pct. TD rate), which currently ranks second in the NFL, trailing only the Seahawks' 100.0 percent conversion rate (6 for 6).

## Schools

Continued from 28

find some success."

The Panthers' first offensive touchdown of the season midway in the second quarter changed all that.

"The biggest thing was to get that first offensive touchdown," Drafts said. "We threw a little screen pass to Dom Henry

and he went 35 yards with it. All of a sudden, the momentum swung our way."

Despite giving up 20 points in the fourth quarter, Nease hung on.

"You didn't see their heads drop like they normally do," Drafts said. "They kept fighting. That was a valuable experience."

Now it's up to the Panthers to build on their newfound success when they host Mandarin on Friday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. The

Mustangs were the 2018 Class 8A state champions, but they're off to a 1-2 start after losing back-to-back games against Bartram Trail and Lee.

Ponte Vedra also will be at home on Friday. Their homecoming game against Matanzas (1-1) is schedule for a 7 p.m. kickoff.

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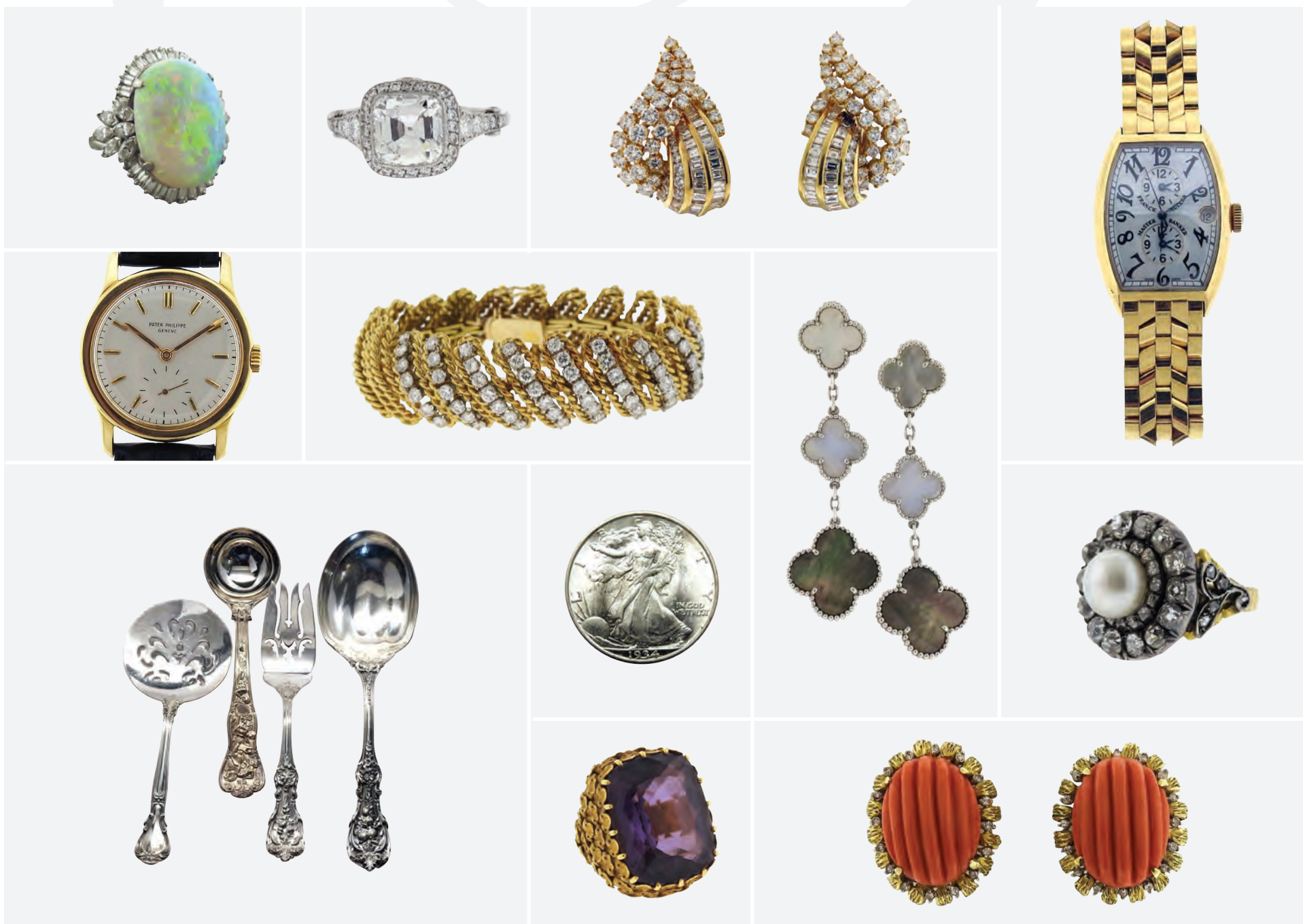
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