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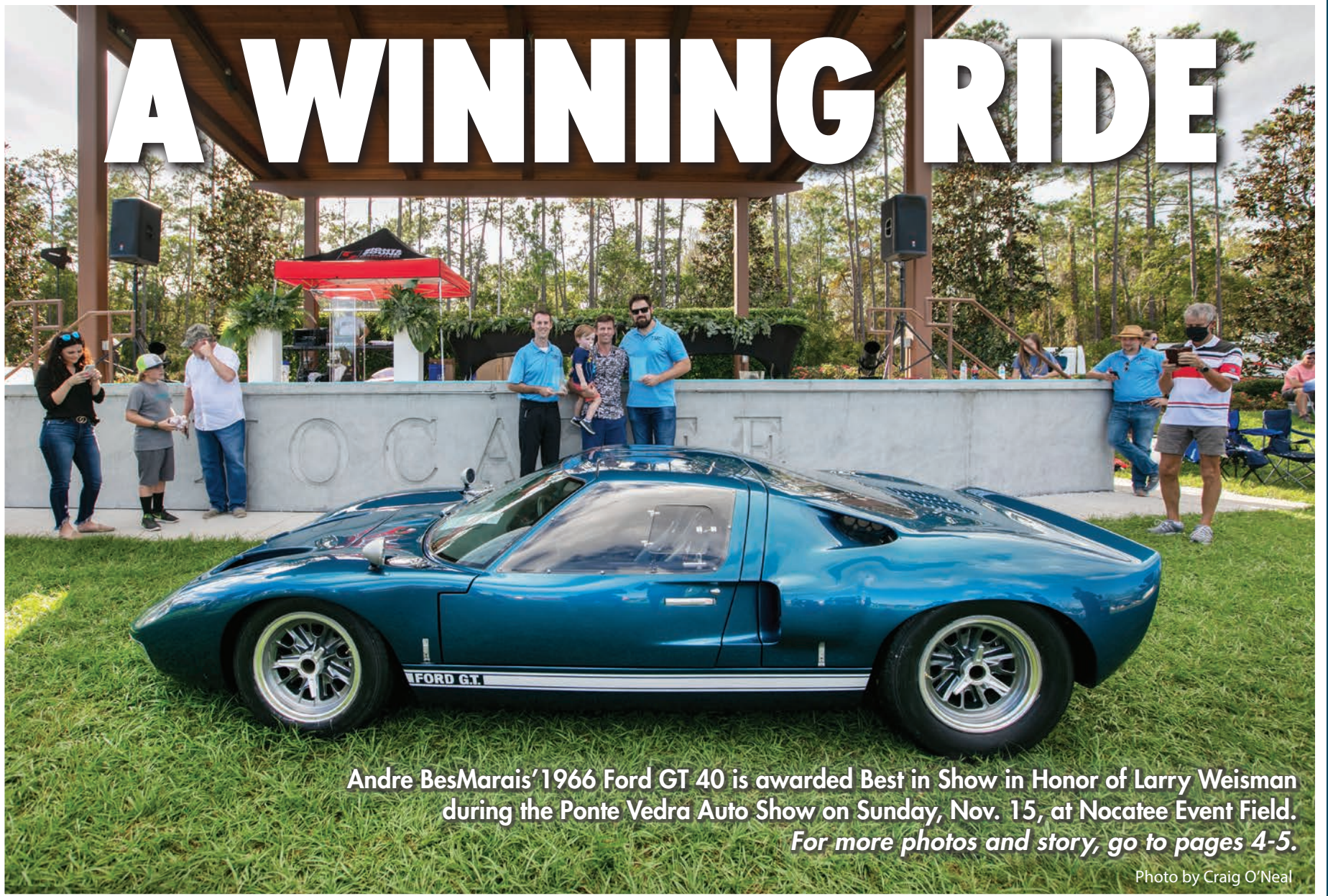
Recorder

November 19, 2020
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75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

A WINNING RIDE



Andre BesMarais' 1966 Ford GT 40 is awarded Best in Show in Honor of Larry Weisman during the Ponte Vedra Auto Show on Sunday, Nov. 15, at Nocatee Event Field. For more photos and story, go to pages 4-5.

Photo by Craig O'Neal



INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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



Leaving a Legacy

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Holiday Real Estate Showcase

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Send us your news

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

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

NOTES TO READERS

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

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

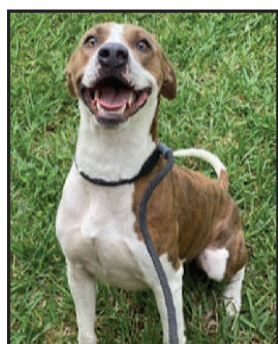
ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi, my name is Luna and I am a 7-month-old female domestic medium-haired beauty who loves to be loved on. I will just chill with you and watch TV as long as you pet me. One look at my gorgeous grey coat and beautiful eyes, you will want to take me home, so please come visit me at the Pet Center today. #56115



DOG OF THE WEEK



Nice to meet you! My name is Dexter and I am a 2-year-old terrier mix. I don't want to brag, but I am adorable and ready and waiting to find my new family. My secret is — I love to play fetch! Because I was brought in as a stray, the Pet Center doesn't know if I am good with other dogs or cats. If you have other dogs at home, bring them in to meet me. At the shelter, I get along with everyone. Come see me at the Pet Center today. #56154

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to its new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training, and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The Pet Center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road in St. Augustine, off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. **For more information, please call the St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

BRIEFS

Food for Fines program to benefit food pantry

The St. Johns County Public Library System recently announced it will once again offer patrons a way to lower or eliminate library fines, while providing much needed assistance to the Health and Human Services Food Pantry through the Food for Fines program. The

program will run through Dec. 21. A donation of one non-perishable, unexpired food item or pet supply item will remove \$1 of fines from a patron's library record. This fine-reduction program applies only to overdue fines and patrons may bring in as many items as needed to reduce overdue fines. Fees related to damaged or lost items are not included in the Food for Fines program.

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



We're here for wildlife.
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Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens
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Briefs

Continued from 2

Food donations and pet supplies/food may be dropped off at any St. Johns County Library branch or with one of the Bookmobiles. Last year, St. Johns County residents provided more than 9,000 non-perishable items through the Food for Fines program. All food collected will remain in St. Johns County for the benefit of local residents. For more information, go to www.sjcpls.org or call your local branch library.

NEFRC establishes Northeast Florida Economic Resilience Taskforce

The Northeast Florida Regional Council, a government agency that serves seven counties and 26 municipalities, recently established the Northeast Florida Economic Resilience Taskforce to assist the region in responding to economic

impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The taskforce, which convened for the first time in October, is scheduled to convene for its second meeting from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19.

The official charge of the taskforce states that, "In responding to the coronavirus pandemic and current economic disaster, the taskforce will comprehensively assess the conditions with which local communities in Northeast Florida are dealing. Once context is established, and baseline economic conditions are clearly understood, the Taskforce will recommend actionable strategies that will assist member governments and communities in meeting short-term economic recovery objectives relating to the coronavirus pandemic."

In ensuring that community perspectives are accounted for throughout the process, membership will be comprised of expert representation from across the seven-county region.

To learn more about the work of the taskforce, go to www.nefrc.org/taskforce

SJC PARKS & RECREATION HOSTS PHONE CALLS FROM SANTA

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation is hosting Phone Calls from Santa this holiday season for children 8 years old or younger. Santa will make his phone calls between 6 and 7:30 p.m. nightly from Dec. 8 through Dec. 10. Parents



must register children by Dec. 4 through the website at secure.recl.com/FL/stjohns-county-fl/catalog and selecting a date under the special events tab. For more information or registration assistance, call (904) 209-0379 or email abrown@sjcfl.us.

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COLLECTION



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Barbara Maple | 904.571.1764
BarbaraMaple@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



SAWGRASS PLAYERS CLUB \$449,000

Beautiful townhome in Turtleback Crossing. This well maintained two-story home features a newer roof, gas fireplace, oversized screened porch, hardwood floors, & tile in the kitchen, bathrooms, & foyer. Located in walking distance to The Yards Golf Club & Players Club Park. MLS 1081259

Chris Peace | 904.553.9744
ChrisPeace@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



SAWGRASS CC \$479,000

Beautifully renovated 2 bed, 2.5 bath condo. Features an updated kitchen, bathrooms, appliances, A/C, electrical panel, shiplap, & plantation shutters. This unit is located on the 2nd fairway of the East 9 at Sawgrass Country Club & offers Eastern exposure with spectacular golf course views. MLS 1082330

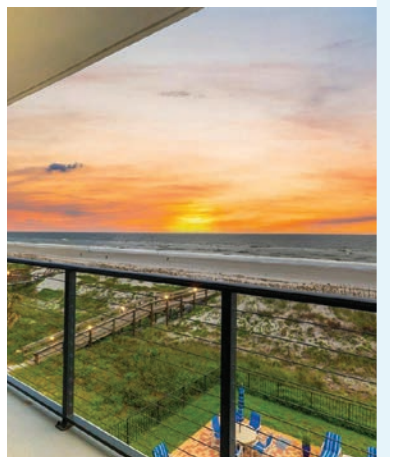
Rhonda Gummerman | 904.994.1721
RGummerman@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



RIVERWOOD BY DEL WEBB \$499,750

Pool home with private screened lanai & preserve view. This desirable Vernon Hill model offers an open floor plan, electric fireplace, formal dining area, & large kitchen with granite countertops, eat-in breakfast area, & double sliders to the lanai. The master bedroom includes a garden tub & walk-in shower. MLS 1066319

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SueHollis@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



PABLO SURFSIDE \$799,900

Beautiful 3-bedroom condo in the heart of South Jax Beach. Fresh off a significant building renovation, this top floor unit boasts sun drenched living areas & endless views to the north & east. Features an open floor plan, split bedrooms, oceanfront balcony, & deeded 2-car garage. MLS 1081032

Murray & Elise Beard | 904.465.5110
MurrayBeard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



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Photos by Craig O'Neal

Attendees at the Ponte Veda Auto Show check out the cars on display at the event Sunday, Nov. 15, at the Nocatee Event Field.



The 1966 Ford GT 40 owned by Andre BesMarais won Best in Show in Honor of Larry Weisman.

Ponte Vedra Auto Show attracts 200 cars and thousands of fans

By Don Coble

Jake Weisman almost seemed overwhelmed by the number of cars — and spectators — at the Ponte Vedra Car Show last Sunday.

He was part of a judging crew that had nearly 200 cars to examine. With more than 25 different categories to judge, the task was daunting.

“I’m not surprised, I’m enthused,” Weisman said. “No matter what’s going on. Car enthusiasts always love their cars.”

Thousands of fans attended the show near Spray Park at the Nocatee Event Field. While live music, vendor booths and food were popular, the real stars were the cars.

Weisman’s father, Larry, started the car show 18 years ago. The elder Weisman died in 2019 and the show’s biggest prize, Best in Show, is named in his honor.

Andre BesMarais’ 1966 Ford GT 40 won the award — and \$500. The car also was selected for the Spirit in Racing award.

Other winners included: Mark Becker’s 1942 Chrysler Royal Business Coupe for Best Pre-War Vintage; Gary Corvino’s 1982 Mazda RX-7



Photos by Craig O’Neal

for Asia Excellence Award; Dale Hickman’s 1976 Ford Bronco for Hagerty “People’s Choice Award,” William Cooper’s 1970 Iso Rivolta LeLe for Best Exotic; Dale Hickman’s 1976 Ford Bronco for Best Off Road; Lamar Fontaine’s 1971 Datsun 28-Z for Z Car 50th Anniversary Award; Kurt Hall’s 1998 Toyota Pickup for Best Custom Paint Job; and, Matthew Bonin’s 1965 VW Bus for Best Custom Interior.

The show is run by Art ‘n Motion, a St. Augustine business that displays and sells rare cars.



Trophies await being awarded at the Ponte Vedra Auto Show on Sunday, Nov. 15.



Young auto enthusiasts enjoy the annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show in Nocatee.

From the publishers of the award-winning Ponte Vedra Recorder and First Coast Register

Living HERE

ON THE FIRST COAST

A resource for visitors and newcomers and long-time residents alike, LIVING HERE is a guide to the best neighborhoods of Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville’s Beaches, St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Orange Park, Green Cove Springs, Fleming Island, Amelia Island and Fernandina Beach

Don’t miss your chance to get connected to everyone LIVING HERE on the First Coast!

Issue Date
December 17, 2020

Advertising Deadline
December 4, 2020

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Shannon Nazworth is a Vilano Beach resident and president and CEO of Ability Housing, a nonprofit that helps provide quality, affordable housing to working families and vulnerable populations in the community. She was recently named Multifamily Executive magazine's 2020 Executive of the Year.

As told to Holly Tishfield

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I am a wife and mother who has lived in Vilano Beach for over 20 years. I am president and CEO of Ability Housing, a nonprofit developer based in Jacksonville. Ability Housing is an industry leader providing housing attainable to working families unable to afford market housing. We strive to end homelessness by targeting apartments to individuals and families that have experienced homelessness and providing best-in-class support services to all residents. This year, I was the 2020 EVE Award winner and designated the 2020 Multifamily Executive of the Year.

What do you enjoy the most about what you do?

I have two great joys with my work. First, I get to work with remarkable people. What we do is rewarding but very hard, working alongside such great people makes my work so much more enjoyable. The second joy in my work is knowing we are creating opportunities for families living in crisis. Not having a stable place to live has extremely negative impacts on all members of a family; and, therefore, our community. Seeing a family move into a home — there is little in the world that is more joyful than that.

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

The greatest challenge to my industry is limited resources. Ability Housing creates the housing the market can't or won't — because the rents the households can afford are lower than what the market can provide, or won't because greater profits can be made with other types of development. Because we are dealing with a market failure — the fact that housing costs have far exceeded increases in income for decades — the usual market forces of supply and demand do not work. The demand for an affordable place to live is far exceeding the resources available to create that housing. Another challenge is opposition from communities to having housing in their neighborhood. There is a stigma about who lives in affordable housing. But, in reality, it is people we interact with every day — teacher aids, nursing assistants, home health providers, day care providers. If it is OK for these people to take care of our children and parents, it should be OK for them to be a neighbor.

Can you tell us a little bit about why the Ability Housing organization means so much to you?

Ability Housing means so much to me because I know the impact we are having on each of our residents as well as our community. We are dedicated to investing in solutions to the challenges plaguing our community. It is when we invest in addressing root causes and systemic solutions that we make real change. Our housing provides improved health and education outcomes, stable employment, economic stability and mobility. All of these things are positive forces for our residents and the community.

What is the most rewarding part about working with the Ability Housing organization?

As you can likely tell from my previous responses, working for Ability Housing is immensely rewarding. Knowing we are meeting one of humanities' most basic needs — housing — and knowing how important a stable place to live is to achieving any person's potential, it is tremendously rewarding to create these opportunities. They will have impacts for decades to come.



Photo provided by Shannon Nazworth

Where do you see yourself/the organization in the future?

I see Ability Housing continuing to strive to help as many people as possible. We have already expanded to serve Central Florida. I expect we will expand to serve other regions as well. I also see us expanding the housing options we provide. Currently, we rely upon government financing to build the housing. If we are able to secure some "social investment," we can create more housing while providing investors a return on their investment. The financial return would be below market, but the social return — the investment in the community and its future — would be exponential.

Can you tell us a little bit about the "Executive of the Year" award you recently won?

This year I was honored to be designated the Multifamily Executive of the Year. But, it is really not my award. I get the privilege to be named the awardee; but it is truly an award for the entire Ability Housing team. They are being recognized for the great work Ability Housing has done; creating long-term assets that provide positive financial and social returns to every community in which we build. As a nonprofit, it is especially satisfying to be recognized in this manner. Ability Housing is truly an industry leader and it is nice to know it has been noticed. My staff deserve that recognition for their many, many years of very hard work.



Scouts working on the project included Joshua Slaton (from left), Andrew Hamm, GianCarlo Rappa, Matthew Hamm, Matthew Hurford, Happy Bell and Matthew Sides.

Eagle Scout project results in StoryWalk for Bird Island Park visitors

By Shaun Ryan

There's something new at Bird Island Park. Visitors strolling along its picturesque boardwalk will notice that 30 colorful — and informative — plates have been attached to the railings. Each aluminum plate depicts an individual page from one of two children's books published by National Geographic.

The exhibit is the result of an Eagle Scout project by GianCarlo Rappa, a Life Scout with Troop 277 in Ponte Vedra Beach.

With the help of fellow Scouts, family and friends, GianCarlo mounted the laminated pages at children's eye level and evenly spaced them along the railing. Their arrangement allows visitors to read the books aloud as they walk, with no need to turn pages.

The StoryWalk was completed on Nov. 8.

A fun and educational activity, the first StoryWalk was the idea of Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont. It combines the pleasure of reading with that of walking outdoors. Parents, teachers and other adults can take young children to the park, and they can enjoy reading the books together.

The books GianCarlo selected are: "Bugs!" by Shira Evans and "Seed to Plant" by Kristin Baird Rattini. They are colorful, informative and lots of fun.

Statistics show that only about 4% of all boys who join the Scouts achieve the status of Eagle Scout. GianCarlo started at age 6 as a Tiger Scout — a Cub Scout in the first grade. He obtained his Arrow of Light, the highest achievement for a Cub Scout, before moving into the Boy Scouts. He has earned more than 45 merit badges and this year, at age 16, completed his Eagle Scout project.



Photos provided by Hugh Rappa.

A special plate identifies the project.



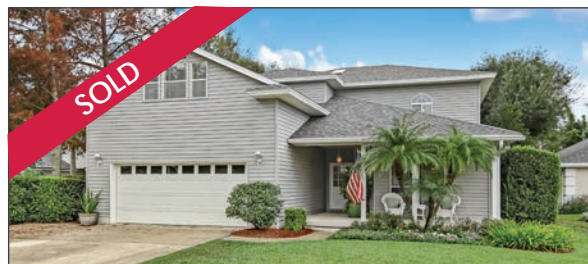
Photos by Shaun Ryan

A plate showing the cover of "Bugs!" by Shira Evans is seen at Bird Island Park.



Intracoastal Condo + Boat Slip

Located in the private gated community of Marina San Pablo, this 6th story luxury condo offers a convenient location, resort style amenities, and phenomenal views of the marina and Intracoastal Waterway along with a 20x50 boat slip. **3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths \$730,000**



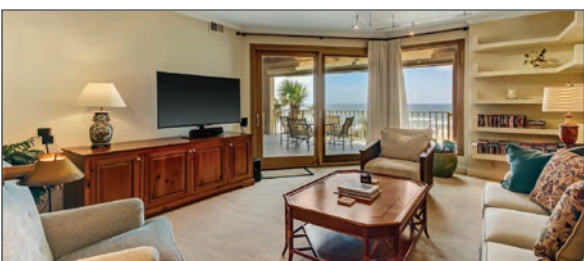
Ideally Located in Seaview Park

Live east of A1A in this updated move-in-ready home ideally located in old Ponte Vedra. Showcasing renovated interiors with wood floors, shiplap details, customs built-ins, and coastal accents. **3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms \$800,000**



Atlantic Beach Retreat

This 3-story townhome, 334 2nd Street, is only two blocks away from the ocean as well as the Beaches Town Center. Enjoy the home's rooftop deck or the easily maintained backyard oasis complete with a 6-ft privacy fence, covered patio, and relaxing hot tub. **3 bedrooms, 2F/2H bathrooms \$810,000**



Oceanfront Beach Escape

Located between The Lodge and the Cabana Beach Club, this second-story condo gives elevated views of the beach while maintaining the unit's privacy and security. Includes a large covered balcony and ground floor storage. **3 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms \$1,585,000**



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WWP conducts virtual Veterans Day event

By Shaun Ryan

Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit that supports and empowers injured veterans, held a virtual Veterans Day program titled “Honoring Our Veterans” on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

With so many public gatherings curtailed or canceled in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the broadcast was a way to encourage Americans to celebrate the contributions of U.S. veterans while at home.

Hosted by Jesse Palmer, a former NFL quarterback and current football analyst for ESPN, the program included musical performances by country music star Sara Evans and the a cappella group Straight No Chaser.

It also included compelling veteran tributes. At one point in the program, Ponte Vedra resident and retired U.S. Army staff sergeant Dan Nevins connected with four members of his former unit who helped save his life after he was injured during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On the day before Veterans Day 2004, Nevins was driving a Humvee in Iraq when an IED detonated under the vehicle. His injuries ultimately forced the amputation of both his legs. He went on to work with the Wounded Warrior Project and



Photos provided by Wounded Warrior Project

Wounded Warrior Project had a float in this year's Veterans Day parade in Jacksonville.

became a yoga instructor.

Wednesday, he shared the screen with Dan Smee, Mark Hicks, Carter Skillman and Buck Garrett, all of whom were there on that fateful day — men Nevins now calls his brothers.

“For me, Veterans Day is perfectly celebrated exactly like this,” Nevins said. “Getting to connect with my brothers. I wouldn't trade a single second, a single

miserable second of a single miserable day of all that time that we spent together.”

Also featured was Jacksonville resident and Korean War veteran Ted Walton, who spoke about the needs of veterans and how happy he was that Jacksonville was getting more VA care with a new facility.

Wounded Warrior Project public relations specialist Rob Louis said the virtual

celebration went well.

“It was an opportunity to highlight different generations of veterans while also giving us a chance to celebrate the veteran population and do it in a manner that anyone could take part,” he said.

In addition to the virtual celebration, the organization was represented in the Jacksonville parade. Wounded Warrior Project had a float, and a group of veterans rode bicycles, representing the nonprofit's Soldier Ride program.

“Throughout my time as an NFL player and broadcaster, I've had the opportunity to meet many active servicemembers and veterans alike, whose integrity, valor and bravery continues to inspire me to this day,” said Palmer. “It is an honor to celebrate the brave men and women who have served our country, and I am looking forward to hosting this special program with Wounded Warrior Project that commends their service and sacrifice.”

Palmer is also scheduled to host Wounded Warrior Project's Courage Awards & Benefit Dinner in 2021.

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to honor our brave U.S. veterans and support the impactful work of Wounded Warrior Project,” said Evans.

WWP continues on Page 12

Service-puppy-in-training visits PVPV Rawlings students

By Holly Tishfield

Students in teacher Michelle Bettler's fifth-grade class at PVPV Rawlings Elementary School were in for a treat last week as Marie Massie from K9s For Warriors brought in one of her service dogs to meet the children.

Massie has raised many dogs for the K9s For Warriors, and this is not the first time she made an appearance at PVPV Rawlings to teach the children about the important work she does.

The puppies Massie raises stay with her until they are old enough to go to the kennels, where they will then receive the proper training to certify them as service dogs.

Moondog, the puppy Massie brought to visit Bettler's class this year, is a 6-month-old English lab preparing to receive official training. The puppy got its name after Massie's friend Bill “Moon” Mullins, a retired veteran and cancer survivor.

“It is a good experience for [the students] to learn about veterans and about PTSD,” said Bettler. “They are in fifth grade so they process it really well, and they understand now that if they see dogs with vests on what that means.”

Bettler and PVPV Rawlings Elementary have been exposing their students to the importance of K9s For Warriors for years now.

Two years ago, they hosted an event named “Ten Small Steps of Kindness, One Giant Leap for K9s,” where students completed acts of kindness in exchange for donations. All donations went toward sponsoring a puppy at K9s For Warriors, whom the class nicknamed Rawly. Rawly is predicted to graduate within the next year on behalf of the students and faculty at PVPV Rawlings Elementary.



Fifth-grade students at PVPV Rawlings pet Moondog, who is training to be a service dog for K9s For Warriors.

Leading up to Veteran's Day on Nov. 11, Bettler's class learned about the importance of service animals and the significance of the K9s For Warriors organization.

“The culminating experience of everything is having the dog come to class,” Bettler said. “It is important for [the students] to get a better appreciation for the sacrifice that veterans made while serving the country.”

Each year the students write letters to veterans and to the K9s For Warriors project after the puppy makes its visit. The letters are a perfect example of just how much students retain from the experience.

“We made it our mission to support this particular organization,” Bettler said. “The kids absolutely love it.”



Photos provided by Michelle Bettler

Marie Massie, a volunteer puppy-raiser for K9s For Warriors, brings service-dog-in-training Moondog to visit teacher Michelle Bettler's fifth-grade class at PVPV Rawlings.

113 Nease NJROTC cadets promoted at fall ceremony

Following COVID-19 safety protocols of small crowds, social distancing and wearing masks, Nease NJROTC held four separate promotion and award ceremonies across two days recognizing the cadet corps for exceptional performance during the first quarter.

Of the 236-cadet battalion, 113 cadets earned promotions for successfully passing a rigorous promotion exam as well as meeting conduct and performance requirements. Additionally, cadets received more than 650 individual awards for exceptional performance and achievement in the areas of community service, school service, aptitude, personal appearance and participation on one or more of the program's competitive teams. Cadet company commanders directed formal military ceremonies during their respective class periods. As part of their hands-on leadership training, cadets organized, planned and executed the entire ceremonies.

"Attending (Area-12) Leadership Academy last summer helped me prepare for moments like this," said Charlie Company Cmdr. Kaitlyn Boggs. "Sitting in a classroom and learning how to put together a major ceremony on paper is one thing, but actually leading one in front of the parents and school administrators was both nerve-racking and exhilarating."

In addition to Boggs, company commanders Brandon Donovan, Jamila Rodriguez and Donovan Chapman led their cadets in ceremonies replete with the formal customs and courtesies seen in active-duty events.

Proud parents pinned the new ranks on their cadets during the ceremony.

"Nease NJROTC is a living, breathing leadership lab," said senior naval science instructor Cpt. Scott LaRoche. "Watching these cadets shine under the spotlight makes this job all the more worthwhile."



Bravo Company renders honors for the presentation of colors during the Nease NJROTC fall promotions and awards ceremony on Nov. 10.



Cadet Miles "Crash" Mitidieri receives his special trophy from Capt. Scott LaRoche for skillfully crashing the unit's drone into a brick wall the day prior to its first official drone competition of 2020.

The most prestigious awards presented during the day were the Sailors of the Quarter awards, given to the top performers from the past quarter. Cadets Hailey Pitches and Alaina Hussung received these esteemed awards.



Mike Chapman pins the rank of cadet/seaman on his daughter Riley during the Alpha Company promotion and awards ceremony on Nov. 9.

Nease NJROTC has been recognized as the No. 1 NJROTC unit in Area-12 (Northern Florida and Georgia) for three consecutive years, and was the No. 5 Most Outstanding Unit in the nation in 2018.



Maximino Rodriguez pins cadet/lieutenant rank on his granddaughter Nease NJROTC Cadet Jamila Rodriguez



Navy Petty Officer First Class Timothy Hannah pins the new rank of cadet/seaman on his daughter Makayla during the Charlie Company awards ceremony Nov. 9.



Cary Schultz pins the rank of cadet/ensign on his daughter Cadet Kamryn Schultz during the Alpha Company awards ceremony.

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Make-A-Wish chapter raises \$10K with BBQ fundraiser

By Shaun Ryan

It's been a tough year for nonprofits. The fundraisers they count on to carry out their missions usually require people to gather for events, but the pandemic has forced most of these to be canceled.

And, like so many other organizations, the local Make-A-Wish chapter has been struggling. Two of the biggest fundraisers – Walk For Wishes and Wishmaker's Ball, planned for the Marriott Sawgrass – had to be canceled this year.

According to Mike Sobiecki, a member of the Make-A-Wish Northeast Florida advisory board since 2015, the chapter is bringing in only about 20% of the funds it normally raises.

And that means fewer children are having their wishes granted.

“Our local chapter had to postpone over 80 wishes since March due to COVID-19,” Sobiecki said. “We currently have 550 local children waiting for their wishes!”

The organization has been trying to grant wishes even during the pandemic, including online shopping sprees, room re-dos, gaming computers and staycations.

Still, Sobiecki knew he had to find a way to raise money. On average the cost of granting a single wish is about \$8,000, so he would have to be creative.



With the help of friends and neighbors, Mike Sobiecki and Kevin Sides smoked and sold 160 pork butts to raise money for the local Make-A-Wish chapter.

“I decided to raise money by smoking and selling 160 smoked pork butts,” he said.

In October, he spoke with neighbor and friend Kevin Sides, an award-winning participant in barbecue competitions in four states who had done a similar fundraiser for his son's Boy Scout troop last year.

Still, it was a big job for just two men.

“Luckily, we have friends who have big smokers, too,” Sobiecki said. “We had four commercial smokers on trailers, and then we utilized a bunch of single backyard smokers to help.”

MAKE-A-WISH continues on Page 11



Photos provided by Mike Sobiecki

The barbecue fundraiser generated more than \$10,000 for the local Make-A-Wish chapter. Pictured are Matthew Sides (from left), Elizabeth Sides, Kevin Sides, Cooper Sobiecki, Mike Sobiecki, Hallie Sobiecki and Tracy Sobiecki.

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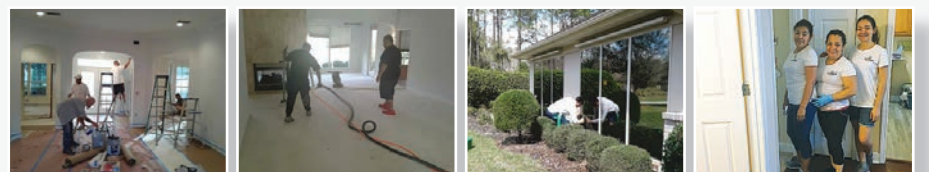


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Salvation Army's Red Shield Ball to be held virtually Nov. 21

The Salvation Army will hold its seventh annual Red Shield Ball virtually from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21.

The Red Shield Ball raises funds for the Red Shield Lodge women and families shelter and the Carpenter Family Marketplace. Red Shield Lodge families and local residents in need rely on the Carpenter Family Marketplace to keep food on their tables. At the shelter, families receive intensive case management services including crisis intervention and counseling, as well as training in personal finance, parenting skills and child development, stress management and health and wellness, all to boost the odds of success upon leaving the shelter. Families are also assisted in finding permanent housing.

The Salvation Army's food pantry serves 250-300 Duval County households with supplemental groceries per week. In honor of The Salvation Army's longtime friend and sponsor Pete Carpenter and his compassion for helping others, the Carpenter Family Marketplace was created from the funds raised by the friends of Pete and Marilyn Carpenter and the 2019 Red Shield Ball Fund-A-Need donations. The Carpenter Family Marketplace is a client-choice pantry, which gives clients an opportunity to select the foods that are best for their

household in an environment that preserves dignity. It helps eliminate waste and provides healthy alternatives to First Coast families with special dietary needs.

"The Salvation Army's Red Shield Ball is a major fundraiser, which is crucial to our services to families in need of a safe, structured program," Area Commander Major Keath Biggers said. "The Towers Center of Hope is exactly that, a center where hope towers for all families and individuals who come through our doors daily, as we meet their current needs, and then guide them to self-sufficiency. This is only made possible by the gracious support of our generous friends, partners, donors, and those who support the Red Shield Ball."

The Red Shield Ball was launched in 2014 in order to raise funds specifically for the shelter and the services provided there. In response to COVID-19, this year's Red Shield Ball has been modified, but will offer a unique virtual experience featuring a curated cheese tasting for two or more with tcharcuterie and libation pairings catered by Biscotti and delivered to your door, along with entertainment and a live auction, all to raise funds for the Red Shield Lodge and the Carpenter Family Marketplace.

For more information, go to salvationarmyflorida.org/jacksonville-ac/#events.



Photos provided by Mike Sobiecki

People pick up their barbecue orders Saturday during a fundraiser for the local Make-A-Wish chapter.

Make-A-Wish

Continued from 10

So, over this past weekend, Sobiecki, Sides and a few friends worked for up to about 40 hours getting the food prepared and smoked. Over a six-hour period on Saturday, Nov. 14, members of the Sobiecki and Sides families and several neighbors and friends gathered in Sides' front driveway in TPC Saw-

grass to distribute the food to those who had placed orders.

The effort was a success. Not only did Sobiecki reach his goal of \$8,000, people made additional donations of \$2,720.

The success of the barbecue has led Sobiecki and Sides to consider making it an annual fundraiser each November.

"We learned a lot this year, so now we've got people wanting to really help out next year," Sobiecki said.



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Photo provided by Wounded Warrior Project

Wounded Warrior Project was represented in Jacksonville's Veterans Day parade.

WWP

Continued from 8

"Since 2003, Wounded Warrior Project has been a tireless advocate for our nation's finest, improving the lives of post-9/11 warriors and their families, and empowering veterans to live their best lives," said organization CEO Lt. Gen. (ret.) Michael Linnington. "While this Veterans Day looks different than in years past, we are committed to honoring our nation's heroes and hope you will

tune in to our virtual celebration."

Though Veterans Day 2020 is past, the celebration can still be seen on the non-profit's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHSRIAbaN_0&feature=youtu.be and on its Facebook page, facebook.com/WWP. To see interviews with U.S. Air Force veteran Shameka Alejandro and U.S. Army veteran Adam Bagby at the parade site, go to photos.app.goo.gl/uYfPBocECXLfSs6L8.

For more information on Wounded Warrior Project, go to woundedwarrior-project.org.

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

"The palm tree the sways in the breeze stays standing the longest."



Kathy Esfahani
Columnist

PALM TREES

As we see all around us in Florida, palm trees are a popular staple for our landscaping! The very tall, thin palms you see everywhere are sabal palms (also known as cabbage palms) and are native to Florida.

However, there are many other beautiful types of palms that can flourish in our zone. Here are a few of our favorites at Kathy's Nursery:

Sylvester Palms (Phoenix Sylvestris): These are one of our most popular sellers. They come in a variety of heights to fit most landscapes and create a beautiful ambience. They have a neat diamond-cut trunk, but are large trees that needs to be a distance from the home.

Queen Palms: These palms are stately with bright glossy leaves that are gorgeous in the wind. Their fronds cascade over, which creates a tropical vibe. Bright orange dates hang in ornamental clusters. They are common around patios, pools and areas of relaxation.

Bismarck Palms: These silvery blue-green palms are a show stopper with their huge fronds and robust trunk. Their fronds can span up to 16 feet. They are fast growers and thrive in full sun. Certainly a focal point of your landscaping!

Robellini Palms (Pygmy Date Palms): This miniature palm is slow growing and allows you to have a palm closer to your home. Popular at the end of driveways or front doors, robellinis are soft and femi-



Photos provided by Kathy Esfahani

Robellini Palm



Sylvester Palm

nine in look and feel.

Sago Palms: These wide-trunk palms are dark green and lush. They will not grow to be too high with their large cone of seeds growing out of the middle. The seeds are poisonous to pets, so we tend to keep them out of our fur-friendly homes.

European Fan Palms: These palms are very hardy and slow growing. They are not sensitive to cold weather and grow 8 to 15 feet tall. Their fronds are fine-textured, which make them stick out in landscaping and the color can range from dark green to silver.

Majestic Palms: This palm loves humidity which is perfect for our Florida climate. The fronds' fullness can fan out to 15 feet high. They are also slow growers that don't mind some shade, but love water and naturally wet areas.

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

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



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Your Guide to Planning Ahead

Leaving a Legacy is a helpful source of information and advertising for those who want to plan ahead for the sake of their loved ones and ensure their final wishes are honored.

LEAVING A *Legacy*

PAGES 13-17

Don't forget to fund your revocable trust



Dan Armstrong
Guest Columnist

Revocable trusts are a very popular and effective estate-planning tool. But the trust will be ineffective if you do not actually place your assets in the trust.

Revocable trusts are an effective way to avoid probate and provide for asset management in the event of incapacity. In addition, revocable trusts — sometimes called “living” trusts — are incredibly flexible and can achieve many other goals, including tax, long-term care and asset-protection planning.

However, you can't take advantage of what the trust has to offer if you don't place your assets into it. If you don't fund the trust, your assets may have to go through a costly probate proceeding or be distributed to beneficiaries you did not intend. Not funding your trust can undermine your whole estate plan.

To transfer assets to the trust, whether real estate, bank accounts, or investment accounts, you need to retitle the assets in the name of the trust. To place bank and investment accounts into your

trust, you need to retitle them as follows: “[your name and co-trustee's name] as Trustees of [trust name] Revocable Trust created by agreement dated [date].” Depending on the institution, you might be able to change the name on an existing account. Otherwise you will need to open a new account in the name of the trust and then transfer the funds. The financial institution will probably require a copy of the trust, or at least of the first



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Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

Armstrong

Continued from 13

page and the signature page, as well as signatures of all the trustees. As long as you are serving as your own trustee or co-trustee, you can use your Social Security number for the trust. If you are not a trustee, the trust will have to obtain a separate tax identification number and file a separate 1041 tax return each year. You will still be taxed on all of the income and the trust will pay no separate tax.

If you are placing real estate into the trust, you should consult with your attorney to ensure it is done correctly. You should also consult with your attorney before placing life insurance or annuities into a revocable trust. And consult with your attorney before naming the trust as the beneficiary of your IRAs or 401(k) because that could have tax consequence.

Once your trust is fully funded, don't forget about it. When you acquire new assets, do not forget to add them to the trust. You should review your trust annually to make sure everything is titled properly.



**Do you have questions concerning
Probate or Estate Planning?**



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5 ways to leave a lasting legacy

It is customary for people to take inventory of their lives as they grow older, wondering about their impact on the world and the people closest to them. A legacy is often the story of one's life and the things he or she did through the years.

The good thing about a legacy is it is never too early to begin planning. The following are some guidelines that can help people establish lasting legacies.

■ **Keep track of your story.** Grab a journal and start jotting down events that occur in your life. Mention particular achievements or notable things that occur from day to day. Pepper these accounts with stories of your family and childhood to start establishing an autobiography of sorts.

■ **Consider your daily actions.** Even though people may imagine it is the grand gestures that are remembered most, quite often it's the simplest acts that make the most impact. Think about the way you treat others each and every day. Smile at people, compliment others and offer positive advice when it is sought.

■ **Research investments that are profitable.** If the goal is to make money to leave for future generations, investigate your options. These include assets that can retain their value. According to NewRetirement.com and Stepping Stone Financial, Inc., vacation homes mean a lot to families and they also can be a source of future revenue should they be rented or sold. Speaking with a financial advisor also can be a sound way to invest the right way to accumulate assets that can be passed down as a legacy.



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

■ **Name children or other relatives as beneficiaries on Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).** With Roth IRAs, distributions are tax-free as long as the person who set up the IRA met the five-year holding period for contributions and conversions. Beneficiaries can have five years to take out money from the account; otherwise, they can convert the plan to an Inherited IRA, which stretches out distributions over their life expectancy, according to Investopedia, an online financial resource.

■ **Write a legacy letter.** A legacy letter is a way to speak directly to loved ones and say all those things that you had wished you told them earlier but maybe didn't find the words or perhaps never had the time, according to Forbes. The letter ensures others know just how much joy they brought to your life and the pride you had in knowing them.

Leaving a legacy is something people start to think about as they grow older, but it's easy to start planning a legacy regardless of your age.

The best time to plan your estate is now.



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Photo provided by Community Hospice & Palliative Care

Coping with grief is subject of Hope for the Holidays workshop

The festive holiday season can be challenging for those grieving the death of a loved one especially during a pandemic. They find themselves torn between the need to grieve and pressure to get into the holiday spirit. Some traditions this year will be different and many activities will be limited, changed and may not occur at all based on limitation of travel and safety concerns.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care is offering Hope for the Holidays. This workshop will help attendees learn ways to cope with grief during the holiday season, determine what is right for them and their families and refocus energy on positive activities that

honor and remember their loved ones. This workshop will acknowledge the changes and limitations but also work on alternative activities and meaningful ways to be with family and friends that may include virtual activities.

Dates and Times:

Thursday, Nov. 19, 6-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 21, 10-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 10, 10-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 17, 10-11:30 a.m.

There is no charge to attend but attendees should RSVP at hopefortheholidays2020.eventbrite.com, call (904) 407-7001 or email bbeall@communityhospice.com.

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PAGES 18-23

How presidential elections impact the local real estate market

Data from previous election years suggest potential impact more long term

If past performance holds true, data analyzed by the Lisa Barton Team at Keller Williams Atlantic Partners show elections have little to no immediate effect on the local real estate market.

“The trend we noticed from looking at local housing market data from 2012 and 2016 suggests there was no instantaneous market shift due to the election itself,” said Lisa Barton, broker associate with the Lisa Barton Team at Keller Williams Atlantic Partners. “That’s not to say there isn’t potential for changes due to the policies



Lisa Barton

said Barton. “For example, here in Northeast Florida, we’ve noticed a migration of buyers coming from out

of the new administration.”

Barton states mortgage rates and consumer attitude are more significant factors influencing the real estate market at any given time. Mortgage rates are at historic lows, under 3%, giving buyers much more purchasing power.

“The pandemic has created a real change in consumer attitude,”

of state who no longer want to live in big cities and are looking for single-family homes with more space inside and out.”

Barton said they’re coming to a sellers’ market with the lowest inventory of available properties she has seen in her 13 years as an agent in Ponte Vedra Beach. According to the Northeast Florida Multiple Listing Service, this September, home values were up 8.6%, the number of closed sales up 16.6% and inventory down 39.3% compared to the same time last year.

“Most of us are just looking forward to the election being over,” said Barton. “It will be another mile marker reached in what’s been a very challenging year.”



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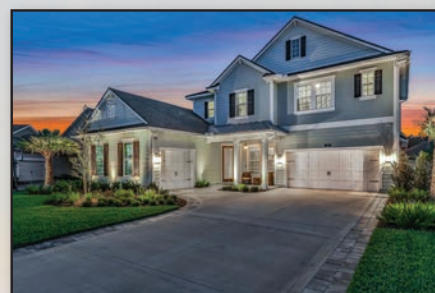
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Photo by Susan Griffin

Lisa Barton (center) cuts the ribbon during a ceremony for the Lisa Barton Team opening its new office in Ponte Vedra with Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners.

Lisa Barton Team joins Keller Williams in new Ponte Vedra office

By Shaun Ryan

With the recent addition of a local team of real estate professionals, Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners has expanded into the Ponte Vedra market.

In June, the biggest real estate company in the world opened its newest office at 190 State Road AIA, Ponte Vedra Beach. It is the headquarters for the Lisa Barton Team, which is now working under the Keller Williams umbrella.

This is the first office in Ponte Vedra for Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners, which is based in Jacksonville Beach.

The new office gives the brokerage greater exposure to the luxury side of the business, both with listings and with buy-

ers. The 32082 ZIP code is a highly prized area for both real estate professionals and their customers. In fact, the Lisa Barton Team is considered a “luxury international specialist.”

“For our organization as a whole, it gives us greater exposure in Ponte Vedra, which we’re very excited about,” said brokerage Managing Partner Mark Dilworth. He added that it gives agents living in Ponte Vedra another office they can work from.

More importantly, it aids the important development of relationships between the real estate professionals and the community.

“This just gives us more opportunity to have more interaction between our current

RIBBON CUTTING continues on **Page 21**

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Photo by Susan Griffin

Members of Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners celebrate the opening of their new office in Ponte Vedra with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Ribbon Cutting

Continued from 20

Ponte Vedra agents and Ponte Vedra customers,” Dilworth said.

Real estate agent and Realtor Lisa Barton pointed out that her team will benefit by their ability to work with 187,000 other Keller Williams agents across the nation.

“It gives me awesome networking ability,” she said.

With 1,000 people moving to Florida every day, Barton’s team can reach out to agents in the areas they are moving from and promote the Ponte Vedra community as a destination.

The arrangement also gives Barton’s team access to Keller Williams’ software

system, which offers a variety of tools that will help them achieve their goals.

“That was part of the draw for my team,” Barton said.

That team includes three agents in addition to Barton: Tonya O’Quinn, Marsha Keller and Sean Muserallo.

Though under the Keller Williams umbrella, Barton’s team remains its own business.

“They are very team-friendly,” Barton said of the brokerage. She said the arrangement allows her team to work more efficiently and effectively.

She called Dilworth “super-supportive” and a big influence in her business becoming a part of Keller Williams.

“We feel really good about the partnership,” she said. “We really do.”

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TOP 30 SALES IN OCTOBER FOR PONTE VEDRA BEACH

Sold Date	Sold Price	Street Number/Name	Approx. square footage	Year Built	Bedrooms	Fulls Baths	Subdivision	Days on market
10/1/2020	\$900,000.00	100 SETTLERS ROW N	3429	1989	3	3	THE PLANTATION AT PV	89
10/1/2020	\$930,000.00	40 ALHAMBRA ST	2976	1989	3	2	SEAVIEW PARK	25
10/2/2020	\$1,720,000.00	24570 HARBOUR VIEW DR	5349	2003	5	4	MARSH LANDING	192
10/2/2020	\$900,000.00	2629 S PONTE VEDRA BLVD	2043	1983	4	2	SOUTH PONTE VEDRA BEACH	30
10/5/2020	\$1,425,000.00	3 S ROSCOE BLVD	2521	1953	3	3	PALM VALLEY	110
10/7/2020	\$872,500.00	124 HOLLYHOCK LN	3518	2016	4	4	THE PLANTATION AT PV	53
10/8/2020	\$1,725,000.00	308 THREE ISLAND CT	1989	2001	2	2	MARSH LANDING CC	38
10/8/2020	\$6,600,000.00	345 PONTE VEDRA BLVD	6216	1988	4	5	PONTE VEDRA	42
10/9/2020	\$885,000.00	841 BAYTREE LN	4202	2005	5	5	PLANTATION OAKS	74
10/9/2020	\$905,000.00	205 AVE C	2980	2014	3	3	AVALON	2
10/14/2020	\$2,300,000.00	117 NEWPORT LN	6779	2004	6	9	MARSH LANDING	195
10/15/2020	\$1,655,000.00	24652 HARBOUR VIEW DR	6228	1999	6	7	MARSH LANDING CC	163
10/15/2020	\$850,000.00	153 TWELVE OAKS LN	4211	1990	4	4	THE PLANTATION AT PV	245
10/16/2020	\$1,795,000.00	8030 PEBBLE CREEK W LN	5346	1993	5	4	SAWGRASS ISLAND	239
10/19/2020	\$4,000,000.00	519 PONTE VEDRA BLVD	3584	1935	5	5	PONTE VEDRA BEACH	45
10/19/2020	\$1,900,000.00	2403 S PONTE VEDRA BLVD	7057	1991	6	5	S PONTE VEDRA BEACH	34
10/20/2020	\$1,225,000.00	9040 MARSH VIEW CT	4070	1995	4	5	MARSH LANDING CC	30
10/21/2020	\$1,250,000.00	133 YELLOW BILL LN	4442	2009	4	3	SERENATA NORTH	63
10/21/2020	\$890,000.00	24503 INDIAN MIDDEN WAY	3031	1984	3	3	MARSH LANDING	59
10/23/2020	\$1,999,000.00	111 MELROSE CT	3854	2019	5	4	THE PLANTATION AT PV	0
10/23/2020	\$3,600,000.00	5 SAN JUAN CIR	5712	2013	5	5	PONTE VEDRA BEACH	2
10/26/2020	\$1,100,000.00	328 CLEARWATER DR	4752	2005	5	5	PLANTATION OAKS	19
10/26/2020	\$975,000.00	1214 SALT CREEK POINTE WAY	3623	1991	5	3	SALT CREEK	5
10/28/2020	\$1,825,000.00	261 N ROSCOE BLVD	5420	2008	5	5	ROSCOE BLVD	42
10/29/2020	\$2,900,000.00	8031 PEBBLE CREEK W LN	6301	1993	6	5	SAWGRASS ISLAND	73
10/30/2020	\$2,200,000.00	205 DEER HAVEN DR	6967	1998	5	5	MARSH LANDING	63
10/30/2020	\$865,000.00	121 MONTURA DR	3363	2008	5	3	MONTURA	103
10/9/2020	\$1,475,000.00	401 PAYASADA LAKES AVE	4950	2018	6	6	PAYASADA ESTATES	33
10/30/2020	\$1,440,000.00	113 MEETING WAY	3913	1991	4	5	THE PLANTATION AT PV	61
10/30/2020	\$875,000.00	611 N WILDERNESS TRAIL	3244	2000	6	3	PALM VALLEY GARDENS	135

All Information provided by Kathleen Floryan, Broker Associate, eXp Realty LLC, is deemed reliable but not guaranteed and has been obtained through the Northeast Florida Multiple Listing Service, Inc. and may not be the listings of Kathleen Floryan.

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OCEANFRONT JAX BEACH
2/2 • \$589,900
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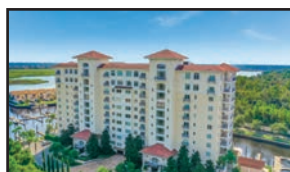
PONTE VEDRA BEACH
Homesite • \$309,900
Suzie and Rory Connolly



ODOMS MILL
5/4 • \$625,000
Suzie and Rory Connolly



PLANTATION OAKS
5/5 • \$975,000
Suzie and Rory Connolly



MARINA SAN PABLO
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Susan Fort or Tyler Ackland



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Photo provided by Beacon Lake

Beacon Lake community to present holiday light display

The community of Beacon Lake is lighting up this holiday season with a drive-through holiday lights experience.

Visitors and residents alike are invited to drive through the community along Beacon Lake Parkway to Lake House, Beacon Lake's Amenity and Fitness Center, and enjoy a wonderland of lights from the safety and comfort of their cars.

The holiday lights display will open at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 27, and will continue nightly through Dec. 31.

The event is free and open to the public.

Beacon Lake is located at 850 Beacon Lake Parkway in St. Augustine. It is on the south side of County Road 210 between U.S. 1 and I-95 .

At Beacon Lake, Dream Finders Homes, Mattamy Homes and Toll Brothers are building coastal-inspired single-family homes featuring welcoming front porches and open floor plans.

For more information, go to www.BeaconLake.com.

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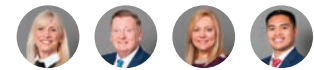
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Business Weekly

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Sawgrass Finance opens headquarters in Ponte Vedra



Marius Dobren



Vadim Toyberman

By Shaun Ryan

A new asset-based lender is calling Ponte Vedra Beach its home.

Sawgrass Finance LLC is a lender that will provide lines of credit of up to \$3 million to small and medium-size businesses by leveraging their assets, such as accounts receivable, inventory, machin-

ery and equipment.

Each credit line is custom-tailored to meet the needs of each individual company, while taking into account trade cycles, seasonality, customer base and more.

Asset-based lending is ideal when businesses are not able to obtain traditional bank financing, experience rapid

growth, require seasonal accommodations, seek flexible capital or need to increase their current financing facility.

Sawgrass Finance, while a national lender, is focused on helping local businesses learn about and use this type of financing.

FINANCE continues on Page 25

Chamber's Public Policy Committee connects members with governmental decision-makers

Beth Sweeny, Flagler College, director of community and government relations, is the new chair of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee. She will continue the work done by Michael Scine, Scine CPA Advisors, who initiated the creation of the committee in 2016 and chaired the committee during 2019-2020.

The Public Policy Committee oversees the Chamber's business advocacy efforts at the state, county and municipal levels of government. The PPC monitors, reviews and makes recommendations to the Chamber leadership on legislative and regulatory issues that could impact St. Johns County businesses.

The PPC is comprised of former senior Chamber leaders, former EDC chairs and representatives from various geographical, industry and professions to insure the intellectual depth of knowledge in the areas of land use, taxation, public safety, tourism and environment. The Chamber chair, along

with the Chamber CEO/president, make the final appointments for the upcoming fiscal year. Appointments to the Public Policy Committee will be confirmed in January 2021.

If you have an interest in serving on the Chamber's Public Policy Committee, or would like to suggest an issue, email Bob Porter, the Chamber's VP of Public Policy, at bob.porter@sjcchamber.com. Additional information about policy and politics in St. Johns can be found on the Chamber's website at www.sjcchamber.com.

"I want to thank Michael Scine for leading this group in a tumultuous year," said Isabelle Renault, president and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. "Between the epidemic and election, this was a busy year for the chair and members of the Public Policy Committee. They have laid significant groundwork for a successful next year."

In recent years, the Chamber has taken public positions on issues as diverse as a panhandling ordinance in



Beth Sweeny



Michael Scine

St. Augustine; beach replenishment from Vilano to Ponte Vedra Beach; restoration of the affordable Housing Trust Funds at the state level; and a single-use plastic bag ordinance in St. Augustine Beach. Recently, after polling the membership twice, the Chamber came out in public opposition to the proposed Florida Constitutional Amendment No. 2, which would raise

COMMITTEE continues on Page 25

New children's clothing store opens in St. Johns County

Blending a hallmark retail career with a skilled eye to design and manufacture a line of children's clothing (toddler-to-tween), Teri-ann Perez and husband, David, brought their vision to reality with the opening of Jet & Ivey located at The Forum at Greenbriar.

The children's clothing store features a wide range of modern and trendy apparel reflecting the Florida lifestyle of fast and growing kids.

As the fashion destination for stylish children, Jet & Ivy private label line blends with Teri-ann's handpicked, mix-and-match assortment of upscale brands like Tractr Jeans, Bella Dahl, Johnnie-O, Nectar Bath Treats and more.

The large, cozy space features French blue accents within an ultra-modern and bright interior. A giant LED-screen TV captures the eye amid kid-sized furniture, shelves stocked with selections of girly purses to key chains for gift giving, tabletops of high-quality cashmere for kids, shoes and accessories, carefully selected young men's slacks, shirts and plush — all in an atmosphere conducive for kids to shop and moms and dads to chat.

The store is located in the fast-growing I-9 West areas (Bartram Springs, Durbin Crossing, Julington Creek), I-95 East (Ponte Vedra Beach, Palm Valley, Nocatee) of St. Johns County and close to the Jacksonville's Creekside, Del Rio and Mandarin areas in Duval County.

Committed to and residents of St. Johns community, the Perez family understands the importance of giving back. As part of this commitment, \$1 from every item sold is donated to St. Johns Cares, their nonprofit of choice.

Jet & Ivy is open for business at The Forum at Greenbriar, 206 Ashourian Ave., Suite 110 in St. Augustine.

Longtime local resident becomes personal jeweler for Underwood's

Underwood Jewelers store manager John Rutkowski recently announced the addition of longtime local resident Carol Maurer to its Ponte Vedra staff.

"We're excited to welcome Carol to our team," Rutkowski said. "Her considerable knowledge of the community will bring value to her role as

personal jeweler."

Maurer added, "I've been a big fan of Underwood's for a long time, and feel incredibly fortunate to have this opportunity."

Visit Maurer at Underwood Jewelers at the Shoppes of Ponte Vedra, 330 A1A North, Suite 204 or call (904) 280-1202 for an appointment.



Carol Maurer

Committee

Continued from 24

the mandatory minimum wage to \$15/hour. The Chamber will continue to canvas the Chamber members for input on significant issues.

The 2021 St. Johns County Legislative Delegation meeting will be held Dec. 18, at the St. Johns County Administration Building at 500 San Sebastian View. The state delegation will hear from agencies, the public and the Chamber of Commerce on statewide issues of concern. The Chamber's Public Policy Committee will represent the members of the Chamber at this meeting.

The Chamber solicits opinions from Chamber members on legislative issues. The 2021 St. Johns County Legislative Delegation meeting will be held Dec. 18, at the St. Johns County Administration Building at 500 San Sebastian View. The state delegation will hear from agencies, the public and the Chamber of Commerce on statewide issues of concern. The Chamber's Public Policy Committee will represent the members of the Chamber at this meeting. The regular 2021 Legislative Session will convene on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

To find out more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce or to become a member visit www.sjcchamber.com, call (904) 829.5681 or find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sjcchamber

Finance

Continued from 24

According to co-founder and President Marius Dobren, his company understands that the current pandemic has reduced local financing options.

"Every business has been affected by COVID-19, more so the small and medium-size companies," he said. "We are here to provide solutions for those businesses and give them a chance to succeed."

Dobren said plans for Sawgrass Finance were in the works before the pandemic happened but pointed out the value of such a company at such a time.

"It is a fantastic product in the normal course of business, but it's an excellent product during a crisis like

this," he said.

Sawgrass Finance co-founder and Chief Credit Officer Vadim Toyberman explained why.

"Asset-based lending (ABL) is always in demand, but especially when there are uncertainties like we are experiencing now with the pandemic," he said. "In times like this, banks tighten their credit criteria, which makes it almost impossible for a small business to get a loan. In addition, stricter credit criteria push a lot of existing bank borrowers out because they no longer fit the box. These small businesses are attracted to asset-based lenders mainly because ABL is a relationship lending, and we will never remove an umbrella from over clients' head when it's raining."

The company has a special emphasis on businesses with a B2B form

of transaction, meaning they sell to other businesses. Examples might be manufacturers, distributors, importers, wholesalers, service providers, tech and health care.

Sawgrass Finance is a local boutique and hands-on lending company that brings fresh financing ideas and solutions to small and medium-size businesses.

The company provides access to capital with a primary focus in the financing of long-term growth. Sawgrass Finance's upper management team has more than 30 years of combined asset-based lending experience.

Sawgrass Finance has been open for business since June. A nationwide lender, the company's headquarters are at 822 A1A N., Suite 310, Ponte Vedra Beach. The business phone number is (904) 834-1076.

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

PV2-LV45045

Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Holiday Shoppes marks 30th anniversary

By Shaun Ryan

The 2020 yuletide season kicked off this month with The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach Holiday Shoppes. This year's event marked the Shoppes' 30th anniversary. It was held Nov. 12-14 at the center, 50 Executive Way.

Local residents look forward to the annual fundraiser, where they can find a variety of items for sale, including men's and women's apparel, homemade children's toys, unique jewelry, home goods, holiday decorations and more. It's the ideal place to find one-of-a-kind gifts.

This year, local students provided impromptu entertainment, and food trucks were on hand to keep hungry visitors fed. In addition, Divine Spirits, a mobile bartending service from Jack-

sonville, brought its Unbridled Bar — a vintage horse-trailer-turned-bar — to serve drinks, including a signature beverage created for the event.

Vendors offered their wares at stations in the courtyard and inside the center itself. In the main gallery, the Cultural Center had its own booth. This has always been the place to purchase homemade items from member artists. But this year, the selection was expanded to special holiday items purchased in Atlanta and donated by Hilah Autrey.

That, combined with a special balloon display created for the event by Anette Saalman of Sparkle Balloons by Anette, gave this year's Holiday Shoppes "a wow factor," according to Executive Director Donna Guzzo.

SHOPPES continues on Page 27



Photos by Susan Griffin

Anette Saalman and Carol Maurer attend the 30th anniversary of the Holiday Shoppes.



ABOVE: Unbridled Bar at the Holiday Shoppes.

LEFT: Cake designers Aldo and Maria Palms.

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 - Government Printing Office
 - Frugal driver's acronym
 - 1952 Olympics site
 - Afghanistan's neighbor
 - Letter-shaped girder
 - Wing-shaped
 - Narcotics agent, for short
 - Call it quits
 - *One way to improve health
 - She played a TV genie
 - Cunning
 - Golfer's goal
 - "Kiss the Cook" garment, pl.
 - Keyboard instrument
 - Prefix for before
 - Greek god's libation
 - Door-stopping wedge
 - Full of meaning
 - Fleur-de-____
 - Do penance
 - Type of parrot
 - *Ask for procaine when at this office
 - *Unavoidable risk factor for many diseases
 - Rock grinding
 - *Take a spoonful of sugar to avoid this taste
 - Genetic info carrier
 - Aqua-lung
 - Criticism
 - *Annual ____
 - Fill with spirits
 - First rate
 - Purl partner
 - Vandalized a car
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 - Bulgarian money
 - Filling station filler
 - More of the same
 - Water carrier
- DOWN**
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 - ____ of Man
 - Linseed
 - Do without
 - Last Supper cup
 - Break down or analyze
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 - Internet shareable
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 - Greenwich time
 - *Use a scalpel
 - Like the Vitruvian Man
 - *Stay in bed
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 - *____ test
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8		7							
5	4				9				3

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- *Take antihistamines to avoid this kind of nose
- A pop
- *Eat one a day?
- Rap sheet listing
- So out it's in
- *Worn until a bone heals
- Piglet
- Lightly color
- Different spelling of emir
- Horsefly
- "Wizard of Oz" man
- *Increase fluid intake

Entertainment returns to Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

By Holly Tishfield

When the COVID-19 pandemic first began making global waves nearly eight months ago, the whole world seemed to hit the pause button. Restaurants, businesses, and countless other industries locked their doors to the public. Some industries found ways to adapt, whether having employees work from home or offering to-go food services, but some others were not so fortunate.

The entertainment industry, including movie theaters, live performances and even sporting events were hit hard. Employees and entertainers alike went months without an income due to the shutdown, but now the future has a glimmer of hope.

In the near future the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will officially welcome guests back to the venue for socially-distanced live performances.

“We feel really good about it,” said Gabe Pellicer, general manager of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. “We have done the necessary things we need to do in order to reopen in a safe way.”

To comply with CDC guidelines, and to ensure a safe experience for guests, the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall has implemented new measures. Both ticketing and



Photo provided by the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

security will now be hands free. Guests will walk through new touch-free body scanners instead of having security guards check their belongings, and ticket kiosks will also be self-serving.

The biggest change guests will see at the concert hall, according to Pellicer, is the capacity of people in the building. Tickets for performances are now sold in bundles, which vary in number depending on the performer, to ensure that all guests in a single party are acquainted. These ticket bundles will then determine the six-foot spacing of seating in the venue.

“Pellicer and his team made it clear

very early on that safety should be our first and top priority,” said Tib Miller, a co-partner and promoter from Flying Saucer Presents. “There is a lot of consideration that goes into this.”

Both Pellicer and Miller mentioned that artists are looking forward to performing again, just as much as guests are looking forward to live entertainment.

“We have to be cautious because we want to provide the safest circumstance for the audience, the artist, and all of the people who work to make sure shows happen,” said Miller. “I am hoping that with each of the shows we do, we provide a

RAUL MALE TO PERFORM 2 SHOWS AT THE PONTE VEDRA CONCERT HALL

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, in partnership with Flying Saucer Presents, announced that genre-defying front-man Raul Malo of The Mavericks will perform two shows at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021.

Raul Malo is the front-man of genre-defying, Grammy Award-winning band The Mavericks, and the sole writer of many of their songs. His free-wheeling, swaggering style seamlessly blends neotraditional country, rock ‘n roll, and Latin rhythmic fervor and prominently features his lush, soaring baritone. From his earliest days, when his raucous sound broke ground at the punk clubs on Miami Beach nearly three decades ago, to now fronting The Mavericks on their 30th Anniversary World Tour, Malo has demonstrated an unflinching skill for getting people to groove.

Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Office and online at Ticketmaster.

“We have a great live performance experience in an environment where people feel entirely and fully comfortable.”

Both the St. Augustine Amphitheater and the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall have plans to host limited capacity concerts in the near future, but for now, guests can purchase ticket bundles to Raul Malo on Jan. 9, 2021.

Shoppes

Continued from 26

To keep shoppers and vendors protected from the coronavirus, a number of measures were put into place.

In past years, shoppers could simply show up, but this time they were asked to pre-select a time when they would visit. This helped to manage attendance so that social distancing could be observed. Also,

the preview reception, normally reserved for Cultural Center members and donors, was opened up to anyone who might be at high risk and wanted to avoid the crowds.

Cultural Center staff also wore masks, disinfected surfaces, took visitors’ temperatures and asked the now-familiar COVID-19 questions.

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Photo by Alex Martin

The Ponte Vedra girls volleyball team celebrates its Class 5A state championship on Nov. 14.

Game, set, match . . . and championship

Ponte Vedra finishes 27-0 to win Class 5A state championship

By Don Coble

There was as much relief as celebration when the Ponte Vedra girls volleyball team beat Jensen Beach on Saturday, Nov. 14, to win the Class 5A state championship.

The pressure of winning 36 matches in a row dating back to the middle of last season and competing for a third state title in four years may have affected the Sharks throughout their match at the Suncrest Credit Union Arena in Fort Myers. Added with the uncertainty and safety precautions created by the COVID-19 virus, the championship match proved to be as much about emotion as skill.

Fortunately for Ponte Vedra, the deciding factor was purely about skill.

When the match ended after three sets, the Sharks seemed subdued, coach Robin Mignerey said. Slowly, however, they soon realized the magnitude of their long-term success.

“It was weird because we couldn’t celebrate. It was like the Master’s. It was surreal,” Mignerey said. “OK we just won. We were up kind of big in that third [set] so it took out all that angst and pressure a little bit. We were a little melancholy. It’s the first time I’ve seen them like that all year.”

PVHS (27-0) was nearly flawless, especially on serves. The Sharks were good on 63-of-74 serves, with Jessica Shattles, Amy Burkhardt and Kendall Mignerey combining to put 41-of-42 attempts into play, while the Falcons made 46-of-56 serves.

CHAMPIONSHIP continues on Page 29

Ponte Vedra gets boys volleyball

A rarity in North Florida, Sharks boast boys team this season for 1st time

By Holly Tishfield

Despite being one of the most played sports in the world, boys volleyball has had very little representation in North Florida.

Girls’ teams in the area continue to dominate competitions, both in high school and college, but what about a boys team?

Until last year, a boys volleyball team for high school did not exist in the North Florida region. While it is all the rage in Central and South Florida, the high schools of Northern Florida only provided volleyball teams for girls.

This restriction did not stop students from dreaming of a high school boys volleyball team, and this year at Ponte Vedra High School that wish is finally coming true.

“We have a good group [of players] coming from middle school, but they come to high school and have no volleyball options,” said Tom Diab, a teacher and the new coach of the boys volleyball team at PVHS. Now, thanks to persistent parents and support from the Ponte Vedra community, they do.

Diab, a volleyball player in high

BOYS continues on Page 29

PVHS, Nease football seasons end in disappointment

By Don Coble

The beginning of the end came quickly for Ponte Vedra High’s football team in the first round of the Florida High School Athletic Association’s Class 6A playoffs.

For Nease, the ending came a day before the Class 8A playoffs started.

Ponte Vedra lost 14-0 at Lake City Columbia after the Tigers ran the opening kickoff back for a touchdown.

Meanwhile, Nease was forced to forfeit its game at Oakleaf after county officials

decided to shut the program down to follow contact tracing guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic.

The season started under a cloud of doubt, confusion and frustration. It closed in the same manner.

“It was brutal,” said Panthers coach Collin Drafts after Nease finished at 1-8. “It was already a tough year because we’re young and rebuilding. But this was really tough. The hardest thing I ever had to do as a coach was telling them we weren’t going

to play. To have your playoff game taken away the day before [kickoff] was brutal.

“We came away with battle scars in many different ways this year.”

Nease also had a game with Mandarin canceled out of concern for COVID-19.

Ponte Vedra started with four consecutive victories. Head coach Jeff DiSandro resigned unexpectedly and star quarterback Jacobi Myers’ season ended with a leg injury.

“We used eight different quarterbacks

this year,” Kessel said. “I’ve never seen anything like this.”

Kessel said the Sharks also were required to put as many as 45 players in quarantine after they may have been in contact with a classmate who may have been infected with the coronavirus.

“We didn’t have anyone test positive,” Kessel said. “But the rules are if you come into contact with anyone who may be

FOOTBALL continues on Page 29

Jaguars give Packers a scare before losing 24-20

By Mike Bonts

Special to the Recorder

Jacksonville Jaguars fell to Green Bay 24-20 at Lambeau Field last Sunday. But it was not an easy NFL victory for the Packers on a rainy and windy afternoon.

“I think if you watch the game, with the amount, with way the field position, with the way punting, with the way the kicking, the wind was swirling,” said Jaguars head coach Doug Marrone. “You know, normally...actually it was a cross-the-field wind which you don’t usually get here in Green Bay, so that was a little bit different. So, yes, it did have...at least for me, I felt it did influence the game.”

A touchdown drive and two defensive stops down the stretch helped Green Bay overcome mistakes that almost allowed one-win Jaguars to steal a road game.

Jacksonville quarterback Jake Luton completed 18-of-35 passes for 169 yards and one touchdown, a 12-yard strike to wide receiver Keelan Cole in the third quarter.

Cole returned a punt 91 yards for a score

in the second quarter, marking the longest punt return in franchise history and the longest punt return by any player in the NFL this season. Cole became the first player in club history to return a punt for a TD and catch a TD pass in the same game.

Jaguars’ running back James Robinson produced his third 100-yard rushing game of his career, finishing with 109 rushing yards on 23 carries.

The Jaguars (1-8) lost their eighth consecutive game, but were in this one until the end, primarily due to momentum-changing plays.

A fumble by Packers receiver Davante Adams that set up a TD pass to Cole early in the third quarter. And an interception by QB Aaron Rodgers that led to a go-ahead field goal early in the fourth quarter.

All that put the Jaguars up 20-17 and in position for the upset with 12:40 left.

“We played uncharacteristic in a few areas,” said Rodgers who finished with 325 passing yards.

Jaguars cornerback Sidney Jones finished with a career-high nine tackles and one interception.

It was Jones’ second pick this season and fourth of his career. He leads the Jaguars in that stat and one three players this season to intercept Rodgers.

Playing his first career regular season game in his home state, linebacker Joe Schobert finished tied for the team lead with nine tackles. The fifth-year Wisconsin product has started all nine games this season and leads the Jaguars with 71 tackles.

Jacksonville rookie defensive tackle DaVon Hamilton recorded his first career sack when he brought Rodgers down for an 8-yard loss in the second quarter.

“Knowing that we’ve got to knock out the run. I thought we did a good job. I thought we just made some mistakes with some of those runs. But I thought overall, it was good to see the defense looking like they were having some fun out there. I know we gave up plays. I understand that, but I thought they were playing physical,” Marrone said.

Jaguars’ cornerback CJ Henderson finished with three tackles and one forced fumble, marking the first forced fumble of his career. Linebacker Myles Jack recov-

ered the fumble and returned it 16 yards, which leading to Cole’s TD catch.

Jaguars’ kicker Chase McLaughlin connected on both of his field goal attempts in his first game with the Jaguars. McLaughlin’s first made field goal was from 52 yards as he improved to four of four on 50-yard field goals in his two seasons in the NFL.

McLaughlin is the sixth kicker to appear in a game for the Jaguars this season.

Adams’ go-ahead score didn’t close the door on the Jaguars, however.

Luton drove Jacksonville from its own 7 to midfield before three straight incomplete passes led to a punt.

Green Bay (7-2) couldn’t convert on third-and-1 with 2½ minutes left, though, giving the visitors one more shot, reaching the Green Bay 36-yard line. But back-to-back sacks by Rashan Gary and Preston Smith, put the Jaguars in fourth-and-26, which failed.

The Packers had survived an upset bid.

The Jaguars are home Sunday hosting the undefeated Pittsburgh Steelers. Kickoff is 1 p.m.

Boys

Continued from 28

school and college, began teaching at PVHS two years ago. When his students found out about his volleyball history, they begged him for the opportunity to play. So after being approached by the school’s athletic director and asked to start the new team, Diab did not hesitate.

“It is a historic time. If we can really get this going, we will have about six or seven high schools to play in the North Florida area,” said Diab. “We would have our own league and the state would recognize us as a division.”

The current roadblock for new members of the boys volleyball team at PVHS is that there is only one other boys team to play in the area, which is the St. Augustine high school, who also recently opened a boys team.

Out of the sixteen scheduled games set to begin in Feb. for the boys volleyball team, only two of them can legally be against St. Augustine. The other fourteen games require travelling to Ocala and Orlando.

“My goal is to convince Creekside’s athletic director, and Bartram’s athletic director, that it can be done without any



Photo provided by Tom Diab

Tom Diab, coach of the boys volleyball team at Ponte Vedra High School, stands with some players from the team.

extra burden on the department or the school,” said Diab.

The new team would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of people in the Ponte Vedra community, including parents of students and local businesses.

“The support has been outstanding,” said Diab, “more than I could ever imagine. Financially, mobility wise, physically. It’s amazing.”

Diab plans to work together with the

new boys volleyball coach in St. Augustine to provide a united front in their attempt to get the division off the ground.

“Maybe in the future the Duval schools will follow suit, but right now our goal is to get our own county established,” said Diab.

With plenty of boys showing up to the initial meeting, and Diab there to coach them through their first practices, the February volleyball season is sure to be one for the records.

Championship

Continued from 28

After losing the first set 25-17, Jensen Beach rallied in the second. But a couple unforced errors allowed the Sharks to win 25-21, and the third set – 25-16 – was little more than a formality.

“Usually in the second [set] you get a little push back,” Mignerey said. “You get in a groove and we saw that again. Jensen Beach was serving tougher, but they made some errors, especially in that third set, and that opened up the gap.”

Burkhardt, a senior outside hitter, had 12 kills on 28 total attacks. She also had 12 digs. Shattles, a sophomore setter, contributed 31 assists and 11 digs.

“We passed so good. That really played to our advantage,” Mignerey said. “Maybe they could have served tougher. I don’t know. They were making some misses that kind of helped us out. It opened up our confidence. They just couldn’t get anything going.”

Rachel Johnson had eight kills, while Lily Zeras led the team with 18 digs and Kendall Mignerey chipped in 10 digs.

Ponte Vedra also won championships in 2017 and 2019. Of their 27 victories, 26 were 3-0 sweeps.

Football

Continued from 28

positive, you have to self-isolate for two weeks.”

COVID-19 protocols and injuries sent the Sharks spiraling. Ponte Vedra finished

by losing five of its last six games.

“At the end, we were still highly-competitive,” Kessel said. “We fought to the bitter end. This was the strangest season because of all the different stuff that happened.”

“But at Ponte Vedra, we don’t make excuses. We had our chances.

At Nease, as many as 30 players also were required to quarantine during the season.

“I can honestly stand here and say at least we had a chance to play nine games,” Drafts said. “In the summer, we weren’t even sure we’d get that in. Some schools had to shut down their programs. At least

we had a chance to get out there for nine games.

“It’s a hard way for the season to end. But in the grand scheme of things, at least we played some football. I feel bad for the seniors. It’s not the way anyone wanted it to end.”

Even before it started.

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