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Recorder

January 28, 2021

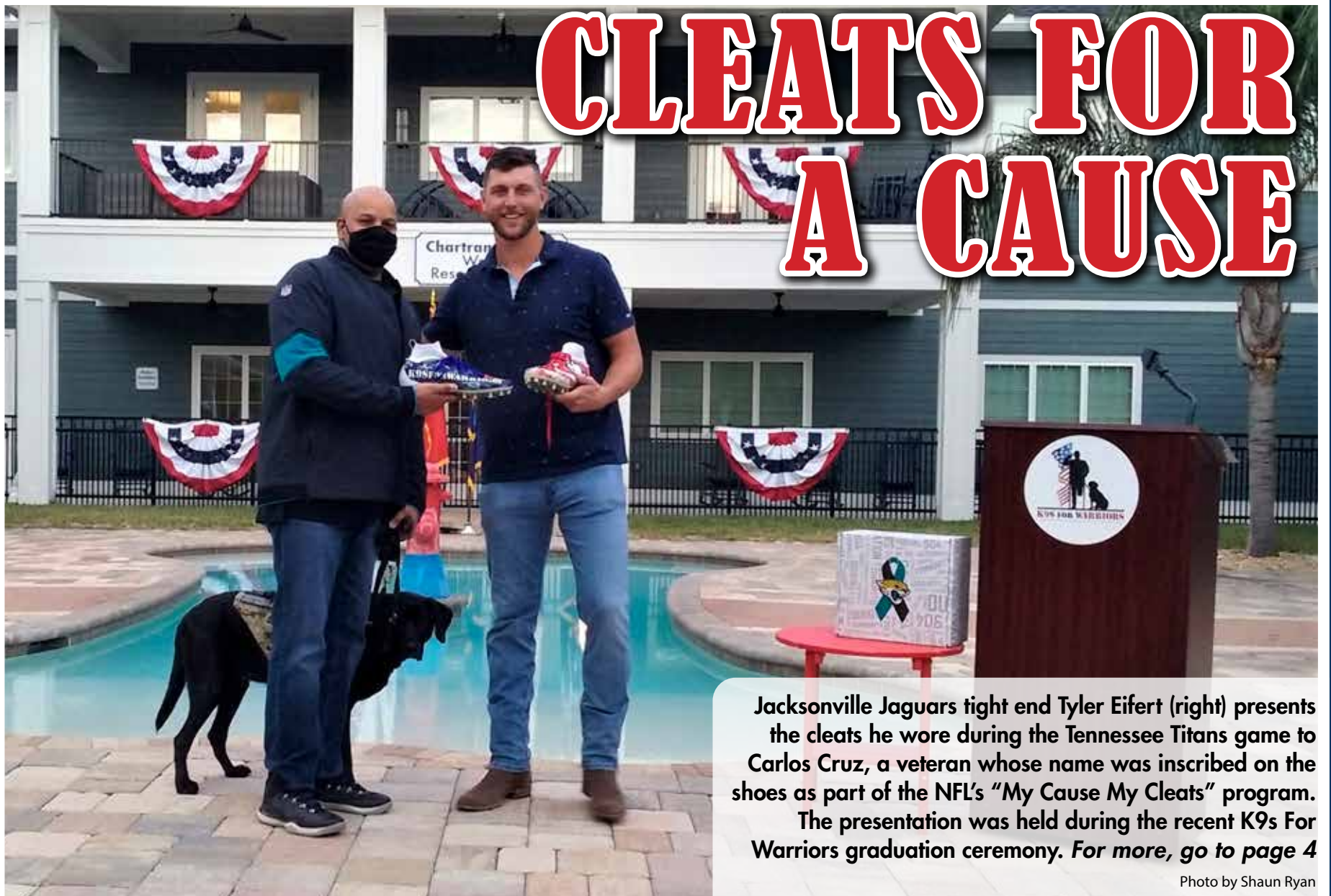
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CLEATS FOR A CAUSE



Jacksonville Jaguars tight end Tyler Eifert (right) presents the cleats he wore during the Tennessee Titans game to Carlos Cruz, a veteran whose name was inscribed on the shoes as part of the NFL's "My Cause My Cleats" program. The presentation was held during the recent K9s For Warriors graduation ceremony. For more, go to page 4

Photo by Shaun Ryan

What's Available NOW On **hulu**

Thank you to our first responders!

INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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

Sand Castles
LUXURY • LIFESTYLE • REAL ESTATE

Sand Castles

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Sports

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

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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 pvrecorder@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



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hello, my name is Watson. and I am a 6-year-old neutered male tree-walking coonhound. I would like to talk to all of you outdoorsy humans. I LOVE to be outside! It would be so fun to go run, walk, play and go on adventures with you. Now hold on, I am not fond of cats, but that's OK, we don't need them anyways (psssst ... they're lazy, but you didn't hear that from me). So come on down and meet me. I am sure we can keep each other motivated and active, and be the best of friends. #56980

CAT OF THE WEEK: There are no cats at this time, but that always changes.

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

State surgeon general announces residency requirement for COVID-19 vaccinations

The Florida state surgeon general issued a public health advisory on Jan. 21, that prioritizes Florida residents for COVID-19 vaccinations. As a result, to receive the COVID-19 vaccination from St. Johns County, recipients must be able to demonstrate Florida residency, as defined in Florida Statute 381.986(5)(b), or be an individual present in Florida for the

purpose of providing health care with direct patient contact. In addition, you must have an appointment, and be 65 years of age or older or a healthcare worker with direct patient contact. Residents receiving the COVID-19 vaccination must bring a valid Florida driver license or state ID. Individuals with an out-of-state ID should provide proof of residency or semi-permanent residency with the following:

- A deed, mortgage, monthly mortgage statement, or residential rental or lease agreement

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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Briefs

Continued from 2

- A utility bill or a utility hookup/work order dated within 60 days before the date of the vaccination appointment
 - Mail from a financial institution or federal, state, county, municipal government agency, not more than two months old
- Nonresidents currently residing in Florida with the purpose of providing health care with direct patient contact must provide proof of employment. Out-of-state individuals who received the vaccine through the St. Johns County Vaccination Program prior to Jan. 28, will have their second dose appointment honored. For more information, call the

St. Johns County COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline at (904) 295-3711 or go to www.sjcfcl.us/coronavirusvaccinations.

Frank Butler Park East temporarily closed for park improvements

Frank Butler Park East, including the beach walkover, horseback riding beach access and the parking lot, will be closed for improvements beginning Feb. 1. Phase one improvements will include additional parking spaces, parking lot surface improvements, beach walkover improvements and new landscaping. The park and all beach access is scheduled to reopen in March. Phase two of the project, scheduled for a date to be confirmed, will include renovating the bathrooms, adding ADA parking spaces and constructing sidewalks.

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For more information, contact Murray & Elise Beard: 904.465.2784 | MurrayBeard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

PLAYERS Championship attendance to be reduced to 20% of max capacity



Photo by Susan Griffin

Executive Director of THE PLAYERS Championship Jared Rice speaks to attendees at a St. Johns County Chamber luncheon Wednesday, Jan. 27, at TPC Sawgrass.

Tournament adapted in response to COVID-19

By Shaun Ryan

THE PLAYERS Championship will return this year with a \$15 million purse, despite the ongoing pandemic that shut down play on day one of the 2020 tournament.

This year, to safeguard the health of spectators and others, that will mean making special accommodations.

PLAYERS Championship Executive Director Jared Rice addressed those changes during a Chamber at Noon presentation Wednesday at the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse.

He said that, after the challenges of last year, “we immediately got focused on how we’d come back.”

“We’ve announced recently that the tour-

namment will have about 20% of our expected max capacity,” he told the audience.

In addition, attendees will be required to wear masks, watch their distance from others and wash their hands – the “three W’s,” as Rice put it.

There will also be a reduction in the hospitality venues. Those that will be open will be modified to have more open air, and seating will be adapted.

Corporate chalets will have modified layouts with a focus on social distancing and limited access.

However, the PGA Tour fan shop will still be open Friday through Sunday of advance week and during the tournament week.

According to Rice, social digital channels and telecasts will be important for those who are unable to attend in person. He said

PLAYERS continues on Page 8

Jaguars’ Eifert helps K9s For Warriors honor most recent graduating class

By Shaun Ryan

Calling veterans “America’s true heroes,” Jacksonville Jaguars tight end Tyler Eifert honored the most recent K9s For Warriors graduating class during a ceremony Thursday, Jan. 21.

Prior to the graduation, the former Cincinnati Bengal and University of Notre Dame All-American had an opportunity to tour the campus and see firsthand the work being done by the organization that he has actively supported for the past three years.

“They’re saving people’s lives, our veterans’ lives,” Eifert said. “It’s awesome.”

K9s For Warriors is the nation’s largest provider of service dogs for disabled veterans. Its team rescues and trains shelter dogs and pairs them with veterans who may have experienced post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury or military sexual trauma.

The graduations signify the moment a veteran has completed the training portion of that pairing. Thursday’s event brought to 650 the number of veterans who have successfully completed the program.

During the ceremony, Eifert presented past graduate Carlos Cruz with a pair of cleats bearing the 20-year U.S. Army veteran’s name, as well as the name of Cruz’s service dog, Hannah. Eifert wore the

cleats during the Jaguars’ Sept. 20 game against the Tennessee Titans — the first NFL game Cruz had attended and the one in which Eifert made his first touchdown for the team.

Eifert selected K9s For Warriors as his organization in the NFL’s “My Cause My Cleats” program, which gives players a chance to honor the causes they are passionate about and raise money for those causes.

Cruz expressed appreciation for Eifert’s support of veterans.

“He stands for really good stuff that I believe in, being retired military, being law enforcement while I was in the military,” said Cruz. “It was really hard to see all the things going on throughout the summer, all the bad things, all the negativity that was going on. But he stood for everything that I believe in.”

Eifert was also honored at the ceremony. K9s For Warriors CEO Rory Diamond presented him the organization’s first-ever Champion For Veterans award, recognizing Eifert for a published letter he wrote explaining why he chose to stand for the National Anthem at the start of each game.

“It’s incredibly awesome to have him here and to share his platform and help promoting K9s For Warriors nationwide,” Diamond said. “He’s got fans in every state, so it’s great.”



ABOVE: Jacksonville Jaguars tight end Tyler Eifert speaks during the recent K9s For Warriors graduation ceremony.



LEFT: The cleats worn by Eifert during the Tennessee Titans game are seen on a table at the recent K9s For Warriors graduation ceremony. The shoes signify Eifert’s choosing of the organization for his cause in the NFL’s “My Cause My Cleats” program.

Photos provided by K9s For Warriors

The organization is growing. In addition to its Ponte Vedra headquarters, K9s For Warriors has a campus in Gainesville and is building another in San Antonio, Texas.

As for Eifert, he’ll have a new head coach when the Jaguars begins its season

this year: Urban Meyer, who coached the Gators from 2005 to 2010.

“It’s exciting,” Eifert said. “I’m sure he’ll bring energy and maybe a new spark to this team. The team’s not far off. We’re really close.”

Solana, La Pasada intersection to be changed

Work is expected to begin this spring on a project to reconfigure the intersection at Solana Road and La Pasada Circle.

The Solana Road Safety Improvement Project will convert the intersection at La Pasada Circle into a right-turn-in and right-turn-out entrance. Turn lanes on State Road A1A will be extended to accommodate traffic.

The purpose of the project is improve safety in that area. Solana Road is known for high truck counts and collisions. The new configuration will reduce the potential for collisions and decrease the truck count on the road.

In addition, the roadway will be resurfaced.

During the work, motorists should expect to see temporary lane closures and lane shifts, as well as traffic detours

with signage for homes and businesses in the area. There may also be intermittent roadway obstructions during construction. Work on the project is expected to be complete in the summer.

Cost of the project is estimated at \$500,000.

For more information, email dramdass@sjefl.us or call (904) 209-0145.



Wounded Warrior Project holds a paddleboarding experience for veterans on Jan. 21 in St. Augustine.

WWP helps veterans bond over paddleboarding

Wounded Warrior Project held its stand-up paddleboard event Jan. 21 in St. Augustine to allow veterans in the program a chance to get out on the water and spend time with others.

The 10 veterans were able to maintain more than six feet of distance while still bonding with fellow veterans, enjoying each other's company and the exercise that comes with paddling on the Salt Run near Anastasia Island.

Navy veteran Leo Yui, who fell in love with paddleboarding through WWP, now helps other veterans in the program embrace the activity.

"The reason I can help out is because somebody else helped me the same way," Yui said. "A year and a half ago, they introduced me to paddleboarding, and ever since then, the minute I got to it, I started volunteering to help out and share the experience with other veterans in order for them to feel what I felt the first time."

WWP provides a variety of veterans programs and services aimed at helping veterans improve their physical and mental health, as well as providing experiences and networking.

Being with other veterans was a big factor for Navy veteran Misty Taylor, who attended the paddleboard event.

"It was beautiful," Taylor said of the experience. "Going around looking for marine life, chit chatting. Anytime I'm out with other veterans, I do feel a lot better because I feel safe, and this allows me to really interact with people because when I'm home, I don't. I'm really isolated."



Photos provided by Wounded Warrior Project

Also, just being on the water and outdoors is a boost to the spirits.

"Being on the water is very peaceful," Yui said. "It's good for the mind and the body. To me, being able to paddleboard with other warriors,

the water is just the connection that brings us together."

For more information on the Wounded Warriors Project and the programs it offers, go to www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

State provides \$1.49 million to develop approach to flood planning

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) and five other regional planning councils in Florida will soon receive \$1.49 million from the state to develop a cohesive statewide approach to flood planning.

The three-year project will provide a framework for municipalities across the state to create disaster models, prepare actionable strategies and determine how to prioritize and fund mitigation projects.

The funding is part of nearly \$20 million in community development block grant mitigation planning dollars awarded by the state Department of Economic Opportunity to 37 municipalities, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations.

The regional planning councils will share information and build templates for municipalities around the state to use in developing mapping, models and mitigation plans to address flooding challenges in their respective areas.

"This will be a highly impactful project in helping to make Florida more resilient to flooding," said Beth Payne, the NEFRC's chief executive officer. "With so much of our region vulnerable to the effects of sea level rise and coastal flooding, the NEFRC has been focused on resiliency for years. This project is designed to help counties not just in our region but around the state, including inland areas where major rain events cause serious problems."

The Northeast Florida Regional Council will take the lead on organizing data. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council will take the lead on the technical work related to the project, and the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council will act as project manager.

The work will also involve assistance from the state's other regional planning councils.

"The resiliency of the state of Florida remains a top priority for my administration as we approach the two-year anniversary of my executive order to achieve more now for Florida's environment," said Gov. Ron DeSantis. "I'm pleased to build on our environmental achievements with this first-of-its-kind mitigation program that will provide Florida's communities the opportunity to become more resilient to future storms."

Through Rebuild Florida, local governments and municipalities have access to resources necessary to bolster their community's resiliency to future disasters. For more information, go to RebuildFlorida.gov.

Rachel Lazzara is a Dallas native, who relocated to Jacksonville Beach in 2014. She is the owner of TWO | ONE | FOUR by Rachel Lazzara, an ultra curated boutique featuring women's ready-to-wear, shoes and accessories inspired by the city lifestyle of the Dallas woman. She currently lives at The Beaches with her family.

Rachel Lazzara

As told to Holly Tishfield

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, and attended SMU there as well. I spent most of my college summers working in the fashion industry, interning as a buyer or stylist, and working retail at local boutiques. The fashion industry in Dallas is incredibly hard to break into, and most jobs have you working for next to nothing. I had some incredible mentors along the way that really helped guide me. Eventually I landed as the marketing director for the West Village Shopping and Dining District in Uptown and was able to make use of my advertising and marketing degree. I also learned the ins and outs of commercial leasing and tenant relations, which came in handy when I decided to open my own business. Throughout everything, I always knew my end goal was to own my own boutique. When I met my husband and ended up moving to Jacksonville to be with him, I saw that there was so much potential for growth here and I went for it!

What do you enjoy most about your role?

There are so many reasons why I love what I do! Helping someone feel good about themselves is one of the best things about my job. Not to mention, all the women I have met who come through my door. But more than that, is the creative outlet that it gives me. Getting to see trends before anyone else, mixing and matching and pairing everything together, seeing a garment and knowing exactly which client it would be for is what I truly love.

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

On the client side, we are trying to figure out what people are dressing for. We used to be known for our fabulous dresses and event wear, however since COVID, we have really had to pivot and reevaluate some of our brands. Comfort was the main style of 2020, however we are seeing a slight shift now back to more elevated pieces and even some event wear. On the wholesale side, we are struggling with canceled orders and delayed shipments from our vendors. With many of our lines coming from overseas, a lot of the warehouses they ship from have been severely affected from the lockdowns. Even our domestic lines out of California and New York have had to cancel or delay shipments. It has been a challenge to find merchandise that can ship immediately, which is not easy.



Photo by Holly Tishfield

What are your primary roles/responsibilities?

When I first opened the business, I wore all the hats: buyer, sales associate, personal shopper, social media coordinator, you name it. After having my first child I was forced to delegate more and focus my time mostly on the buying and operations. I have hired a great team of like-minded women who have helped me tremendously. Their hard work enables me to be the best business owner/wife/mom that I can be!

What do you enjoy most about living in the area?

Business-wise, I love that Jacksonville

is not a heavily saturated retail market yet. There is still so much opportunity and new brands to bring here. The community of boutiques at the beach is very tight knit and it's nice that we all can all offer our customers something different. Coming from Dallas, I have come to enjoy the laid back nature and slower pace here. I'm also a beach person, so it has been so nice living so close to the ocean!

What are your goals for your company/business in the future?

In the short term my goal is to gain more awareness. We still have first-time customers coming in all the time. In the

long term with raising two girls, I would love to be able to keep my business open long enough to share this with them. It is such a passion of mine and it would be so much fun to get them involved.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Currently with my husband and I both owning our own companies, running after my toddler (... and dog ... and new bunny!), with another child on the way this February, I don't get a lot of free time! However, when I do, I love to take a golf cart ride with my family, or grab dinner with my girlfriends. I am also a huge TV watcher after the kiddo is down!

PVPV RAWLINGS STUDENTS LAUNCH BEACH CLEANUP IN HONOR OF MLK DAY



Photo provided by Naoko Fukushima

PVPV Rawlings students took to the beach on Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Monday, Jan. 18, to make a difference in their community. Fourth-graders Charlie Fischer and Morgan Caffrey and first-grader Gavin Caffrey spent a couple of hours of the holiday picking up plastic bags, beer cans and other trash littering Ponte Vedra Beaches, and were even able to rescue some turtles in the process.



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Sophisticated Coastal Luxury

A masterpiece of design and craftsmanship, this custom beach home 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 Offered at \$3,600,000**



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 \$1,150,000**



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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Atlantic Beach Retreat

Ideally located in Atlantic Beach, this 3-story townhome 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**



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OBITUARIES

Carrie Cloud

Carrie Cloud, 77, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, passed away on January 15, 2021, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, from COVID-19 complications.



Carrie Cloud

On Friday, February 5, 2021, the family of Carrie will be receiving friends and family from 4:00 – 5:00 pm with a short Memorial Service beginning at 5:00. A livestream of the entire service may be accessed at the funeral home website of Ponte Vedra Valley, directly on Carrie's obituary page: <https://www.pontevedravalley.com/obituaries/carolyn-cloud>. Carrie's wishes were to be cremated. Her ashes will be scattered with her husband's, Duane Cloud, in the Florida Keys so they can go snorkeling together again after his passing.

Carrie was born October 9, 1943, the daughter of Bertha and Leon Tiemann in Warsaw, IL. She graduated from Warsaw High School. Carrie was united in marriage to William Duane Cloud on Dec. 22, 1962, in Keokuk, IA, in the middle of a beautiful snowstorm. They were blessed to celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary together at one of their favorite restaurants, right before she fell ill with COVID-19.

Carrie was a teacher's aide in the Fort Madison elementary school system. She retired from her profession when she and Duane moved to Florida. Her passions included: taking care of her family—al-

ways a hot meal together at dinner, favorite "race" day breakfasts, cheering her daughters on at their sporting events—she was their number one fan. Carrie was also a talented artist. She first starting painting on driftwood and then changed her medium to painting on glass windows. She shared her love of holidays with others, decorating to the nines as well as dressing up for every holiday. She was a member of the Palm Valley Baptist Church.

When Carrie's dementia progressed, she moved into the Memory Care of Harbor Chase in October 2018. She enjoyed playing bingo (SHE was the BINGO BABE!), dancing, coloring, and exercising with her fellow residents. Her caretakers did a wonderful job of taking care of her and loving her up. Special thanks to Dana, Lawanda, Karen, DeeDee and Connie of Harbor Chase.

Carrie was a loving wife, mother, sister, and aunt. She is survived by her husband, Duane Cloud; her daughters, Kristan (Ed) Malin of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, Brenda (Greg) Cloud of Cedar Rapids, IA; sisters, Ruth (Joe) Rose, Theresa (Buck) Cameron; brothers, Bill (Sue) Tiemann, Tom (Mary Jane) Tiemann; and many nieces and nephews that she dearly loved and was always the "fun aunt." She is also survived by one brother-in-law, Steve (Connie) Cloud. She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Bud (Donnie) and Dick (Bea) Tiemann; two sisters, Charlotte Betts, Shirley Glover; and two very special aunts to her Irma Fleming and Helen Kraushaar. She was also preceded in death by her in-laws, Bill and Doris Cloud; as well as one sister-in-law, Anita Corvia.

In honor of Carrie, we invite you to celebrate all holidays with her spirited love for all holidays in mind. Memorials may be made to a foundation to help support those going through breast cancer treatment: Two Titmice Foundation (TwoTitmiceFoundation.com) or the Dementia Association. (www.dementiasociety.org/)



Guy DiCarlo III

Guy DiCarlo III, passed away suddenly on January 17, 2021. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio on June 23, 1960 to Guy and Patricia DiCarlo. He moved to Davie, Florida in 1987 and lived there until 2017 when he moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.



Guy DiCarlo III

He is survived by his best friend and loving wife, Gloria DiCarlo; children, PFC Christopher DiCarlo, US Army, Tyler DiCarlo, Marisa Street, and Crista Street; father, Guy DiCarlo, Jr., of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL; sister, Lisa McColpin (Larry) of Williamsburg, VA; two grandchildren that he loved, Brennen and Kayleah Nhon; and many nephews and nieces.

Guy loved sports, he was a lifelong fan of the Cleveland Indians, Cleveland Browns, and The Ohio State University Buckeyes. Everyone would know where Guy would be on Saturday afternoon during the fall, sitting on the couch watching the Buckeyes play. He coached his children's various sport teams as they grew up. He enjoyed playing golf and softball.

Guy enjoyed spending quality time with his family and friends. Everyone who met Guy knew him as a kind soul with a big heart. He would do anything for anyone at any time.

The family will be receiving friends from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Saturday, January 30, 2021, at Ponte Vedra Valley. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the American Heart Association. Please sign the online guestbook at www.pontevedravalley.com



Gary Winter

Gary Winter, 49, passed away unexpectedly on January 21, 2021. Born February 23, 1971, Gary grew up in Parsippany, New Jersey, and moved to Jacksonville, Florida in 1987. He lived in Tennessee and



Gary Winter

Minnesota for several years, before settling into his forever home of Atlantic Beach, Florida in 2001.

Gary relished his career at Sawgrass Country Club as the Director of Maintenance for the past 9 years and 6 years prior at Selva Marina. His personality and infectious laughter were well-known throughout the community. Gary knew no strangers, only new friends. Gary's love for adventure brought him around the world sailing in the Engine Department of the U.S. Merchant Marines. He always had a story to tell or a prank to play, no matter what the situation warranted, and everyone was guaranteed a good laugh. Gary was a most generous man, always willing to help whenever needed. He enjoyed spending quality time with family and friends making memories. Gary met Agnes, the love of his life, working at the TPC Sawgrass in 2002. Together, they began their life as husband and wife in Atlantic Beach and welcomed a son, Andrew in 2009. Gary cherished Andrew and was so proud of their time spent with the Bolles School family.

Gary is survived by his wife Agnes of 17 years, 11-year-old son Andrew; sister Cindy Winter and niece Alexis of Aledo, Texas; and in-laws Herb and Lucy Anderson of Venice, Florida. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clare and Jack Winter. Gary was a loving father, husband, brother, uncle, son-in-law and friend to everyone.

A Celebration of Life for Gary Winter will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 20, 2021 at Sawgrass Country Club. The exact location to follow. In lieu of flowers, anyone wishing to honor Gary Winter can make a donation to Andrew Winter's 529 College Savings Plan. Gifts can be made to www.ugift529.com, Ugift Code N78-W92 for Andrew Winter, either electronically or by mail. Please visit the Tribute online at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Family Funeral Home.



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PLAYERS

Continued from 4

some restaurants may be planning watch parties.

"What won't change is that we'll have this tournament telecast to over 200 countries, 2 billion households," he said. "And those cutaways of that telecast show our community and how great of a place it is to live, work and play."

He said the players are excited about returning and that Rory Mellroy, who won the tournament in 2019, is technically the longest defending champion of THE PLAYERS.

Tickets for those who have attended in the past will be available on Monday, Feb. 1. On Feb. 16, tickets will be offered to the general public.

The tournament, to be held at the TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course, is scheduled for March 9-14 this year with play commencing after two practice days. Further information is available at theplayers.com.

Rice expressed his hope that the tournament will be able to return to pre-COVID conditions in 2022.

The Chamber at Noon event was conducted by the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Sand Castles

LUXURY * LIFESTYLE * REAL ESTATE

Inside this section:

- Market Watch: Ponte Vedra's mortgage trend
- Recipe Spotlight: "No Mess, No Stress" sheet pan dinners
- Jaguars likely to get boost from Meyer, Lawrence
- Travel Spotlight: Checking out Graceland
- A look at some amazing local listings

JANUARY 28, 2021

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Recorder

Welcome to Sand Castles: Before & After issue



Janet Westling
Contributing Editor

Welcome to Sand Castles and to 2021. As we leave behind 2020 and focus on the New Year, we can be grateful for many things.

I think we can all agree that we are grateful for where we live. I used to have a saying that Ponte Vedra Beach is Florida's best kept secret, but not anymore.

With our favorable tax rates, beautiful beaches and warm climate, it is easy to understand the migration to our coast. And our St. Johns County schools are consistently ranked in the top tier of school districts statewide.

According to Fox Business, "Florida saw nearly 1,000 people moving here

daily." That is good news for real estate.

In this, our Before & After issue, we hear from several of the top Realtors in our community who share stories of their great listings.

Mortgage banker David Johnson with Ameris Bank weighs in on the state of the market in his Market Watch.

Food columnist Alice Hickox shares her recipes for "No Mess, No Stress" sheet pan dinners,

Jennifer Logue traveled to Graceland over Christmas and writes about her amazing visit.

A new addition to Sand Castles is a sports column by The Jacksonville

Jaquars' Brian Sexton on the inside story of new head coach Urban Meyer and an owner who wants to win!

In closing, our home is our castle, and at the beach it is our castle in the sand.

From palm trees to sand dunes, golf courses to resort living, Ponte Vedra Beach and the Beaches communities offer the most desirable real estate in Northeast Florida!

Janet Westling, REALTOR, GRI, CIPS
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty
Sand Castles creator and contributing editor
Award-winning section
www.janetwestling.com

MARKET WATCH

Ponte Vedra Beach residential mortgage trend

By David Johnson
Mortgage Banker, Ameris Bank

The following Ponte Vedra Beach mortgage market trend article discusses the good refinance market, continuing low interest rates, increased conforming loan amounts, causes for increased property

value and continued high demand for Ponte Vedra Beach real estate. Hint, the Ponte Vedra Beach housing and mortgage market forecast is sunny.

REFINANCE RALLY

As we enter 2021, there does not appear to be headwinds slowing the residential re-

finance market. Rates continue to be historically low for the classic rate and term refinance. Rate and term refinances offer lower interest rate and mortgage payment for the homeowner than the current home mortgage. Increasing home values create nice equity positions for cash out refinances. Cash out refinances access equity in the home for the homeowner to use for any number of reasons such as home remodel, college expenses and boat ownership among other useful reasons. Both refinance types are popular and will continue as rates remain low.

LOW INTEREST RATES

Low rates, increasing values and high demand are driving the Ponte Vedra Beach and Northeast Florida real estate market. Great news for sellers is the continued trend of demand outpacing supply, and the joyous outcome of increasing sales prices. Historically low interest rates are contributing to the positive home sales market because more diverse income levels can qualify. Although it's impossible to predict the future of interest rates, most analysts agree they will stay low. Any doubters need only look at Fed Chairman Jerome Powell saying the Fed rate will stay near 0% until 2023. Federal fund rate remaining near 0% is contributing to the 2021 real-estate bull run.

Higher Loan Limit: Another exciting mortgage trend update for 2021 is the increased conforming loan amount from \$510,400 to \$548,250 — a 7.5% loan amount increase since 2020. The increase is justified due to a 7% national home-value increase over the past 12 months. In the high property-value Ponte Vedra Beach market, this is good news.



With a 20% down payment the higher loan amount means any \$680,000 sales price qualifies as a Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac loan amount. Conventional Fannie and Freddie conforming loan amounts offer favorable underwriting guidelines and interest rates for buyers compared to Portfolio Jumbo loans.

Like low interest rates, the increased loan amount will help more people qualify for mortgages at better terms.

MIGRATING AMERICANS

Finally, one more positive trend for the Ponte Vedra Beach housing and mortgage market is increasingly motivated American migration patterns. The continued phenomena of massive Rust Belt and Northeast relocations is driving up home prices and sales in many sunbelt states, benefitting our local market. Hundreds of thousands of Americans continue to relocate to Florida and surrounding states. For varying reasons, people have decided to move themselves and family. A recent example reported by the USPS noted that from March 1 to Oct. 31, 2020, New York City residents filed 295,103 change-of-address requests. It is safe to say tens of thousands moved to Florida. Northeast Florida is seeing an influx of upwardly mobile, wealthy, telecommuting professionals and families. Ponte Vedra Beach schools are top tier for the state, and along with a business-friendly, tax-friendly environment, booming economy and high quality of life has created an oasis for relocating Americans.

In conclusion the forecast is positive for the Ponte Vedra Beach mortgage market regardless if you are buying or refinancing.



**INTERESTED IN
REFINANCING?
LET'S TALK.**

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David Johnson
Mortgage Banker, NMLS# 1446956
C: 386.288.7117
amerisbank.com/davidjohnson
david.johnson@amerisbank.com



All loans subject to credit approval.

RECIPE SPOTLIGHT

'No Mess, No Stress' sheet pan dinners



Alice Hickox
Lettuce Do Dinner

Think those sheet pans were just for baking up holiday cookies and treats? Think again!

It's time to break them out and start this new year off with simplicity, clean eating and a whole bunch of deliciousness.

Who's with me?

They are so quick, easy and approachable, that even those of you who don't find cooking dinner your favorite part of the day will actually love how simple and easy these can be. So many ingredients to include can also come pre-prepped, such as veggies that are already cut to size and washed, making these sheet-pan dinners all that much easier. I love it when simple feels so fancy!

The other beauty of sheet-pan dinners is all the fun combinations of proteins, veggies and starches that are almost limitless. Not eating meat? Leave it out! Trying to include seafood a few times a week? Try a sheet pan with shrimp and asparagus with a delicious lemon scampi sauce. Make a sheet pan of roasted vegetables to enjoy all week as a side dish. They can be adapted to fit any eating plan you may be following, or maybe you just want a delicious stress-free meal that can be cooked all together on one pan, making clean-up a breeze.

So what are you in the mood for dinner tonight? Choose your flair ... a little Greek or Asian — maybe Mexican, or a simple sheet pan with all the veggies and protein tossed in a little olive oil and basic seasonings of salt, pepper and garlic powder. I mean it when I say that the options are limitless — you will not get bored!

One of my family favorites is the honey-Dijon chicken and vegetables. Here's what I can tell you about this recipe: When you smother chopped chicken breast, crispy potatoes and tender broccoli in a sweet-and-tangy honey-mustard sauce, you know you've got something good on your hands.

This one-pan dinner perfection is a dream for busy weeknights or nights when you just don't want to cause much of a stir in the kitchen.

Here's how it comes together: Toss everything on a sheet pan, roast until the vegetables are caramelized and the chicken is tender, then pile the mix into shallow bowls to catch the sauce. There's no need for a side dish — this is a complete meal as-is. Just gather around the table, grab the forks and napkins and dig in!



SHEET PAN HONEY-DIJON CHICKEN AND VEGETABLES

(Serves 4/ Prep: 10 min/ Cook time: 30 minutes)

- ½ cup honey
- ¼ cup Dijon mustard
- 2 tbsp. whole-grain mustard
- 1 tbsp. white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp. sea salt, divided
- ½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pound small red or Dutch baby potatoes
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 ½ pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts or cutlets, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 pound broccoli, cut into bite-size florets
- 1 small red onion, cut into 1-inch pieces

INSTRUCTIONS

Arrange a rack in the middle of oven and heat to 425 F. Place a rimmed baking sheet in the oven while it is heating. (Yes, heat your sheet pan first!)

Whisk the honey, Dijon, whole-grain mustard, vinegar, pepper and ½ tsp. of the salt in a small bowl; set aside.

Wash potatoes and dry, then cut each small potato in half. Place potatoes, 1 tbsp. of the oil and 1 tsp. of salt in a large bowl and toss to combine. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and arrange potatoes in a single layer, cut side down. Return to the oven and roast for 15 minutes. Meanwhile,

place the chicken, broccoli, red onion, remaining 1 tbsp. of oil and 1 tsp. of salt in the same bowl and toss to combine.

After 15 minutes, remove baking sheet from oven and add the chicken, broccoli and red onion to the baking sheet. Pour half of the honey-Dijon mixture over the chicken and vegetables and toss to evenly coat them in sauce. Spread chicken and veggies into a single layer.

Roast for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven, toss with the remaining honey-Dijon mixture, and spread back into an even layer. Roast until the chicken is cooked through and the vegetables are tender, about 5 minutes more.

Another absolute favorite and quite possibly the easiest sheet pan dinner ever is baked shrimp scampi with asparagus. Roasting shrimp is one of my favorite methods to produce evenly cooked shrimp in just 6-8 minutes, and the hands-off method is foolproof and SO easy! Asparagus cooks up equally as quick, and more importantly, your shrimp scampi sauce is also created all in one pan!

SHEET-PAN SHRIMP SCAMPI WITH ASPARAGUS

(Serves 4/ Prep: 5 minutes/ Cook: 11 minutes)

Asparagus and tomatoes:

- 1 pound thin/ medium asparagus, chopped into 1-inch pieces
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes (optional)
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped or minced
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper

Shrimp:

- 1 pound medium uncooked shrimp, shelled and deveined, tails off
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tbsp. fresh squeezed lemon juice
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. each - paprika, onion powder, dried basil
- ¼ tsp. red pepper flakes
- Dash of fresh ground black pepper
- 4-8 tbsp. butter - cubed (8 tbsp. if serving with pasta, 4 if serving without)



- Fresh chopped parsley
- Fresh grated parmesan

Serve with:

- 1 pound linguini (or other pasta)
- Zucchini noodles (Zoodles)
- Rice
- Bread

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 400.F. Line a sheet pan with foil and lightly spray with cooking spray. Add tomatoes and asparagus, olive oil, garlic and S&P, toss and line in a single layer. Roast for 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, add all of the shrimp ingredients to a medium bowl EXCEPT butter, and stir evenly to combine.

Remove pan and push tomatoes and asparagus to one side of the pan. Add shrimp and line in a single layer.

Top asparagus with 1 tbsp. cubed butter. Top shrimp with 4-8 tbsp. cubed butter, (depending on how much sauce you want to create) evenly spaced. Roast for 6 minutes or just until shrimp are opaque.

Remove from oven and garnish with more fresh squeezed lemon, fresh parsley and parmesan cheese.

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Photos provided by Marsha Keller

Beautiful lot offers perfect opportunity to build dream home

By Marsha Keller

Have you always wanted to live the Ponte Vedra Beach lifestyle and build the home of your dreams? Here is your chance!

Situated across the street from the beach, you'll enjoy your morning coffee with stunning Guana Lake views and the calming sound of crashing waves. With almost two acres of beautiful mature trees, you will have plenty of privacy. This property includes 150 feet on the lakefront, so you can spend hours fishing or kayaking right out your back door while

taking in the private preserve wildlife and views. The lot is cleared, prepped, and ready for you.

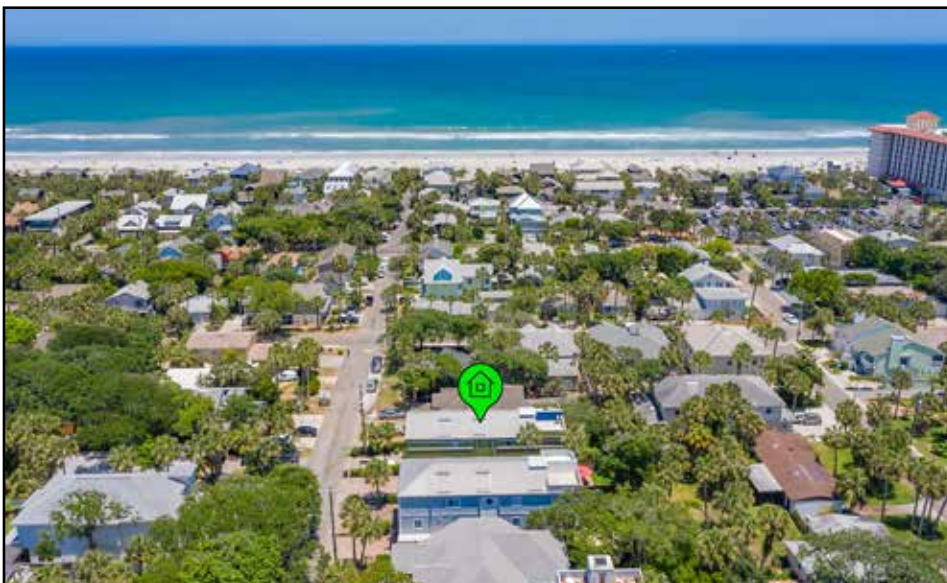
With this home site, located at 1334 Ponte Vedra Blvd., you can bring your plans and builder with no building time constraints. Or, if you don't have a builder or project planned, Brandon Construction, a premier Ponte Vedra waterfront builder, is prepped and ready to build. Plans have already been drawn up and the St. Johns County clearance permit has already been issued for this stunning 4,110-square-foot contemporary Content Architecture + Interiors-designed home. It offers first-

floor block construction, four bedrooms, three and a half bathrooms and a three-car garage. The structure will have a deep pile foundation, gym or flex room. The large master bedroom has spacious walk-in closets, an automated screen system, premium appliances, pool allowance, elevator and a third-floor terrace deck. The home price also includes \$310,000 in allowances for owner selections and finishes. This home is designed to maximize the Guana Preserve views from every floor and provide ocean views from the third-floor terrace.

Just like the foundation of a good home,

Brandon Construction LLC is built on the solid groundwork of experience, a sturdy team framework and designs that prioritize you as the client. Since 2004, its team of highly skilled craftspeople and project managers have thoughtfully crafted homes that reflect each client's needs. Over the years, it has earned a superior reputation throughout Northeast Florida for high-quality work, timeliness and client satisfaction.

You will find building your dream home on this spectacular lot enjoyable. Call the Lisa Barton Team to learn more about starting your dream home today!



Photos provided by Jennifer Sexton

Atlantic Beach townhome boasts incredible location in \$700K's

By Jennifer Sexton

Only three flip-flop blocks to the sand and two blocks to the lively Beaches Town Center, the location of this three-story townhome couldn't be better! Enjoy sun-drenched days, a stroll for coffee and the casual beach lifestyle in this spacious home in the heart of Atlantic Beach. Relish in all the reasons to live in this wonderful community, from having beach cruisers replace cars on the weekends to baggies and flip flops being considered appropriate attire.

Welcome to 330 2nd St. in Atlantic

Beach. Featuring superior concrete construction and a brand, new roof, you can rest easy in 2,959 square feet with three bedrooms plus a loft, two powder rooms and two full bathrooms. And don't let the three-story layout deter you: There's a dedicated closet specifically designed for an elevator with access to each level.

The ground level features a foyer, a half bath, the main living room with a fireplace, wet bar and a sliding glass door leading to the zen-like fenced-in backyard. This very private area has both a covered patio and an artificial turf area, which is beautifully landscaped. Ditch the

lawn mower because this yard is basically maintenance free! An above-ground hot tub, a private outdoor shower and rooftop deck are the perfect complements to outdoor living in this home. The first level also has a storage room that leads to the oversized one-car garage and carport for additional parking.

The second level is the main living area of the home. An open kitchen boasts all stainless-steel appliances and has an island perfect for food prepping. The kitchen conveniently overlooks the dining area and just down the hall is a second half bath, a laundry area, loads of storage

space and an open loft space. This loft space could be a second living room, an office, a workout space or a game room. The third level features two guest rooms, a full bath and the master retreat. Enjoy the peaceful environment of the master suite, which is positioned away from the main living areas on the third level. The serene master bath features a soaking tub, a walk-in shower and a double vanity. The perfect place to end your day!

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Jennifer Sexton and offered at \$760,000.

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150 TWELVE OAKS LN



1197 PONTE VEDRA BLVD



3935 DUVAL DRIVE



63 37TH AVE S



1089 PONTE VEDRA BLVD



13940 MANDARIN RD



1109 PONTE VEDRA BLVD



101 PLANTATION CIR S



92 PONTE VEDRA COLONY.



1193 PONTE VEDRA BLVD

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Our brokerage Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty honored each of us with their Chairman's Circle award & named Elizabeth

Top Producer

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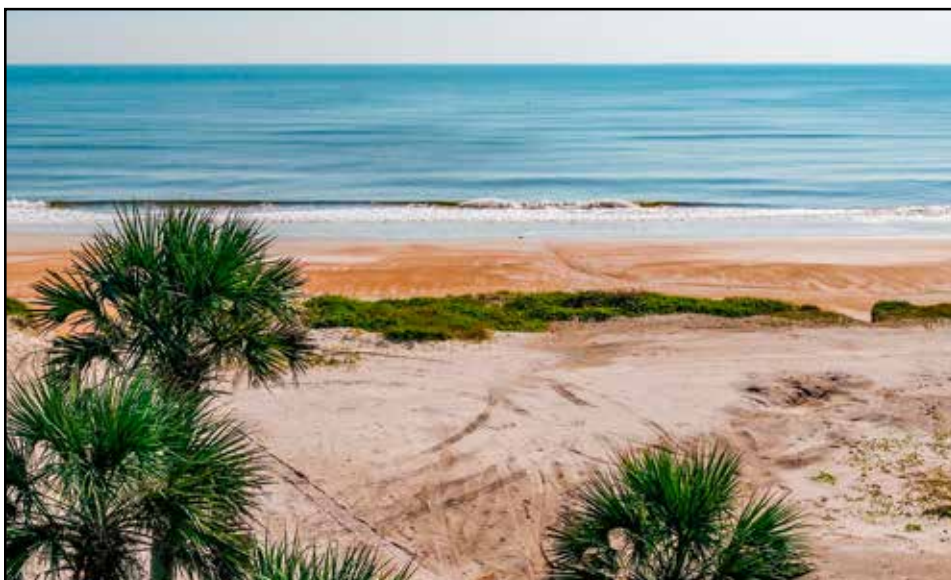


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FROM COTTAGES TO CASTLES



Photos provided by CiCi Anderson

Live the beach lifestyle, and make it pay off for you

By CiCi Anderson

People have always gravitated to the water. There is something about it that changes one's view of life – the tranquility of the ocean and the wonders of all that lies below the surface.

Living at the beach brings a sort of vibrancy to one's life ... the salty air, the big blue sky, the ever-present wildlife and most of all being on the edge, where life on land meets life under sea. Sitting along the Atlantic Ocean, just over the Intra-coastal and right by the renowned Mayo Clinic, is Ponte Vedra Beach in Northeast

Florida, where a tempered climate and enhanced quality of life makes it one of the best places to live. And if you're going to do it, do it being on the edge sitting atop 30-foot dunes looking down to the vast Atlantic Ocean. This is 965 Ponte Vedra Blvd. A unique home setting with 200-feet of frontage and almost two acres of private living ... your beach on the beach! Offered at \$4.1 million, this is a unique place for any lifestyle buyer.

How to get there? With no state income tax and no personal property tax, in many cases the tax savings pays for your living expenses making it a net-zero move while

adding more to your personal income each year. Add in lower energy costs, traffic that moves and a generally efficient Southern living culture. Need we say more? Also available are loan management accounts — taking all those investment earnings and making those available to secure capital you might need for such an adventure. With ultra-low rates, unique tax advantages and simplified use (in many cases a phone call), you can now make the move. Begin enjoying the benefits, keeping more of your money as you enjoy life and borrow at below market costs paying interest to yourself! Cash buyers are often

the norm, but it is not from cashing out an account, but most likely going to the “bank of self,” and getting very favorable terms to make this “a walk in the park or a walk along the ocean or both!”

Many would call this “living large,” but today it is called “living smart.” Try the numbers out and see how you can be living “for free” while using your previous state tax and higher cost of living expenses to put you at the doorstep of ocean living and all the goodness that comes with it! This property is represented by MLCC Realty and listed by Cici Anderson and Jenna Fisher.



Photos provided by Tina Webster



Sawgrass Players Club home offers great location, terrific renovations

By Tina Webster

If you are looking for one of the best lots in desirable Salt Creek in Sawgrass Players Club, look no further.

This home sits on almost three quarters of an acre and came on the market just in time for the new owners to float in their pool and enjoy the gorgeous views of the newly renovated The Yards golf course (formerly Oak Bridge). The home is located at 1210 Salt Creek Island Drive and is 3,867 square feet and has five bedrooms and four bathrooms. Speaking of renovations, you won't believe this

amazing kitchen, designed for a chef. Seriously, the owner is a chef and he sure does have a fabulous workspace. The master bathroom, after it's renovation, is also like being in a resort.

As you walk in the front door to this wonderful renovated open floor plan, light fills every room. The master bedroom and guest suite are on the main level, with three bedrooms and two baths upstairs, along with a bonus area and upstairs deck with gorgeous views. The covered lanai overlooking the pool is an amazing living space and there are tons of room for fun and games or gardening

on the large lawn.

If you find yourself wanting to leave the views, you can grab your golf cart and go play The Yards or ride on over to the TPC and play Dye's Valley or The Stadium Course. Not a golfer: The Yards also has some fantastic tennis courts for the tennis players out there. Later in the day, ride on over to Three Palms for dinner or maybe enjoy happy hour at the TPC and watch the golfers come in. You never have to leave the gates of this exclusive community. If you do leave the gates, you are a bike or golf cart ride from the restaurants and boutiques at

Sawgrass Village. It is all about lifestyle.

For this before-and-after issue, I do have to point out that when these sellers were getting this home ready for this hot market, we decided painting the brick to a creamy white would be a real show-stopper and the transformation looks amazing. No wonder this home had multiple offers the first weekend on the market and is now under contract. The market is HOT!

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services FNR, listed by Tina Webster and priced at \$1,100,000.



Photo by Paris Moulden

Former Ohio State and Florida coach Urban Meyer has taken the head coaching position for the Jaguars.

Jaguars should have bright future with addition of Meyer, Lawrence

By Brian Sexton

Days after the worst season in franchise history, Jaguars owner Shad Khan promised he wouldn't stop until he built Jacksonville a winning football team. It turns out he would pull out all the stops and, in the process, land one of the winningest coaches Northeast Florida and college football has ever seen.

Urban Meyer, it seems, couldn't pass on the opportunity that presented itself with the Jaguars. Khan lured the coach, who has three national championships and 187 career wins against just 32 losses, with the No. 1 overall pick in April's NFL Draft, the cleanest salary cap in the league with the promise of spending when free agency opens in March and an owner who wants to win and is willing to spend what it costs.

Today the phones are ringing off the hook in the Jaguars' ticketing department because the combination of Meyer and soon-to-be former Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence offer the most promising potential professional football possibilities that Jacksonville has ever seen.

It wasn't easy to get here. Fifteen consecutive losses dampened enthusiasm and even interest in the Jaguars in 2020. But those 15 losses were what it took to put themselves in the position to draft Lawrence and attract the attention of Meyer, who told reporters after a Rose Bowl win a few years back that his coaching days were behind him.

The draw of a franchise quarterback and everything

he brings with him has never been seen in Jacksonville. Lawrence got the Jags Meyer, and he'll get the new head coach nearly any assistant coach he wants. He'll also bring the Jaguars nearly any free agent they set their sights on because players know it's a quarterback league, or, as Meyer so succinctly put it when he was introduced to the media, "It's a quarterback sport." Call Lawrence a force multiplier because before he's even been drafted, even practiced once in an NFL uniform or played a preseason game, he's drawn the attention of coaches, players, fans and media to a team that had fallen off the map; a team that had become irrelevant to the conversation and that was putting the franchise in a precarious situation.

Lawrence could do for Jacksonville what Peyton Manning did for Indianapolis. In 1997, the Colts were the worst team in the NFL, played in a convention center in the old RCA Dome and were largely considered the frontrunners to eventually return professional football to Los Angeles. Manning arrived at the top of the NFL Draft in April of 1998 and changed everything. The Colts are now considered one of the bedrock franchises in the NFL. Lawrence could do the same for Jacksonville.

Everything is different now and everyone seems to know it. The opportunity in Jacksonville is distinct and the promise of an exciting NFL future once again gives Northeast Florida the chance to stand on one of sport's and entertainment's biggest stages, and that means the bright lights will shine on us all, and that's exciting for our community and our economy.



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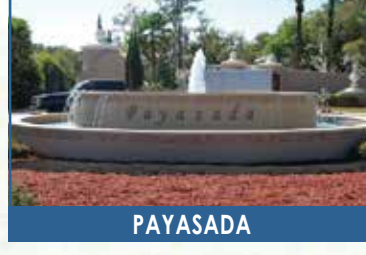
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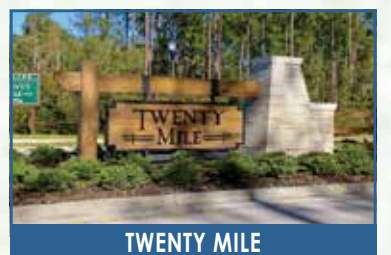
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TWENTY MILE



Photos provided by Murray Beard

It's all about location with unique Sawgrass CC home

By Murray Beard

Those in the real-estate world say “location, location, location!” And 3010 Timberlake Point in Sawgrass Country Club epitomizes the word location.

What could be a better than living in the heart of Sawgrass CC on a tranquil lake sitting by your pool and watching nature pass your way every day? Whether it is seeing eagles soar from their nearby nest to watching ospreys dive from the air to catch fish for their family, you will enjoy it all. Try your hand at fishing from the dock in the backyard.

This unique property boasts one of the largest parcels in Sawgrass with more than .85 acres. Additionally, the lake surrounds three sides of the house, providing water views from most rooms.

This 4,447-square-foot home is a masterpiece. The grand entry opens to the living areas downstairs that look out to the pool deck and lake. The chef of the house will enjoy the large kitchen including top-of-the-line Viking appliances and gas stovetop. Large dinner gatherings can be in the formal dining room. Most of the casual or intimate meals are in the breakfast area or by the pool in the screened lanai. Relax

in the cozy family room and take in the beautiful pecky cypress vaulted ceilings.

There is plenty of room to spread out with four bedrooms, plus an upstairs bonus area and sunroom along with a private home office. The three-car garage has tons of storage space and extra room for a golf cart, too!

You will love knowing that all the bathrooms have been updated and little details like solid wood interior doors are through the entire home.

Living in Sawgrass Country Club is all about lifestyle. You can walk or ride your bike to the beach. Should you decide to

join the Country Club, you can take in the new members clubhouse that overlooks 27 holes of world-class golf. The state-of-the-art fitness and tennis centers are just around the corner. The private beach, with endless miles of sand and surf, is just across the road.

It is all about location and there isn't a better location to live than Sawgrass Country Club. It has it all — beautiful homes in a park-like setting with the ocean and club facilities just a couple minutes away.

This property is represented by Watson Realty Corp, listed by Murray and Elise Beard and offered for sale at \$2,399,000.



Photos provided by Tonya O'Quinn



Portuguese-inspired country home is a Guana delight

By Tonya O'Quinn

When Robert Hudson set out to build his custom home in Ponte Vedra Beach in 2005, he knew exactly what he was looking for — a Portuguese-style country home that would give him all the room he needed for entertaining and hosting soirees! 141 Marsh River Drive became just that with the vision of Mark Macco Architects and brought to life by custom-home builder Aurora Builders.

This elegant home features many exquisite pieces, including the 135-year-old iron entry gates that are 13 feet tall and brought in from Argentina. The beauti-

ful, polished, solid oak front doors were also shipped in from Argentina. Hudson added handmade Portuguese tiles on the exterior, coffered ceilings inside and out, exterior corbels and protruding beams to round out the design. The high level of quality can also be seen in the concrete block construction with timber frame.

Hudson built the home for entertaining family, friends and guests. The kitchen is the central gathering point on the main floor, so to set it apart, it is raised about six inches higher than the dining area. With another step down into the great room, and then another to the pool deck, a fabulous cascading effect was created.

A custom wine cellar that holds about 650 bottles is included — a collector's dream! All cabinetry was completed by River City Custom Cabinetry.

The home has an upstairs owner's retreat with a large oversized bedroom, overlooking views of Guana. A fabulous en suite bathroom with separate vanities, copper slate wainscoting, an oversized shower and a large walk-in custom closet completes the space. A private office can also be found upstairs — an ideal work-from-home space directly across from the bedroom.

The exterior of the home takes full advantage of the gorgeous lot with a salt

lap pool and hot tub, outside covered patios and views of the Guana Preserve all around. The home is set back and offers much privacy and serenity. A great place for quiet relaxation or a party of 100!

This home has been a sanctuary for Hudson for more than 15 years and he has enjoyed it immensely. He is now looking toward a new chapter in life and ready to turn it over to owners who will appreciate its unique features as much as he has. He will have nothing but wonderful memories of his Portuguese-inspired country home. Contact the Lisa Barton Team at (904) 705-1382 for more information.



Photos provided by Mary Faulds

Oceanfront estate in South Ponte Vedra Beach offers extraordinary architecture, awe-inspiring views

By Mary Faulds

You're invited to a truly unique oceanfront estate located in South Ponte Vedra Beach. Tucked into the high dunes on a deep lot, this six bedroom, five-and-a-half bath home's splendid marriage of distinctive architecture, high-quality construction, exemplary stone and millwork and panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and Guana Preserve will inspire you.

Exit the box and color outside the lines. This home's features include expansive custom linen and clothing closets, chef's kitchen and pantry, wet bar, great room, three living areas, office, master suite, two laundry zones, four-car parking (covered and garage) and vast motor court, rooftop terrace and expansive balconies and patio. Rising four stories above the surf and sand, this beach home fortress features both private and public living spaces, perfect for

those with an appreciation for nature and creativity.

Located in the most coveted area of South Ponte Vedra Beach, situated on a deep lot with high dunes, this property is built like a fortress, all concrete construction with rebar and filled cells sitting atop 30 pilings sunk 25-feet deep. The owners focused on the highest quality of construction and features, which include storm impact door and windows, marble and

wood floors, 5-zone AC, central vac and a large covered terrace to enjoy the ocean breeze that leads to a private walk-over to the ocean.

Take the spiral staircase or elevator to the fourth floor, featuring a 1,500-square-foot rooftop deck that captures the most spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean and Guana Lake.

This home is represented by Ponte Vedra Club Realty and listed by Mary Faulds.

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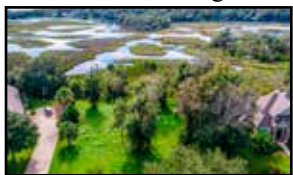
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Photos provided by Lisa Barton

Beautiful beach house offers carefree living, investment opportunities

By Lisa Barton

Have you always wanted to live on the ocean? Here's your chance to own a spectacular beach house, ideally located right across from the Guana Tolomato State Park and close to both Ponte Vedra Beach and historic St. Augustine. The Atlantic Ocean is right out the back door, with an inviting white sandy beach just steps beyond the yard.

This home has been recently renovated and offers a spacious modern white kitchen with quartz countertops and stainless appliances. With a farmhouse sink and shiplap walls, the house feels like a

model home. The open kitchen flows into a casual dining area and family room.

This wall of windows allows for scenic ocean views from all the common living areas. In addition, all bathrooms were just remodeled with beautiful cabinetry and quartz counters. The home has travertine floors throughout for easy beach cleanup. The owner's retreat offers a private balcony right off the sitting area and spacious bedroom. With two large walk-in closets, a remodeled en suite bathroom with a soaking tub, and a separate shower, this is a perfect ocean retreat. The smart floor plan has four bedrooms, two family rooms and an optional bedroom on the

lower level giving you plenty of room for entertaining guests.

Outdoor living is so comfortable here. The large, covered patio and two terraces offer picturesque panoramic ocean views. A third-floor balcony on the west side overlooks the Guana River's beauty with miles of protected preserves. If you enjoy hiking or kayaking, the entrance to the state park is not far away.

Since this lovely home can be sold fully furnished, there's nothing to bring but your toothbrush! The flexible three-story floor plan is perfect for a primary residence or vacation home. The home is easy to enter and exit with a spacious drive-

way that offers a two-car garage as well as two additional offset parking spaces in the front. Beach toys such as kayaks or surfboards can be easily stored in the garage or the additional enclosed storage area accessible via the side yard. The owners just replaced the roof and put in a new septic system also. With hurricane shutters throughout, you can lock up and go. This house has an excellent history as a vacation rental if you're considering investment properties.

This home is located at 2941 South Ponte Vedra Blvd. and offered for \$1,600,000. Call The Lisa Barton Team to schedule a tour today.

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RARE OCEANFRONT ESTATE

Architect Paul Rudolph designed this stunning 6800SF beachfront home and is located on a high 28' ocean front bluff in Ponte Vedra Beach. This large high lot has 200' of ocean frontage with lush vegetation, a large pool & detached guest house. Offered for \$3,450,000



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TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT



The King of Rock 'n' Roll lives on at Elvis Presley's Graceland

Photo by
Jennifer Logue

By Jennifer Logue

It's hard to believe that Elvis Presley would have been 86 years old on Jan. 8, or that the King of Rock 'n' Roll has now been dead for 43 years — longer than he was alive.

But while Elvis may have died at age 42 on Aug. 16, 1977, his memory lives on at Graceland, his beloved Memphis home that has become a popular tourist attraction — so popular, in fact, that Graceland is the now second most-visited home in America after the White House. What's more, Elvis's legend and popularity has remained so strong that a state-of-the-art visitor complex with new interactive exhibits has been added to celebrate the life and legacy of this musical pioneer.

Over the Christmas holidays, my husband and I made a musical pilgrimage to Memphis, and while some attractions were closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were pleased to find that the "Elvis Experience" offered plenty of exhibits and information to make the journey a must for any music lover.



Photo provided by The Guest House at Graceland

The Guest House at Graceland suite

THE GUEST HOUSE AT GRACELAND

For the full Elvis experience, begin your visit by checking into The Guest House at Graceland. Situated right next door to Graceland itself, this state-of-the-art resort offers a tasteful tribute to the King. From the Lobby Lounge and on-site restaurants to the theatre (which shows an Elvis film nightly) and guest rooms, the hotel décor evokes a 1960s Vegas feel — the type of hotel where the King himself would

have been right at home. Kick back in a standard room or one of the King's Suites, all of which show Elvis specials on the TV and feature Elvis-themed décor. Or indulge in luxury in Vernon & Gladys's Suites, which were reportedly designed with input from Priscilla Presley.

While the hotel's EP's Bar & Grill and Delta's Kitchen were temporarily closed during our visit, the Lobby Lounge offered a satisfying menu of food and

drinks. The hotel's Shake Rattle 'n' Go meanwhile, featured a tasty selection of breakfast sandwiches, treats and to-go meals for visitors eager to be on their way to celebrate the King.

ELVIS PRESLEY'S MEMPHIS

The Guest House at Graceland offers a free shuttle ride across the street to Elvis Presley's Memphis — a 200,000-square-foot visitor complex featuring thousands of authentic Elvis artifacts and exhibits. It is from here that tours of the Graceland mansion begin — but it's easy to spend several hours just viewing all of the Elvis memorabilia on display here.

Want to see Elvis's famous gold lame suit or his guitars? How about his famous jumpsuits or the black leather outfit from his legendary 1968 comeback special? From dozens of the King's iconic outfits and his gold records to his collection of classic cars and private jets, Elvis Presley's Memphis is a veritable treasure trove of artifacts that will be instantly recognizable

GRACELAND continues on **Page 23**

Graceland

Continued from 22

to even a casual Elvis fan.

In addition to several on-site restaurants, including Vernon's Smokehouse, Gladys's Diner and Minnie Mae's Sweets — named for Elvis's father, mother and grandmother — other visitor complex offerings include exhibits devoted to Elvis's time in the Army, his love of football and the experiences of his daughter, Lisa Marie. A special highlight of the "Elvis the Entertainer" exhibit, though, is a new series of exhibits that allows guests to interact virtually with Elvis: Through the wonders of green-screen technology, guests can dance with Elvis on screen, be serenaded by the King, try on one of his iconic outfits or test their knowledge of Elvis trivia on an interactive dance floor. Best of all, the photos and videos from these experiences can be downloaded as keepsakes or for sharing on social media.

A HOME FIT FOR A KING

But the highlight of any visit is the tour of Graceland itself. A swift shuttle ride across the street brings guests to the home Elvis purchased for about \$100,000 in 1957 and where he lived until his untimely death in 1977. During our visit, the home was decorated for the holidays as it was during Elvis's lifetime, with Christmas trees in both the living and dining rooms and poinsettias lining the stairway. Interactive iPads provide detailed commentary by actor and Elvis fan John Stamos on each room of the tour — from the dining room table set with Elvis and Priscilla's wedding china to Gladys Presley's dresses still hanging in her bedroom closet.

In addition to Elvis's downstairs media room — which featured three television sets because he heard that President Lyndon Johnson had three sets showing all three broadcast networks simultaneously — the Graceland tour includes the famous Jungle Room as well as Elvis's racquetball complex, where visitors can see the piano the King played the day he died. (The songs? "Unchained Melody" and "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain.") From there, guests pass through Graceland's back yard, past the pasture where he rode horses with Priscilla, to Elvis's Trophy Building, which now houses fascinating tidbits from Elvis's life. See Elvis's high school diploma, the signed deed to Graceland and records for the various improvements he made to the home, including the famous front gates featuring musical notes. Also on display are Elvis and Priscilla's wedding attire and the piano played at Sun Records when Elvis popped by and joined Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis for an impromptu jam session that became known as the "Million Dollar Quartet."

The tour fittingly concludes in Graceland's Meditation Garden, where Elvis is interred alongside his parents, grandmother and grandson.



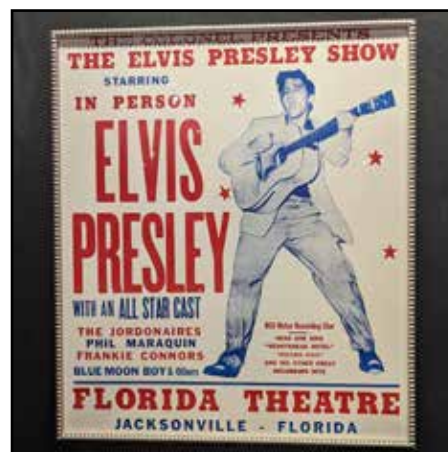
ABOVE: Elvis Presley's Memphis



RIGHT: Sun Studio in Memphis



ABOVE: Elvis' grave in the Meditation Garden at Graceland.



LEFT: A poster from Elvis's appearance at the Florida Theatre.

Photos by Jennifer Logue



The famed Jungle Room at Graceland.



The Graceland living room decorated for Christmas.

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Graceland

Continued from 23

SUN STUDIO

For more Elvis history, a visit to Sun Studio on Union Avenue is a must. It was here that a young truck driver named Elvis Presley showed up one day with \$4 he had saved to cut a record, launching what would be an unprecedented career. See the preserved disc jockey booth where Memphis DJ Dewey Phillips played Elvis's first big hit, "That's All Right, Mama" for the first time. Stand in the studio where Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis and other Sun stars recorded their records. And learn about all the legendary musicians who have visited and recorded music there — from Mick Jagger to U2 — to pay homage to these musical pioneers. If you can, get a tour with guide/musician Graham Winchester, whose musical knowledge made our tour both fun and informative.

As the home of the Blues and the famous Beale Street, Memphis has even more to offer music fans. It's clear, however, that the King of Rock 'n' Roll holds a special place in this city's heart.



Photos by Jennifer Logue

ABOVE: Elvis' gold lame suit on display at Graceland.



Elvis' pink cadillac



RIGHT: Elvis and Priscilla's wedding attire.

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Cultural Center cuts ribbon on new facility

By Shaun Ryan

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach opened its new facility Jan. 4 in Jacksonville Beach, marking the first step in expanding its services to reach more artists, art students and art lovers throughout the area.

The new studio is located at 3972 Third St. South in the Trader Joe's shopping complex. Classes in visual arts and music, workshops, camps for children and the Market, where local artists sell their work, will be available at this location.

The hours at the new studio are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, with after-hour appointments available.

Because COVID-19 continues to pose challenges at public venues, no exhibitions have been scheduled at this time.

Though not all classes and workshops have been canceled, most are being offered online. At this time, some events are still being planned, including the Bark For Art Family Event in March, the Beaches Celebration of the Arts in May and Holiday Shoppes in November.

For the latest information on exhibits, classes, workshops and events, go to ccpvb.org.

The center has sold its former headquarters at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach to Roanoke Vinton Radio Inc. The sale dovetailed with a plan to eventually sell the building with an eye toward a future move into an arts complex to be built near the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

The center is also looking to expand into additional facilities in Nocatee.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Representatives of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach and guests prepare to cut the ribbon celebrating the opening of the Cultural Center's new location at 3972 Third St. South in Jacksonville Beach.

The center continues to offer the Sound Connections Music Therapy program for children with special needs, which has expanded to six schools in St. Johns County. The expansion was supported by the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund and The Community Foundation of Northeast Florida.

The Kick StART after-school visual arts program continues at Palm Valley Academy and Osceola Elementary. This is supported by the Dr. JoAnn Crisp-Ellert Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and The Lazzara Family Foundation.

PET PARADISE OPENS NEW FACILITY AT WORLD GOLF VILLAGE



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Staff and ambassadors with St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce celebrate with Pet Paradise staff at the Jan. 12 ribbon cutting of its newest facility in World Golf Village at 291 Center Place Way. Pet Paradise also has a Bartram facility at 14976 Walden Springs Way, as well as three other Jacksonville locations.

Margaritaville Hotel opens its doors in Jacksonville Beach

Global lifestyle and hospitality brand Margaritaville and Elite Hospitality debuted Margaritaville Beach Hotel Jacksonville Beach, an oceanfront hotel located a few blocks north of the Jacksonville Beach Pier. The property is the first Margaritaville destination to open in 2021.

The new hotel features 202 rooms with panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean or hotel grounds from private terraces and patios; three Margaritaville-inspired dining options with ocean view outdoor seating; a 1,050-square-foot retail store; and a 1,700-square-foot meeting room. Designed by McBride Design, the family-friendly hotel combines the relaxed, surfer aesthetic of Jacksonville Beach with Margaritaville's tropical feel. Accommodations, including king and double queen bedrooms, premium oceanview guestrooms and oceanfront suites with wrap-around balconies, all provide

Margaritaville's signature casual-luxe vibe, comfortable bedding and modern amenities.

"We are thrilled to be the first Margaritaville hotel destination to open in 2021 and kick off an exciting year in Jacksonville," said Kristin Delgado, general manager of Margaritaville Beach Hotel Jacksonville Beach. "We are committed to our cleaning protocols and look forward to safely welcoming guests to escape, unwind and enjoy the laid-back surfer lifestyle."

To celebrate the opening, the hotel's restaurants, LandShark Bar & Grill and LandShark Lookout, are donating 10% of food and beverage revenue from the last two weekends in February to local charity, North Florida Land Trust, to help buy the Small Islands located in the Intercoastal Waterway in Jacksonville Beach. Margaritaville Beach Hotel will match the 10% for a total of 20%.

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THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS

- 1. "You're the ____!"
- 5. Horse color
- 8. Interesting person, acr.
- 11. *Feeling of the heart
- 12. Nevada city
- 13. City in Belgium
- 15. Use a whisk
- 16. Greek H's
- 17. *Popular Valentine's Day delivery, pl.
- 18. *Love means never having to say you're sorry" movie
- 20. Ballpark calls
- 21. Strong adhesive
- 22. Greek letter N, pl.
- 23. Lord's subordinate
- 26. Given to drinking
- 30. Ovine mom
- 31. Old storage medium
- 34. Fairy-tale beginning
- 35. Politician Pelosi
- 37. Tokyo, once
- 38. Bone hollows
- 39. Sky bear
- 40. Fitted with a name tag, e.g.
- 42. "Ever" to a poet
- 43. With more seeds
- 45. Attic
- 47. Summer sandwich?
- 48. Fraternity letter
- 50. Medieval head-dress
- 52. *Only day more

- popular than Valentine's for card giving
- 56. Like blue sky
- 57. Walk the Pacific Crest Trail, e.g.
- 58. Samoan money
- 59. *Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
- 60. Affirm
- 61. Give off
- 62. Plays for pay
- 63. *Color of Valentine's Day
- 64. *Lovers' reunion

DOWN

- 1. Cry like a baby
- 2. Canyon sound
- 3. Convict's weapon
- 4. Conical dwellings
- 5. Get on juice diet, e.g.
- 6. Opposite of binary
- 7. Like a gossipmonger
- 8. Exterminator's target
- 9. Change for a five
- 10. Part of T.G.I.F.
- 12. Like an abridged classic
- 13. Tiler's paste
- 14. *I Will Always Love You" singer
- 19. Stupefied
- 22. Us, in Mexico
- 23. *Cupid's mother
- 24. In the know
- 25. Common thing?
- 26. Smoke plus fog
- 27. Lay to rest
- 28. Rocks at mountain base

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

- 29. *Symbol of Valentine's Day
- 32. Infanter's last row
- 33. Roulette bet
- 36. *Chocolatier, pioneer of the heart-shaped box
- 38. ____ apple
- 40. Risk something
- 41. Between egg and eggiest
- 44. Feeling worse than before
- 46. Gave away
- 48. Thin piece
- 49. Annoyed
- 50. Russia's alternative to caesar
- 51. Aries or Taurus, e.g.
- 52. Burn to a crisp
- 53. MADD member, colloquially
- 54. Climbed down, as from a carriage
- 55. Fill beyond full
- 56. Pharaoh's cobra

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

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

"Perhaps the butterfly is proof that you can go through a great deal of darkness and still become something beautiful."



Kathy Esfahani
Columnist

BUTTERFLY GARDENS

Butterfly gardens are a beautiful and colorful way to attract butterflies into your landscaping!

When designing a butterfly garden, keep the following in mind:

- Plant both larval host plants and adult nectar sources for butterflies in all stages of life
 - Garden in full sun and partial shade
 - Select a variety of plants that bloom at different times
 - Use quality top soil to ensure plants and flowers are enriched
 - Include sweet-smelling plants, such as sedum and lavender
 - Plant in groups. Butterflies are more likely to land in a bunch vs. a single plant
 - Choose plants of mixing heights, colors, shapes and sizes
 - Adding a shallow dish with water, rocks and even fruit will encourage butterflies to land
- Some of the most popular plants for**



Photos provided by Kathy Esfahani

Attract beautiful butterflies to your yard with a butterfly garden.

caterpillars and butterflies: Butterfly bush, fennel, milkweed, lantana, pentas, purple passion vine, black-eyed Susan, porterweed, sage, gaillardia, firebush, sunflowers and more.

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.



Flower of the Week: Petunias



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Sports



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Photo by Don Coble

Workers set up scaffolding at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass in preparation for the upcoming PLAYERS Championship.

THE PLAYERS on course for TOUR's spectacular return to TPC Sawgrass

By Don Coble

At any other golf course, the sound of hammers, slamming metal, tractors and lawnmowers would be distracting. But TPC Sawgrass' Stadium Course isn't any other golf course, so the noise seems muted.

Work around the famed golf course is a warp speed ahead of this year's PLAYERS Championship. Corporate villas started being erected the first week of December. Every blade of

grass, grain of sand and flowering bush has been manicured to create an intoxicating atmosphere of both golf and tranquil splendor.

A year after the world came to a screeching halt by the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's PLAYERS Championship marks the one-year anniversary of a national shutdown — and the slow return to some normalcy.

Last year's tournament was canceled shortly after the first round. The PGA TOUR originally said the tournament

would continue without fans, but hours later they shut it down and sent everyone home.

The TOUR returned with extreme protocols that excluded galleries and required daily medical checks three months later.

“As we think about what's happened since that day for the PGA TOUR, we've really been back at playing golf for the course of the last 30 weeks or

PLAYERS continues on Page 29

Momentum on Sharks' side as playoffs await

By Jim Moyes

Special to the Recorder

The Ponte Vedra Sharks are heading down the home stretch with momentum on their side following their recent slate of games, improving their season record to an impressive 17 wins against two losses. The three remaining games on the season against top-notch competition should help the Sharks get battle tested for the playoffs looming just days ahead.

As this story goes to press, it may be a surprise to many that the Sharks are sporting such a remarkable record, but perhaps more surprising is that they

have played 20 games during this unprecedented season while dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Second-year head coach Kevin Whirity is quick to lay praise for seeing basketball in 2020-2021 become possible.

Whirity first lauded the fall coaches, who proved early on they could maintain compliance with COVID protocols and procedures.

“With that being said, I am still surprised that our season has been so uninterrupted, and am very grateful that our players, especially our seniors, have been able to experience a full season,” Whirity said.

Ponte Vedra's cagers were 3-1 in their

last four contests. Only a hard-fought road loss to perennial power Providence prevented the Sharks from another two-week sweep without tasting defeat. The Sharks led at halftime over the host Stallions, but a turnover-prone third quarter turned the tide in favor of Providence.

However, the Sharks would not suffer a letdown after their loss to Providence as they posted consecutive victories over Ridgeview, Bartram Trail and Westside.

Unquestionably, the keys for success for this year's Sharks team has been their suffocating defense. In back-to-

SHARKS continues on Page 29

Hank Aaron's ties to Jacksonville run deeper than you think

Scott A. Grant
Columnist

America recently lost a beloved baseball icon, Hank Aaron, known for breaking records and overcoming racism. Hank got a start on both of those quests right here in Jacksonville. In 1953, the future home run king arrived in town as a 19-year-old second

baseman with a potent swing. He and two teammates would integrate the notorious and venerable South Atlantic League. Known as the Sally League, the South Atlantic had teams throughout the Deep South and was little prepared for the new players.

The events that brought Aaron here are perhaps as interesting to local readers as the events themselves. Before the 1953 season, Sam Wolfson of Wolfson Children's Hospital fame bought the hapless Jacksonville Tars or Tarpons. He then affiliated the team with the Milwaukee Braves and moved his new Jacksonville Braves into the Sally League. The Braves had just left Boston for the more diverse climate of Milwaukee and were looking to add African-American players. Wolfson, the son of a Lithuania Jewish immigrant and a life-long champion of the poor, was of a like mind and so, in 1953, Jacksonville featured three African-Americans, including a young hitter named Hank who would go on to be one of the greatest players of all time.

Aaron was phenomenal that year, leading the league in hits, batting average, doubles, triples, RBIs and runs scored. He won the MVP Award and led the league in pretty much everything but home runs or, as one wag put it, “in everything but hotel reservations.” The South was still firmly segregated at that time. Aaron and his two dark-skinned teammates ate on the bus and stayed in boarding houses on the road, rather than the hotels their white teammates enjoyed. The team played its home games out in Durkeeville. The mayor of Jacksonville, Aaron remembered, warned him he would hear racial slurs from fans and suggested he should “suffer quietly.”

Ironically, although the playing field was integrated, the stands were not. Fans in the white section booed and heckled. It was popular for disgruntled white fans to wear mops on their heads and release black cats on the field. The “colored” section, which was

GRANT continues on Page 29

PVHS names Steve Price new football coach

He replaces Jeff DiSandro, who resigned midway through the 2020 season

By Holly Tishfield

Ponte Vedra High School welcomed its new head football coach Steve Price to the school with a Zoom conference call for parents and students, which took place Monday, Jan. 25.



Steve Price

As a football player himself at both high school and collegiate levels, Price brings to the table more than 28 years of coaching experience at four separate schools. Three of those schools he took to state championship games, making him a valuable addition to the Sharks' team.

Price most recently left Tallahassee

North Florida Christian to take over PVHS' football program, and in 2018, he led the Tallahassee NFC to the Class 2A state title.

Price replaces Jeff DiSandro, who resigned as head coach midway through last season. DiSandro took the head coaching job in 2019, replacing current Bolles coach Matt Toblin.

Eric Frank, athletic director at PVHS, said in a welcome letter to students and faculty at PVHS that Price has a strong

vision to continue to elevate the school's winning tradition, and form strong relationships with the students through open communication and trust.

In the few weeks since PVHS hired Price, he has already begun to meet with other coaches and join forces with the athletic department to plan games for the upcoming football seasons.

"I am looking forward to watching him bring stability and leadership to our program," Frank said in the welcome letter.

PLAYERS

Continued from 28

so since June, and we take a tremendous amount of responsibility and pride and care and consideration for how we've been able to do that with health and safety being the priority of everything that we're doing," said tournament director Jared Rice.

Rice said a limited number of tickets will be made available. Galleries will be restricted to 20% maximum occupancy, and tickets will be available to subscribers of THE PLAYERS newsletter and past ticket purchasers, who will receive an email from the tournament in the next few days. The pre-tournament offer for Stadium passes will be made available on Feb. 16.

Tickets and parking passes will be issued digitally. All patrons will be required to wear masks and hospitality areas will be designed to better assure proper distancing. And entry gates, souvenir shops and snack bars will be contactless.

"We feel that hits our priority of how we can deliver the tournament in a healthy way and with the safety of everybody in mind, our sponsors, our fans, our volunteers. All of that is mission critical to us," Rice said. "And that number also — just for reference, that's the total

tickets issued or access issued. We know over the course of 150-plus acres of turf grass out on the golf course, 18 holes, 12 hours that fans will be able to be walking around freely and enjoying every bit of this golf course that Jeff [Plotts, director of golf course maintenance] and his team makes look so spectacular.

"From a hospitality perspective we've modified everything. That means in hospitality zones we'll have open-air venues, and again, looking for ways to make sure it's as safe as possible, limiting some access there. And then from a fan perspective, again, really looking at ways we can focus on social distancing as part of, again, any food and beverage experience but still make it great for our fans.

"You'll see a lot of commentary about three Ws: Wear a mask, wash your hands and watch your distance, and those are things that we'll talk about when you're on-site."

The world's top players are expected to return to the Stadium Course. They will find a course that's in spectacular shape.

Included in the never-ending renovations is a complete makeover of the green at the famed par-3 17th hole. Tee boxes have been reshaped and are protected with black mesh until the players arrive.

"This is their home," Rice said. "This is everybody's home course, and they'll make all attempts to be here."



Photo by Don Coble

TPC Sawgrass is quickly being prepared to hold THE PLAYERS Championship in March.

THE TOUR also will work with local retailers, restaurants and hotels to encourage everyone to follow safety protocols. Rice said his group will encourage the creation of watch parties and other ways for the community to enjoy the tournament without being on the property.

It's hard to understand all the work that goes into hosting one of world's premier golf tournaments. Hundreds of groundskeepers are committed to a yearlong effort to keep every inch of the course in pristine condition. Hundreds more work nearly four months hammering and digging to get everything else in place.

All that's missing — for now — are the players.

Grant

Continued from 28

typically in the left field bleachers, was a different story. Hank remembered that whenever he or one of his black teammates so much as caught a pop fly, fans in the left field bleachers would holler and stamp their feet like "they had just won the World Series." One night on the road, so many African-American fans turned out to see their new heroes that the stands collapsed.

Manager Ben Geraghty shepherded his black players through their trial by fire. He would often visit the players at their boarding houses to make sure they were all right. He also frequently took meals with them on the road, inside the bus. Geraghty would bring the meals out to his players and then eat with them. For the rest of his long, illustrious career, Aaron thanked both Wolfson and Geraghty for their help and mentorship.

Aaron's ties to Jacksonville go deeper than just that one season. He got married here to a local girl. She and her family lived near the stadium. Her name was Barbara Lucas. Henry Aaron purportedly stopped in for the home-cooked meals and stayed for the romance. They were married just days after the season ended. They remained married for 19 years and had five children. Barbara is remembered for teaching school here.

The next season, Hank was in the big leagues with Milwaukee. If the Braves intended his stay in Jacksonville to be a test of his hitting skills and his ability to withstand the slings and arrows of racism, he had passed both tests. Aaron's first baseball card lists Jacksonville as his hometown and not Mobile, Alabama, where he was born. It also contains the following tidbit: During his single season at Jacksonville, it reads, "Aaron won 13 watches and 12 jackets for his feats at bat!" In the adjoining box it goes on to say that he gave the watches to friends, but kept the sports jackets making him "the best dressed player in the league."

Scott A. Grant is a local historian and regular contributor to the Recorder. By day he is president of Standfast Asset Management. He welcomes your comments at scottg@standfast.com.

Sharks

Continued from 28

back win over Ridgeview and Bartram Trail, the Sharks stole the ball 21 times in each win, a full six steals more than any other PVHS team has recorded in the school's brief 11-year history. So stingy was the Sharks' defense against Bartram Trail that the Bears failed to score a single point in the second quarter and only 20 for the entire game.

It was Senior Night for the Sharks last Friday against Westside and Whirity played only seniors for the first quarter of the contest that found the Sharks forced to dig out of a 21-10 hole. The regulars then took the floor to begin the second quarter and they began to slowly chip away at the double-digit deficit.

Although it was Senior Night, when

the Sharks finally took their first lead early in the fourth quarter it was a quartet of underclassmen who put on one of the best 30 seconds of basketball displayed in front of the home fans. Sophomore Israel Nuhu took a perfect pass from junior Luke Pirris and scored on a thunderous dunk to give the Sharks a 42-41 lead. Seconds later, Pirris went high to snare a rebound following a Nuhu blocked shot and quickly found sophomore Nate Bunkosky with the outlet pass. Nate threw a crosscourt pass to junior JT Kelly, who calmly swished a 3-pointer to build the lead to four.

It was then time for the seniors to take charge on their night, and it was Alex Madson and Rory Mayer who delivered in the clutch in overtime to nail down the hard-earned victory. The 65 points from the defensive-minded sharks were their highest point total so far on the season

and they needed every one of those points as Westside was a blistering hot 9 for 14 from 3-point range.

Madson, Mayer and Jack Polian have been the heart and soul of this year's team and will be sorely missed by Whirity when next season rolls around.

"Those three have been named captains for this team for their passion, effort, leadership and so many other roles they display every day," Whirity added.

The Sharks begin their final games of the season against a trio of tough opponents beginning with a road contest Friday, Jan. 29, against a 10-5 Bishop Kenny team. Next Tuesday, the Sharks will travel to 16-4 Episcopal before returning home for a regular season Friday night finale against arch-rival Nease (13-4).

"Our motto for the final stretch and into the playoffs is 'it doesn't get easier, you just get stronger,'" Whirity said.

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