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PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

March 25, 2021

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75 cents

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EXCITING ENDING IN EXTRA INNINGS



Ponte Vedra's Tyler Bernstein swings the bat during a game against rival Nease on March 16 at PVHS. The Sharks beat the Panthers 4-3 in extra innings. For more, go to page 36

Photo by John Noell



INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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



Connections

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Fit & Healthy

Pages 10-14



LOTUS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

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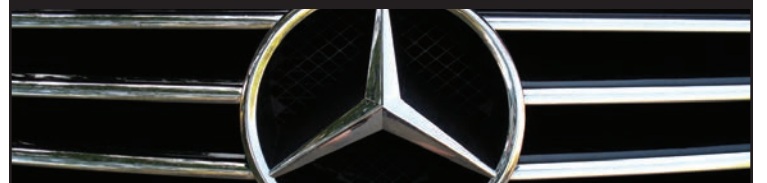
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We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. Email submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published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

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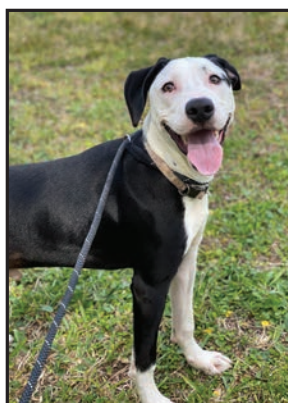
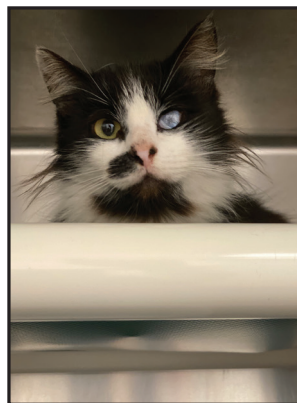
NOTE TO READERS

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

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hello. My name is Mystic. I am a 2-year-old female domestic medium-hair cat. I was a stray, and I am blind in one eye — but I can still see the good in people. I am looking for a quiet home with a lot of love. I am timid at first, but with your patience, we can quickly become friends. So come on in to meet me, I will keep my eye open for you. # 57871



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi! My name is Ziggy. I am a 9-month-old male foxhound/ labrador retriever mix. Even though I was left behind when my owners moved, I am still easy-going, loving and friendly. Now I am looking for a family with lots of love and energy to match my own. I'm looking for someone who will not leave because, with all of my loyalty, I will never leave your side. Come visit me at the Pet Center today! #57901

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

SJC COVID-19 vaccination appointments available for ages 50 and over

St. Johns County is now accepting COVID-19 vaccination appointment preregistrations for persons who are 50 years of age and older. Qualifying individuals who are interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine may preregister for an appointment by going to sjcvaccineappointment.sjcfl.us. Those who preregister will receive an automated phone call from (904) 295-3711 with an assigned appointment date and time. Individuals who choose to decline the appointment will remain preregistered, and will receive a subsequent phone call with an alterna-

tive appointment. Upon arrival at the vaccination site, appointment holders will be required to provide date of birth, proof of Florida residency and, if under 50 years of age, proof of employment as a healthcare provider with direct patient contact or a Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Determination of Extreme Vulnerability form signed by a physician. Call (904) 295-3711 for more information.

Flagler Health +/St. John County COVID-19 testing site closing March 31

The Flagler Health +/St. Johns County COVID-19 testing site at the St. Johns County Agricultural Center, 3111 Agricultural Center

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



**SATURDAY, MAY 22
& SUNDAY, MAY 23**

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Save the Date

The Art in the Garden Festival is a weekend celebration of creativity in all its forms—intriguing art, curated music, demonstration classes, extraordinary living pictures—all within our lush gardens. Learn more at jacksonvillezoo.org.



Briefs

Continued from 2

Drive, will remain operational through March 31. Until that time, the site will be open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The site provides PCR COVID-19 tests, rapid COVID-19 tests and COVID-19 antibody tests. For more pricing and testing information, go to www.flaglerhealth.org/covidtesting or call (904) 819-3035.

South Holmes Boulevard drainage improvement project public meeting

St. Johns County is hosting a public meeting regarding the upcoming South Holmes Boulevard drainage improvement project from 5 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, at Collier-Blocker-Puryear Park, 10 N. Holmes Blvd. The meeting will provide an overview of the upcoming drainage improvements on South Holmes Boulevard, south of West King Street. For more information, call (904) 209-0171.

Avenue D and Tart Road drainage improvement project

The Avenue D and Tart Road drainage improvement project, which includes piping existing ditches and improving the drainage system from Avenue D to the outfall location at Lewis Speedway into the San Sebastian River, is scheduled for completion in December. Improvements also consist of new cross drains under Tart Road and an updated drainage system along Old Lewis Speedway. Minor construction impacts include the presence of construction vehicles and equipment, temporary lane closures and slow moving traffic in the construction area. For more information on this project, call (904) 209-0171 or go to www.sjefl.us.

Rutherford, Pascrell relaunch House Law Enforcement Caucus

U.S. Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL-04) and U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09) relaunched the House Law Enforcement Caucus, a bipartisan group focused on supporting our law enforcement community. "As a former sheriff and career police officer, it is an honor to advocate on behalf of America's law enforcement community," Rutherford said. "Over the last few years, our nation and the Caucus has engaged in substantial policy debates regarding law enforcement training, practices and oversight. I look forward to joining Congressman Pascrell in the 117th Congress as we work together in a bipartisan way to support law enforcement and the communities they serve."



Easter Sunday Brunch

9:30am - 2:00pm

Plated Special - \$25.99	Easter Bunny Special	After 2PM Special
<p>Your Choice of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver Souffle (peppers, onions, ham, cheddar cheese) • Veggie Souffle (spinach, peppers, onions, mushrooms) • Omelette made to order \$6 additional <p>Served with: Bacon or Honey Ham Hashbrowns or Grits Old City Overnight French Toast (cinnamon & raisin) and a cup of fruit</p>	<p>Available All Day</p> <p>Blackened Shrimp and Grit Cakes - \$17.99</p> <p><i>Fresh local Shrimp, blackened and served over fried grit cakes topped with tomato gravy.</i></p> 	<p>Prime Rib (10oz) served with au jus, potatoes and veggie</p> <p>\$26.99</p> 
		
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St. Johns County addresses vacation rental complaints, statewide legislation pending

By Shaun Ryan

Even as the Florida lawmakers consider proposed legislation that would put much of the regulation of vacation rentals into the hands of the state, county authorities are trying to address immediate issues.

At its March 2 meeting, the St. Johns County Commissioners voted unanimously to add two code enforcement officers to respond to complaints on weekends.

The action would address one of the biggest frustrations for residents living near short-term rentals: getting help from officials at a time when no one is typically on duty.

“The problem is that, more often than not, these complaints will come in on a Friday night, on a Saturday night, and we don’t effectively have code enforcement officers in the field at that time,” County Building Official H.T. White told the commission. “By Monday, the problem has been resolved, but not necessarily to

the satisfaction of the complainant.”

Commissioner Paul M. Waldron said the biggest problems with some short-term rentals were noise, trash, parking and occupancy.

The Sheriff’s Office can enforce cases of disturbing the peace and trespassing, but other issues fall under other authorities, such as code enforcement.

The action came up during an agenda item that was to amend the county’s land development code. Those changes would have set a maximum occupancy for a short-term rental at 16, allowing two people per sleeping room plus two for a common room. It would also mandate one parking space per three occupants.

Commissioner Henry Dean said he would like to set the maximum occupancy at 10. For those who have invested in renovations to accommodate more renters, he favored a phase-in period. But he did not support a grandfather provision, as it would not improve conditions where short-term rentals already exist.

“My primary concern is providing a greater level of protection and comfort to those longtime residents who have lived in residential neighborhoods for a number of years ... and have been somewhat overcome with these large numbers of vacation rentals,” he said.

Some residents had told him that they would move if there was no relief.

But White pointed out that setting a maximum occupancy triggers a change in the application of state building and fire codes. That’s because when a limit is imposed on a single-family home for the purpose of renting it out for less than 30 days, the home becomes a public transient lodging establishment.

That means regulations regarding fire extinguishers, fire alarms, emergency lighting, and proper egress and ingress kick in. Essentially, the home falls under the same rules as a hotel.

At the same time, White said the county does not have the resources to go out knocking on doors to determine what ev-

ery single-family home is being used for.

St. Johns County officially has about 2,300 such rentals, but no one knows how many have not been counted.

The commission did not act on the proposed code changes, but instead voted unanimously to direct staff to study the issue of maximum occupancy and phasing it in and to report back with recommendations in 60 days.

Meanwhile, House Bill 219 and Senate Bill 522 may complicate the commission’s plans further. Both are under consideration in committees.

Senior Assistant County Attorney Bradley Bulthuis told the commission that one bill would prohibit local governments from conducting local inspections or local licensing of short-term rentals. Also, local authorities would have to treat all rental properties the same as all residential properties.

The other bill, however, would recognize local governments’ ability to regulate vacation rentals.

Genealogist Genie Milgrom to unravel the lineage of Palm Valley founder Don Diego Espinosa

Author, genealogist and award-winning educator Genie Milgrom will speak March 31 on the possible Jewish roots of Palm Valley founder Don Diego Espinosa.

The program, “Crypto-Jewish Genealogy: An Overview,” will be held at 7 p.m. via Zoom in cooperation with the St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society.

In addition, Milgrom will examine the intricacies of tracing the Jewish roots of residents of the Colonial St. Augustine area.

The Zoom link is available upon request through the “Contact” tab at www.sajhs.com or through sajhs1565@gmail.com. All are welcome, and there is no charge. For further information, contact SAJHS at (804) 914-4460.

Milgrom was born in Havana, Cuba, into a Roman Catholic family of Spanish ancestry. She was able to fully document her unbroken maternal lineage 22 generations back to 1405 and pre-Inquisition Spain and Portugal. She has traveled extensively into Feroselle, the village of her ancestors in the Zamora region of Spain, while doing field research on the Jews of Feroselle and the surrounding area.

She is currently the past president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami, president of Tarbut Sefarad-Feroselle in Spain and a past presi-



Contributed photo

Genie Milgrom holds copies of her books.

dent of the Society for Crypto Judaic Studies.

She is the author of the books “My 15 Grandmothers,” “How I found My 15 Grandmothers, A Step by Step Guide” and her latest book, “Pyre to Fire.”

Her books have won the 2015 and 2018 Latino Author Book Awards. Milgrom also writes for several on line sites including www.esefarad.com and the Journal of Spanish, Portuguese and Italian Crypto Jewry.

She has spoken at the Knesset, Israel’s Parliament in Jerusalem, and lectures around the world bringing awareness to the topic of the Jews returning from the Inquisition.

Expert on religion in America dies

Author, historian and Ponte Vedra resident David Edwin Harrell was 91

By Shaun Ryan

One of the pre-eminent experts on religion in America died Monday, March 15, at his home in Ponte Vedra Beach. David Edwin Harrell Jr. was 91.

A native of Jacksonville, Harrell was the go-to scholar for television and radio networks, as well as national magazines and major newspapers. He authored eight books, including biographies of television evangelists Oral Roberts and Pat Robertson, and co-authored a textbook, “Unto a Good Land: A History of the American People.” One of his books was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Harrell attended the U.S. Naval Academy and David Lipscomb College, earning his Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University.

He went on to teach at East Tennessee State University, the University of Oklahoma in Norman, the University of Georgia in Athens, the University of Alabama in Birmingham, the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and Auburn University.

He was listed in “Who’s Who in the World” and was a former U.S. ambassador to India. He lectured for the State Department in Asia and Africa and taught as a Senior Fulbright lecturer in Allahabad, India.

In addition to speaking around the United States, he presented lectures or programs in Australia, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, England, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Switzerland.

Popular speaker brings local history to life

By Shaun Ryan

“In June of 1942, four German saboteurs landed right here in Ponte Vedra.”

As Scott A. Grant utters these words, the room falls silent. The man at the mic has the attention of his audience.

“They came ashore in the 900 block of Ponte Vedra Boulevard around three, four in the morning,” he says. “Nobody saw them.”

Grant is speaking at a meeting of the Churchmen, a nondenominational men’s group, at the Sawgrass Country Club. It’s a presentation the local author and president of Standfast Asset Management has given many times for groups throughout the area. But if any of the men in his audience has heard it before, it isn’t apparent – several have questions at the conclusion of the speech.

The story of the saboteurs is one of three topics of local history that Grant has researched and spoken about since 2017. In just a few years, he has given presentations for Rotary clubs, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Navy League, Exchange clubs, the Meninak Club, the Southside Business Men’s Club and many, many others. He has spoken in retirement homes, libraries and museums.

And he continues to be in demand.

“I apparently tell an interesting story,” he says by way of explanation.

In fact, he’s given one of his presentations 175 times. It was the topic that started him down the path of popular guest speaker.

“The one that I did the most was on a submarine attack that occurred on April 10, 1942,” he said. “A German submarine sank an oil tanker four to five miles off the coast of Jacksonville Beach.”

When he first came across the story, it intrigued him.

“People saw it from the shoreline,” he said. “Hundreds of people, maybe thousands, stood on the shore and watched.”

The sub torpedoed the tanker, and there was an explosion. Nineteen men were killed.

“They would have seen it up and down the coast,” Grant said. “The coast is shaped a little like an amphitheater here anyway.”

Once word got out that Grant had an interesting story



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Pictured from left: Churchmen Chair Jim Ross, Scott Grant, Vice Chair Roland Gomez, guest John Arnold, Secretary Craig Wantoch and Treasurer Bill Miller.

to tell, calls began to come in daily asking for it. In fact, he occasionally told the story up to three times in a single day to different groups.

Another popular presentation is about the summer of 1964. That was a year civil rights demonstrations were held in St. Augustine. It was the year the Beatles came to Jacksonville and forced the integration of the Gator Bowl. It was the year Hurricane Dora hit and the year a local man won two gold medals in the summer Olympics.

Grant has also written several newspaper columns, some of which he compiled in his book, “The Merchant of Death is Dead: True Stories of the Progress of Humanity.”

Today, he is limiting the number of his presentations to one per month due to the situation surrounding COVID-19.



Photo courtesy of the Beaches Museum

The mugshots of the eight German saboteurs who landed on U.S. shores in 1942. Four of them landed in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Genealogist

Continued from 4

Her work has been showcased in the Jerusalem Post, The Miami Herald and other publications around the world. She was awarded the State of Florida Genealogy award for her achievements and advances in the work she has done in genealogy.

Most recently, she was awarded the Medal of the Four Sephardic Synagogues from Jerusalem for her decades of work in recuperation of Sephardic Memory.

The St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society, through research done by Vice President Dr. Larry Kanter, discovered Espinosa. By 1703, Espinosa had settled in what is today the Palm Valley area. His vast ranch and the surrounding territory was known as Diego Plains. In the 1730s, the ranch was fortified to protect its inhabitants from Indian attack.

By 1739, Great Britain and Spain were at war and trouble was brewing for the Diego Plains settlers. British general James Oglethorpe was commissioned to harass the Spanish settlements south of the colony of Georgia, so the Spanish governor fortified the Diego farmhouse, which was already being called Fort San Diego. After Oglethorpe’s failure to capture St. Augustine, the Spanish military abandoned Fort San Diego, but other inhabitants moved into the area, living off the land and the cattle.

Learn more at <https://sajhs.com/events>.

Harrell

Continued from 4

He published 48 articles, writing for several journals, encyclopedias and more. He was one of five men who founded and edited Christianity Magazine.

He made numerous network television appearances at both the network and local station levels, and was interviewed on “Good Morning America,” “CBS Evening News” and CNN. He was a consultant for BBC News, “Larry King Live” and other network news outlets.

He was also interviewed for Time, Newsweek, The New Yorker, TV Guide and several other magazines, as well as newspapers all over the world, including The New York Times, Washington Post and Chicago Tribune.

Harrell was an avid golfer with a handicap of six and played on five continents – including the course with the highest elevation in

the world, in East Sikkim, India, located in the Himalayan Mountains.

According to his obituary, his travels allowed him to work in what he considered the most important of his life’s labors: preaching the gospel, edifying saints worldwide and establishing New Testament churches in the farthest corners of the globe.

He was a member of the South Jacksonville Church of Christ.

Harrell is preceded in death by his parents, David Edwin Harrell Sr. and Mildred Lee Harrell; sisters Marilyn Harrell Hardage (Robert) and Elinor Harrell; and sons John Stephen and Harold Robert.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Adelia Roberts Harrell; and four children, Mildred Harrell Harris of Woodbridge, Virginia; David Edwin Harrell III of Tampa; Elizabeth Harrell Roberts (Russ) of Ponte Vedra; and Lee Harrell Carter (Tony) of Wiesbaden, Germany. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; two nieces and two nephews.

Francisco Villafane is manager of the Daily's convenience store and gas station at 40 Settlement Drive in Nocatee. Recently, representatives of THE PLAYERS Championship, including caddy Paul Tesori, surprised him with tickets to the tournament, a Yeti cooler filled with gifts and a flag autographed by golfer Phil Mickelson in recognition of his outgoing personality and work ethic. Throughout a year made difficult by COVID-19, Villafane and Daily's provided much needed products and services to the community.

As told to Shaun Ryan

I understand you were surprised last week with tickets to THE PLAYERS and other gifts. Tell us about that.

That was actually a total surprise. I guess they had talked with our corporate office. They had it all set up. When I came in on a Thursday, all the cameras were outside. Everything was outside. And they presented me with a letter and stuff.

It was really cool. I was shocked.

The letter is pretty cool, because it states through the COVID-19 and everything else, this store here, we didn't get a single person sick. We remained open. We maintained taking care of our customers on a regular basis.

The great thing about the customers here, they are so unique and so great. I always get those compliments: "Here you are! Here you are every day!" I'm like, "Well, I have to be here to take care of you guys."

Because you know, we've got the gas; we've got everything else.

So, it was kind of nice of them when they came up totally unexpected. It blew my mind.

Are you a big golf fan?

You know, I do follow golf. My kids do a lot more than I do, but, I mean, I go every year to THE PLAYERS. This year, it would have been tough because of the limited space and everything else.

Tell me about your background and your career with Daily's.

I'm from Puerto Rico, but I grew up in New York, and then I moved up to Connecticut when I was 16.

I ended up coming down to Florida back in 2013. Since I moved here, I started working for the company. So, back in 2014, I was the one who opened the store here in Nocatee. And I've been here ever since.

I started on the bottom, and then I got promoted to manager. My first store was this one here.

I still have some of my same employees that I hired back in the beginning of 2014, which is very rare for this kind of business.

Now, from this store here, I have five kids that went into the Air Force, Marines, Army. They all started here and moved into the service. It made me proud of them. My son is in the Air Force, as well. But, five employees from here just kind of moved up and are serving their country now.



Francisco Villafane, manager of Daily's in Nocatee, left, holds some of the gifts he received from the PGA TOUR recently. Next to him is Paul Tesori, caddy for golfer Webb Simpson.

Photo provided by PGA TOUR

What do you like most about what you do?

You know, customer service, taking care of people. Making sure that people are pleased. Having a great store. Having a great appearance in the store to make sure people are comfortable.

You know, they call me — because I see a lot of people — the "Mayor of Nocatee." [Laughs] That's what they call me around here.

It's been an amazing journey. I've been with this company since I moved down

here. Great company to work for. I'm really proud to be part of this organization.

I have learned a lot. I mean, I'm 46, and every day to me is a learning experience. And every day that we wake up, it's something new that we're going to learn.

And of course, we're not perfect. I make mistakes. We learn from them.

What do you like best about living in this area?

The people. And having the beach close to us — that's great. The weather is just

amazing, coming from Connecticut to this type of weather. It's just been a great, great journey.

This area here is just my hometown.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I've got three sons, three daughters, so spending time with them. It's so important nowadays. We tend to forget how important it is to be with the family, together.

And I have a dog, a golden retriever who keeps me on my toes. [Laughs]



The Historic Florida Militia, Inc., conducts a reenactment show during the Nocatee Farmers Market last Saturday.



Nocatee Farmers Market celebrates Florida history

On a cool, windy first day of spring, the Nocatee Farmers Market paid homage to local history on Saturday, March 20, at Nocatee Station Field.

The Historic Florida Militia, Inc., did three different historical reenactment shows. There was also shopping from many local vendors and Blue Water Bar and Grill was open for refreshments.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Punita Patel, owner of Backyard Buffalo, was back at the Nocatee Farmers Market to sell her unique products. Backyard Buffalo is a regular vendor at the Farmers Market, but is now also available at Native Sun.

OBITUARIES

Carol Roberta Carlson

Carol Roberta Carlson, 87, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died March 17, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com (904) 249-1100.

David Edward Cowgill

David Edward Cowgill, 54, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died March 22, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home, (904) 249-1100, www.quinn-shalz.com.

Harley T. Logsdon, Jr.

Harley T. Logsdon, Jr., 79, of Jacksonville, Florida, died March 17, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Mahendrakumar Patel

Mahendrakumar Patel, 62, of Port St. Lucie, Florida, died March 20, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Edward Anthony Zazzarino

Edward Anthony Zazzarino, 92, of Atlantic Beach, died March 18, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com.



Water to Golf Views in Marsh Landing

Exquisite lagoon to golf views from this cul de sac beauty. Open floorplan/kitchen/dining spaces w/fireplace and oversized windows. Guest ensuite, 1/2 bath & laundry room finish off the first floor. Master retreat w/ fireplace, HIS & HERS baths/closets, wet bar w/ fridge leading to outdoor deck & hot tub. Private with Summer Kitchen and fire pit overlooking pool and lagoon. **5 Bedrooms, 5 Bathrooms. \$1,450,000**



Pristine Craftsmanship on Ponte Vedra Blvd.

Thoughtfully designed and showcasing exquisite craftsmanship throughout, this custom coastal home offers master suites on both floors, along with an office, loft area, ample storage and a flex space ideal for a 5th bedroom. **4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms \$2,150,000**



Stunning Riverfront Estate

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



Well Appointed Sawgrass Country Club Patio Home

This patio home was fully renovated in 2020 with waterfront views and southeastern exposure. Impeccable attention to detail in interior design includes Master BR/BA both upstairs and down, and fully heated and cooled detached 2 car garage. Lush landscaping, courtyard entry and outdoor lighting are the finishing touches. **3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms + office. \$1,595,000**



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Oceanfront Oasis

Built to last, this tri-level home was built using masonry construction in 2016 and had a new bulkhead installed in 2018. Spectacular views from every room and vantage point. Elevator services all floors. 2 master suites, ground level guest suite with kitchenette, and all newly renovated bathrooms. The kitchen and greatroom provide expansive views through sliding doors leading to huge oceanfront Trax deck. **4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 1 half bathroom. \$1,575,000.**



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Rotary, Recorder seek nominations for 29th annual Local Heroes Awards

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and the Ponte Vedra Recorder are seeking nominations for the 29th annual Local Heroes Awards.

Presented each year, the Local Heroes Awards recognize individuals who give back to the community and reflect the spirit of the Rotary Club's motto, "Service Above Self." From

volunteering with local charities to giving back through the arts, education, environmental protection activities and more, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and Recorder seek to recognize the "unsung heroes" who make Ponte Vedra such a special place to live, work and raise a family.

Residents who know of an individual

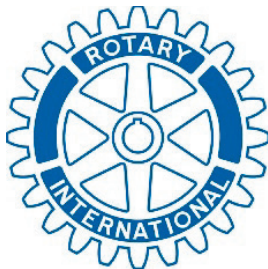
they believe is deserving of recognition as a Local Hero are encouraged to complete the nomination form on this page and email it to Rotarian Steve Crosby at stevecrosby101@gmail.com.

Nomination forms may also be mailed to: Local Heroes Awards Committee, Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, PO Box 70, Ponte Vedra Beach,

FL 32004. To submit a nomination online, go to pvbrotary.org and click on the "Nominate a Local Hero" link on the home page.

The deadline for submission of nominations is March 31.

For more information, contact Rotarian Steve Crosby at stevecrosby101@gmail.com.



The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

in cooperation with **The Ponte Vedra Recorder**

2021 Local Heroes Awards *Nomination Form*

Nominate your friend, neighbor or colleague for the Local Heroes Awards recognizing individuals who give back to the community!

Complete and return this form, or submit your nomination online at: pvbrotary.org

Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

Nominee's contributions to the community (attach additional pages as needed):

Nomination Submitted By:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

Nomination Deadline: March 31, 2021
Email entries to: stevecrosby101@gmail.com
or mail to: Local Heroes Awards, Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach
P.O. Box 70, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004

***Thank you for
your nomination!***

Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary places premium on women leadership

Women’s History Month may soon be coming to a close, but that isn’t stopping the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach from keeping its female leadership top of mind throughout the year.

In June, the club will install Lori Anderson as its sixth female president. The Beaches Council on Aging executive director will take over for current President Sam Hall and lead the organization for the 2021-2022 Rotary year.

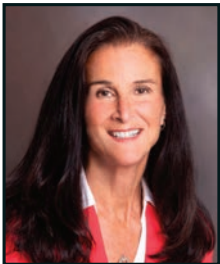
“I look forward to building upon the club’s strong foundation of leadership and following in the footsteps of the admirable, female presidents who have come before me,” Anderson said. “We strive to be ‘the best Rotary club in the world,’ and our women Rotarians play a big role in making that happen.”

Anderson will be the club’s second female president in three years, following Immediate Past President and JEA advisor Vickie Cavey, who led the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary during 2019-2020. Previous female presidents of the club have included Mary Anne Thomas (2014-2015), Shelley Morgan (2013-2014), Mary Jane Fratianni (2011-2012), and Susan Siegmund (2001-2002).

In addition, the club recently announced that Jennifer Logue will be the president



Lori Anderson



Vickie Cavey



Jennifer Logue

elect-elect during Anderson’s presidency. That means Logue, the director of communications for NTE Energy and former editor of the Ponte Vedra Recorder, will be installed as president in June 2023, following the leadership of Baptist Health physician Dr. Ronald “Doc” Renuart from 2022-2023.

“It will be my honor to lead this group of incredible Rotarians,” Logue said. “I am very proud and passionate about the impact we make in our community, and I look forward to empowering the club to continue this good work.”

With over 40 female members, including seven who serve in leadership or board positions, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach is committed to advancing the mission of Rotary International to reflect its communities and prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In 2020, Rotary International announced the nomination of Canadian Jennifer Jones to become the organization’s international president for 2022-23 — making her the first woman to hold that office in the organization’s 115-year history. Rotary began officially admitting women as members in 1987.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, go to www.pvbrotary.org.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS SPONSOR FOOD AND DIAPER GIVEAWAY



Photo provided by Triple Crown Communications

More than 200 meals were given out to local families in Northeast Florida on Wednesday, March 10. Safe Futures Foundation, Inc., an organization dedicated to alleviating hunger, spearheaded the effort to run a food giveaway in a drive-through style. Cars lined up and down Mayport Road along The Cultural Corridor as community members anxiously awaited to receive food items, sanitary supplies, diapers and cleaning products, all free of charge. Throughout the pandemic, The Klotz Group has generously donated the city block located at 1800–1860 Mayport Road for weekly events to support and engage the local community. Other partner organizations included Farmshare, Wolfson Children’s Hospital, Florida Kid Care, Episcopal Children’s Services and the City of Atlantic Beach.



Jeff Hart Memorial Service Above Self Scholarship

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Palm Valley

One \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to the top applicant from Ponte Vera and Allen D. Nease High Schools.

Applicants must be:

- Involved in community service/volunteer work
- A junior or senior at Ponte Vedra or Allen D. Nease H.S.
- In good academic standing
- Planning to attend a two or four year college or university, or a technical/trade school with a one year or longer program of study

Applications due April 3, 2021

Apply at tinyurl.com/y5k3cvfe



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PAGES 10-14



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Gaining strength can slow down the aging process

By Fit20 Jacksonville

As we age, there's no denying that our body isn't the same as it once was. We have new aches and pains and come to realize that certain activities we used to do without even thinking about are now more difficult.

The main reason for these problems is because as we age, we lose muscle mass. Muscle mass is an important factor in our overall health and well-being. It is crucial to maintaining your strength and muscle to complete daily tasks and avoid injury. Thanks to new research and equipment, you can slow down the aging process by regaining some of your lost muscle mass.

Age-related muscle loss is called sarcopenia, and it's a natural part of aging. According to Harvard Medical School, after age 30, you begin to lose as much as 3% to 5% of muscle mass per decade. Muscle mass is crucial when it comes to fitness and your overall well-being and the many benefits that come with it. Having high muscle mass makes everyday activities easier, increases metabolic rate and prevents injuries. All factors that are important in having a healthy and safe aging process. Not to mention, strength is one of the best predictors of survival and longevity. That's why it is so important to take part in strength training exercises at any age.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH

Just because the muscle mass is lost doesn't mean you



Photo provided by Fit20 Jacksonville

cannot regain it, that's why it is so important to continue a healthy lifestyle as you age. No matter how old you are, you can still work on increasing and maintaining your muscle mass through exercise. Continuous exercise has many other health benefits including a lowered risk for certain diseases like type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

As we age, we're more susceptible to health problems. Having a high muscle mass will decrease our chances of being affected by certain diseases and injuries. Once we are stronger, we can have a healthier aging process.

HOW CAN YOU INCREASE YOUR MUSCLE MASS?

Numerous doctors recommend resistance and weight training as well as allowing your muscles to rest between workouts. At fit20, we focus on a healthy lifestyle as

STRENGTH continues on **Page 14**

Do I have spring allergies, pink eye or dry eye?



Kimberly Riordan, O.D.
Florida Eye Specialists

With spring arriving and seasonal allergies in full swing, it's important to prioritize your eye health. When experiencing vision problems and irritation, many patients are unaware if the cause is spring allergies, dry eye or pink eye. While it's rare, health officials believe that pink eye develops in about 1% to 3% of people with the coronavirus. Taking the time to review the differences between common eye conditions can help you find eye relief during allergy season and protect your family from COVID-19.

DRY EYE VS. SEASONAL ALLERGIES

Understanding the difference between these conditions is a crucial step in protecting your eye health. Common symptoms of dry eye include redness, itching, sensitivity to light and blurred vision. Unlike allergy sufferers, people with dry eye experience these symptoms year-round. On the other hand, people with allergies usually suffer with sneezing, congestion and a runny nose and itchy eyes go away when indoors or in the absence of allergens.

Unfortunately, seasonal allergy sufferers who also have dry eye can experience even worse symptoms. When you take an antihistamine medication to block your body's response to allergens, your body may also begin producing fewer tears. This can lead to dry, irritated eyes and other worse symptoms of dry eye. If you are experiencing dry eye symptoms, it's best to visit your eye doctor to receive a proper diagnosis.

EYE CARE continues on **Page 14**



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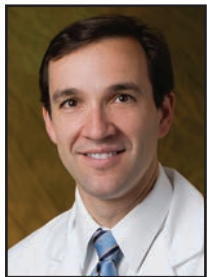
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Nocatee has a charm all its own. And now, it has a new way to get first-rate healthcare of its own too. Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee is bringing total wellness to our friends, family and neighbors. The Village offers everything from concierge medicine, primary care, orthopedics, imaging and laboratory services to a beautifully landscaped park, a Kookaburra Coffee Shop, health coaching, community classes and more. It's total wellness meets total convenience. That's the power of +.



Learn more at [FlaglerHealth.org/Nocatee](https://www.FlaglerHealth.org/Nocatee)

Revolutionary AFib trial now available for Northeast Florida patients



Anthony Magnano, M.D.
Ascension St. Vincent's
Riverside

Here in Northeast Florida, we're privileged to have access to cutting-edge treatments and technology, especially in the area of heart disease. Most recently, my team of cardiologists at Ascension St. Vincent's became the first in Florida and one of the

first in the world to begin enrolling patients in a new global clinical trial that may affect thousands of AFib patients. The CHAMPION-AF Clinical Trial is studying the next generation of the WATCHMAN device (the WATCHMAN FLX), which is a potential first-line therapy for stroke risk reduction in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation.

This is an exciting trial. It will evaluate whether the WATCHMAN device is a good first-line therapy for AFib patients as compared with conventional anticoagulants. Currently, only patients who were

at high-risk for bleeding while on blood thinners qualify for commercial Watchman implantation. Now, any patient with non-valvular AFib who is indicated to be on a blood thinner has a chance to come off it by entering the trial.

HOW THE WATCHMAN DEVICE WORKS

The WATCHMAN device acts as a plug to close off the area in the heart that is responsible for more than 90 percent of strokes in atrial fibrillation patients. The device closes off the left atrial appendage, thereby reducing the risk of stroke without requiring blood thinners. The WATCHMAN device has been shown to be safe in prior clinical trials and has seen expanded use in clinical practice over the past several years.

AFib patients have up to a five-fold increased risk of stroke than a similar person without AFib. Traditionally, the only way to prevent this risk was to put AFib patients on a blood thinner. Unfortunately, anticoagulants carry a risk of unintended bleeding which can become problematic for certain

individuals. The WATCHMAN device allows doctors to reduce the risk of stroke without putting patients at risk for increased bleeding.

IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW WATCHMAN CHAMPION-AF TRIAL

This device has the potential to revolutionize the way we treat AFib. What's really exciting is that this trial gives our community access to technology that would otherwise be unavailable for another four to five years. In the future, patients may have the choice between using a blood thinner and medication every day, or having the WATCHMAN. By enrolling in the trial, patients have the chance to come off of blood thinners and get the WATCHMAN now.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE WATCHMAN?

Any patient with non-valvular AFib who is on a blood thinner has a chance to participate in the WATCHMAN trial. The trial will study 3,000 patients at approximately 150 global sites. We can enroll up to 450

patients at Ascension St. Vincent's.

This is a randomized clinical trial, meaning we're studying what the outcomes will be with the WATCHMAN compared to our standard therapy, which is blood thinners. Half of the patients will be randomly assigned to use conventional anticoagulants, while the other half will be assigned to receive the WATCHMAN. Patients will be evaluated for rates of stroke, bleeding and other major adverse effects over five years.

HOW TO ENROLL

If you think you may qualify for the new WATCHMAN trial, speak to your primary care doctor or cardiologist. Potential patients may call (904) 308-5761 to schedule an appointment with Ascension St. Vincent's and begin the process of being evaluated for trial enrollment.

Dr. Anthony Magnano is a Ponte Vedra resident and cardiologist at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside. For more information on Dr. Magnano and his specialty treating atrial fibrillation, go to [Healthcare.ascension.org](https://www.healthcare.ascension.org).

Ascension St. Vincent's first health system in state to offer new clinical trial for COPD patients

Ascension St. Vincent's is the first health system in Florida to participate in a clinical trial for an investigational treatment option for patients who have frequent chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) exacerbations, also known as lung attacks.

The AIRFLOW-3 clinical trial is evaluating the safety and effectiveness of targeted lung denervation (TLD), a bronchoscopic intervention designed to disrupt pulmonary nerve reflexes, which may reduce COPD lung attacks.

Ascension St. Vincent's began enrolling patients in the trial in February.

Pulmonologist Dr. Jose Soto-Soto and his team recently treated a COPD patient successfully with TLD therapy in an hour-long outpatient procedure at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside.

"Many of our COPD patients experience lung attacks that can't be controlled with their inhaler medications," said Soto-Soto. "As doctors, we should embrace the development of interventional therapies that can potentially stabilize COPD patients and help reduce their risk of exacerbation. We are excited about the potential of using

this investigational treatment for some of our patients as part of this clinical trial."

COPD is a group of diseases like emphysema and chronic bronchitis that can cause breathing-related problems and block airflow. Symptoms include frequent coughing or wheezing, shortness of breath, trouble taking a deep breath and producing excess phlegm, mucus or sputum.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, millions of Americans have been diagnosed with COPD and more than 50 percent of adults with low lung function didn't realize that they had COPD, so the actual number could be even higher.

"We always want to keep advancing the level of high-quality, personalized and compassionate care that we provide," said Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Estrellita Redmon. "When any of us have a healthcare need, we want to have options for treatment, so we're grateful for the opportunity to offer this exciting new option to qualifying patients. Individuals who participate in this clinical trial are potentially helping improve COPD care for patients everywhere."



Photo provided by Ascension St. Vincent's

Dr. Jose Soto-Soto examines the device used in the new treatment for COPD.

The AIRFLOW-3 clinical trial is enrolling COPD patients in up to 25 centers across the U.S. and additional centers in Europe.

Patients with moderate-to-severe COPD, high-symptom burden and a history of COPD flare-ups may qualify for the clinical trial. Patients who think they may qualify can learn more by calling (904) 308-5761.

To learn more about Ascension St. Vincent's, go to [jaxhealth.com](https://www.jaxhealth.com).



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Eye Care

Continued from 11

PINK EYE VS. DRY EYE

Pink eye, or conjunctivitis, is an inflammation or infection of the outer membrane of the eyeball and inner eyelid. Common pink eye symptoms include redness, swelling, or a discharge in at least one eye. During the spring, it's common for people to confuse pink eye with seasonal allergies.

This year may be even more confusing given the possible link between pink eye and COVID-19. You may be very worried if you, your child or a loved one develops pink eye. The biggest symptom to be aware of is fever, as fevers indicate a possible virus. If you do not have a fever, but are experiencing itchy or burning eyes, you are likely experiencing seasonal allergies or dry eye, rather than pink eye.

HOW DRY EYE AFFECTS EYE HEALTH

Millions of people are affected by dry eye every year. It occurs when the eye does not produce tears properly. Dry eye can be caused by the use of certain medications, infrequent blinking, eyelid gland diseases and more.

Dry-eye treatment and at-home eye care can significantly reduce your symptoms. In order to diagnose and properly treat your dry eye, your ophthalmologist or optometrist will measure your tear production and inspect your eye with special

stains. A treatment we offer at Florida Eye Specialists is LipiFlow Thermal Pulsation. This groundbreaking treatment applies directed energy to affected glands, exactly where it's needed the most.

PROTECTING YOUR EYES FROM DRY EYE, COVID-19 AND SEASONAL ALLERGIES

Fortunately, there are many steps patients can take to protect their eyes from these conditions. For those with dry eye and seasonal allergies, staying inside on windy days, wearing protective eye gear, and limiting your pollen exposure can greatly reduce your symptoms. Patients with dry eye need a proper diagnosis in order to achieve long-term relief.

The best way to protect yourself from conjunctivitis and COVID-19 is by following good hygiene practices and practicing safe social distancing. Remember to wash your hands frequently, sanitize your contact lenses properly and avoid rubbing your eyes.

As the weather warms up and allergens filter throughout the air, remember to monitor your eye health. If you believe you are experiencing dry eye symptoms, visit your eye doctor to receive a proper diagnosis.

Kimberly Riordan, O.D., is the Dry Eye Center Lead at Florida Eye Specialists, and she practices part-time out of the Ponte Vedra office. For more information about the Florida Eye Specialists Dry Eye Center, visit FloridaEyeSpecialists.com/Dry-Eye-Center.



Photo provided by Fit20 Jacksonville

Strength

Continued from 11

well as healthy aging. Our training method is based on the latest scientific findings about effective and efficient training to improve fitness and health.

Our studios have the most up-to-date equipment that focuses on strength training, helping you combat the fear of muscle loss. Fit20 workouts are only 20 minutes long but focus on high intensity strength training. The sessions are just once a week which gives your muscles a chance to grow and then recover. The climate-controlled studios provide a cool tempera-

ture so there is no need to have to shower after your workout, allowing clients to fit in a workout no matter how busy their schedule.

“We want to make sure our members feel comfortable and safe, because being fit and healthy is vital for your mental, emotional and physical wellbeing,” said Cathy Battreall, regional developer and owner of the three locations in Jacksonville. “We’ve learned the difference good health can make when facing a dangerous virus. It’s important to take the next step in feeling good during this challenging time.”

So, get started on your journey to a healthy aging process today!

For more, go to fit20jax.com.



Putting patients first brings unexpected rewards.

If you were asked to name the world's best hospitals, you might think of a few well-known names that attract international patients.

But did you know you have one of the “World's Best” hospitals right here at the beach? Baptist Medical Center Beaches is honored to be named one of the “World's Best Hospitals 2020” by *Newsweek* magazine.

Our publicly reported data on patient satisfaction, safety and effectiveness of care was reviewed along with thousands of other hospitals in 21 countries by Statista, Inc., a global market research firm that partnered with *Newsweek* for this study.

We are proud of our dedicated physicians, team members and hospital auxiliaries who have received this well-deserved recognition for the extraordinary care they provide to our community.

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Chamber Connections



ST. JOHNS COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Ponte Vedra Beach Division



SJC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CREATES HYBRID EVENT TO CONNECT MEMBERS

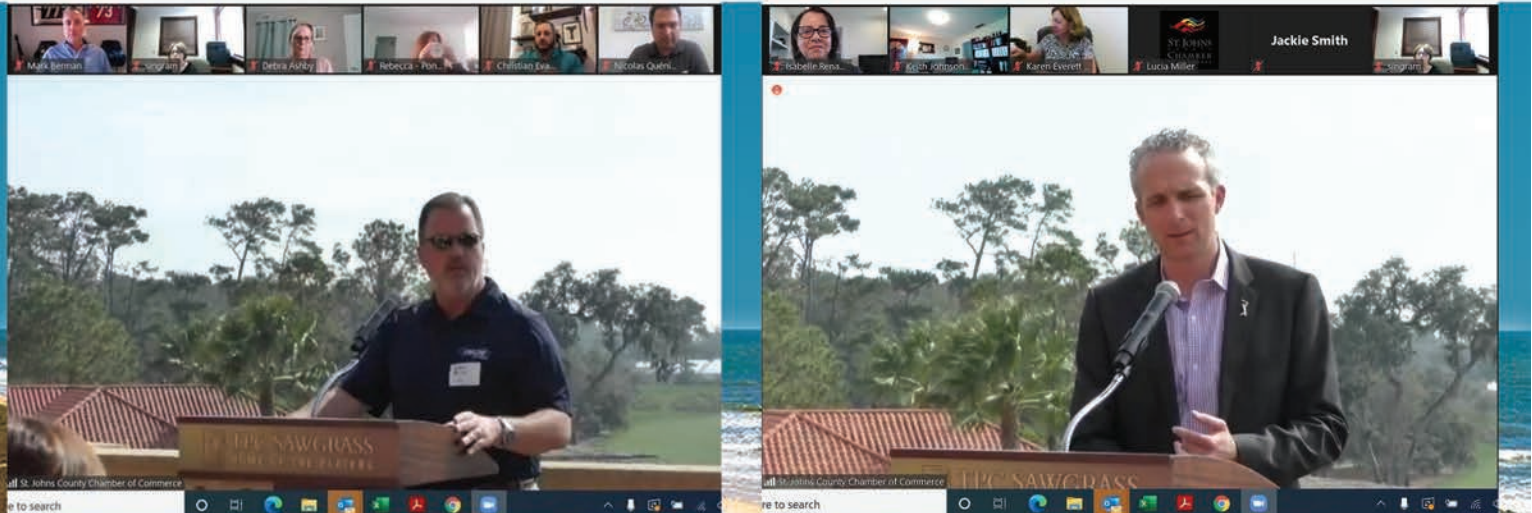
Pictured above: Garry Redig, Matt Price, Dr. Hamer and Jared Rice
More inside on 1.27.21 Chamber event at TPC Clubhouse.

March 2021



ST. JOHNS COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ponte Vedra Recorder
Not your average newspaper, not your average reader





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

Dear Members:

I wanted to share the contents of the letter I submitted to St. Johns County Government in January. It was attached to the Chamber's Economic Development Council Annual Economic Development Report for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. I invite you to review the annual report on our website at Economic Development Council – St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce (sjcchamber.com).

.....

This year brought a unique set of challenges with lasting effects on our community. I wanted to share several highlights, I believe, we should keep in mind as we continue to grow the economy of St. Johns County.

Overall, the SJC data trend shows that our local market continues to remain strong and growing. Employment by industry sector is reported as of 2019 with 15.1% of the jobs in accommodation and food service and 3.4% representing the arts, entertainment and recreation. However, we expect these data points to decrease in 2020 due to the number of

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

COVID-19-generated temporary business closures the St. Johns County tourism industry endured. This pandemic and the many named storms and hurricanes in recent years are just another reminder that diversification of our local economic base must be prioritized to enhance our economic resiliency.

The county's commercial taxable value continues to grow even during the pandemic. The state government mandated closures forced many businesses to implement remote work for their employees. While fearful at first, small and large businesses alike were pleasantly surprised to realize that their remote workers' performance increased. What employers may have seen as a hindrance and a liability turned out to be, in many cases, financial savings and an increase in productivity. With the validation of the benefits of remote work continuing to roll in, we can expect lasting changes in the way we work.

For many years, we have discussed our changing work habits, and this pandemic simply accelerated the process. A clear indicator of the coming change was the nationwide growth of co-working spaces in recent years — one signpost for the coming change. The rate of commercial real estate acquisitions by businesses is changing and earlier decisions for expanded brick and mortar facilities are being re-examined. These decisions will have potentially large implications for communities that are relying on ever-increasing commercial property taxes for government services.

Another potentially huge lasting change is the almost overnight consumer switch from brick-and-mortar retail to online shopping. In many ways, our social and consumer lives have changed to a Zoom square and shopping apps on our devices. Some love online shopping and grocery deliveries while others cannot wait to drive to shops and enjoy in-person

retail therapy we were used to prior to COVID-19. One thing is certain: The convenience of getting what we wish at our doorstep within 24 hours or less will make us question our habits and may have lasting effects on consumers. What will happen to our small retail shops and even larger ones? Will more of them close? Will some shift permanently to e-commerce vs. brick and mortar?

To my first point: How will this affect commercial real estate and the collection of sales taxes the state of Florida heavily relies on to provide services to Floridians? Due to the pandemic-induced state budget crisis, this spring, the Florida legislature will consider legislation closing the online sales tax loophole in an effort to recapture some \$700 million in lost revenue. While historically seen by many as a tax increase, this loophole is now being positioned as a tax fairness issue, thus greatly increasing its chances for passage.

The newly proposed Biden Administration stimulus package and more robust vaccine-distribution system will certainly ignite a hope for a more stable and "normal" lifestyle. I strongly believe that the entrepreneurship spirit this nation was built upon will always prevail. You can beat it up, slam it with you name it — hurricanes, pandemics, cyber-attacks — it will still find a way to sprout, pollinate and grow at a faster rate in places where government removes barriers and encourages it to prosper. This year will be a critical time to support business start-ups and first-time entrepreneurs and lead them to success. Entrepreneurs will need to make financial resilience a priority as they are developing their products or services. Places and online platforms fostering and accelerating the connection between entrepreneurs, connecting minds, ideas, skills and resources will be more critical than ever before. Let us remember that products and services created are the

life form of the minds of our dreamers and innovators, and that people are the ultimate difference makers.

Developing our current workforce and replacing the employees lost during the pandemic will give us some growing pains. Businesses will need to be ready to ramp up their operations and will need more able workers to make that happen. Employers will have to adapt to the new expectation of work-life balance for workers, while employees will need to learn new technology that may have come to the market to help businesses pivot during the crisis. Many workers and professionals — still mostly women — put their careers on hold to support their family at home. Will they be ready to go back to the workforce at the same level of participation prior to the pandemic? New non-traditional tools to generate job and job seekers' connections will be necessary to speed up the recruitment process and ensure a good fit for both employees and employers. An agile worker will be more valued for his/her resilience.

Our world is changing. While it is unsettling, it also opens the door to new potential we did not know we could reach, because we were never faced with it. A positive trend for our community is the appeal of Florida and St. Johns County to business owners who are fleeing other parts of the country for a state that remains open for business, with no state income tax and a welcoming weather. We have reached the tipping point in our local economy when we can trigger transformational changes through stronger focus and investment in a concerted public-private approach for economic development.

We, at the Chamber, are excited about the prospect of what our community can achieve through our partnership with St. Johns County government.

Upward and onward!

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

Committee members guide the Chamber's business advocacy efforts

The slate of members comprising the Public Policy Committee for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce for 2020-2021, led by Chair Beth Sweeny, Flagler College, director of Community and Government Relations, is comprised of: Mark Nighbor, Advanced Disposal; Dirk Schroeder, Century 21; Mike Koppenhafer, Fisher Koppenhafer Architects; Mike Davis, A.D. Davis Construction; Kevin Craig, AT&T; John Dickinson, Constangy Brooks; Janette Wagner, Capital City Bank; Cary Paige, Aqua Grill; Mark Pinto, The



Beth Sweeny

The Public Policy Committee (PPC) oversees the Chamber's business advocacy efforts at the state,

Fiorentino Group; Carol Burns, Vista Hospitality; Victor Raymos, St. Augustine and SJC Board of Realtors; Viv Helwig, Vested Metals; Keith Johnson, Keith Johnson, CPA; Ed Dwyer, Vigeo Alliance; Michael Scine, Scine Advisors, CPA; and Isabelle Renault, St. Johns County Chamber President and Chief Executive Officer.

COMMITTEE continues on Page 17

"When members ask what differentiates a business organization like ours from others, it is easy to point to public policy expertise and influence as a valuable benefit that membership can buy you for an affordable investment."

Robert Porter, Chamber's VP of public policy

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



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

Hope and spring are in the air! And just like that, it's March!!! What a year, but we can look forward with a high degree of hope.

We truly are living in interesting times. While this trite and overused phrase is an English expression that is claimed to be a translation of a traditional Chinese curse, the words give us all pause. While some may prefer to live in "uninteresting times," we can all look back and count silver linings and lessons learned.

We have been challenged to continue to provide excellent Chamber member services and have hosted many outdoor events within CDC guidelines with creativity. For example, we attracted

Chamber members from throughout the county on March 4 for our first Glow Golf at Palencia Golf Club.

We are hosting our first indoors event tomorrow at Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach—the March 26 Economic Development Council Quarterly Breakfast. It will feature outdoors venue for networking and indoor space for the presentation.

Chamber staff and volunteer leaders have been closely monitoring the COVID-19 numbers for St. Johns County and, due to improving numbers, we are planning a robust array of events, both in person and virtual. Check your newsletters and the Chamber calendar on

our website for more information.

We began recording many informative presentations and members have easy access to them at the Resources tab at your member portal. For example, the Chamber's North Business Council hosted Jay Owen for a three-part series on Growing Your Business. The series will be added to the Resources tab soon.

The Chamber's Economic Development Council is co-hosting a morning panel on financing on Wednesday, April 14 with the Ponte Vedra Beach Division at the TPC Clubhouse. Mark your calendars!

Thanks for your continued support and come visit us.

ANNOUNCEMENT: PONTE VEDRA BEACH VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER ENTRANCE HAS MOVED

The entrance to the Ponte Vedra Beach Visitor Information Center has moved to the other side of the building at 200 Solana Road, Suite B. It faces the drive-through window of Woody's BBQ.

All residents and visitors invited to visit to obtain maps, brochures and information at the Ponte Vedra Beach Visitor Information Center. The office also serves as an office for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

A Chamber member, The Wedding Authority, now has a presence in the former Visitor Information Center. It currently has offices in St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra Beach.

Committee

Continued from 16

county and municipal levels of government. The PPC monitors, reviews and makes recommendations to the Chamber leadership on legislative and regulatory issues that impact St. Johns County businesses.

The PPC is comprised of senior Chamber leaders, former Chamber and EDC Chairs and representatives from various geographical, industry and professions to insure the intellectual depth of knowledge in the areas of land use, taxation, public safety, tourism and environment. The Chamber chair, along with the Chamber CEO/president, make the final appointments for the upcoming fiscal year.

If you have an interest in serving a future Public Policy Committee, or would like to suggest an issue, please email Robert Porter, the Chamber's vice president of Public Policy at bob.porter@sjcchamber.com. Additional information about Policy and Politics in St. Johns can be found on the Chamber's website at Public Policy - St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, FL (sjcchamber.com).

"The members of the Chamber's Public Policy Committee have an important role in shaping policy recommendations for the Chamber and advocating for our business members on issues affecting them," said Isabelle Renault, president

and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Porter added, "When members ask what differentiates a business organization like ours from others, it is easy to point to public policy expertise and influence as a valuable benefit that membership can buy you for an affordable investment."

In recent years, the Chamber has taken public positions on issues as diverse as a panhandling ordinance in St. Augustine; beach replenishment from Vilano to Ponte Vedra Beach; restoration of the affordable Housing Trust Funds at the state level; and a single-use plastic bag ordinance in St. Augustine Beach. Recently, after polling the membership twice, the Chamber came out in public opposition to the proposed Florida Constitutional Amendment #2, which would raise the mandatory minimum wage to \$15/hour. The Chamber will continue to canvas the Chamber members for input on significant issues.

The Chamber solicits opinions from Chamber members on legislative issues. For example, the 2021 St. Johns County Legislative Delegation meeting was held Dec. 18 at the St. Johns County Administration Building. The state delegation heard from the Chamber of Commerce on statewide issues of concern. The Chamber's Public Policy Committee represented the members of the Chamber at this meeting. The regular 2021 Legislative Session convened March 2.

UPCOMING PONTE VEDRA BEACH DIVISION EVENTS

RIBBON CUTTINGS

Body 20 Ponte Vedra Beach

Date: Monday, March 29

Time: 5 p.m.

Location: 240 A1A N, Suite 1, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Painting With a Twist (PVB)

Date: Thursday, April 8

Time: 5 p.m.

Location: 268 Solana Road Ponte Vedra Beach FL 32082

MARCH EVENTS

In-Person: PVB Division Chamber After Hours

Date: Thursday, March 25,

Time: 5:30-7 p.m.

Location: Olea at Nocatee 50 Pine Shadow Parkway Ponte Vedra FL 32081

Sponsor: Olea at Nocatee

In-Person and virtual: Economic Development Council Quarterly Breakfast

Date: Friday, March 26

Time: 7:30-9:30 a.m.

Location: Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

1000 Tournament Players Club Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Topic: The Role of Transportation in Local and Regional Economic Development.

Sponsors: St. Augustine and St. Johns County Board of Realtors MLS, Fiorentino Group, North Avenue Capital, Jackson Law Group, PuroClean Emergency Restoration Services, Pivot CPAs, Nissan of St. Augustine

In-Person: Business on the Move

Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Time: 8:30-9:30 a.m. (Register)

Location: The National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche at Mission Nombre de Dios 101 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32084

Info: Make your move and take your shot! Business on the Move is a special networking opportunity offered to highlight local chamber businesses and bring members together.

APRIL EVENTS

In-Person: Business Financing Workshop

Co-hosted with PVB Division and EDC

Date: Wednesday, April 14

Time: 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Location: TPC Clubhouse

Topic: Business Financing Workshop

Info: The panelists will discuss alternative financing methods to help your business grow

■ Joseph Rowell CEO, North Avenue Capital

■ Matt Price, VP Commercial Banking, Relationship Manager, Regions Bank

■ Marius Dobren, President, Sawgrass Finance, LLC.

Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

MAY EVENTS

PVB Division Chamber at Noon

Date: Wednesday, May 12

Time: Noon-1 p.m.

Speaker: David Rey, CEO and President - Goodwill

Topic: Workforce Development and how Goodwill Industries of North Florida can benefit Chamber members.

Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

PVB Division Chamber After Hours

Date: Wednesday, May 19

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Location: Ponte Vedra Wellness Center – Nocatee

205 Marketside Avenue Suite 220, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

Sponsor: Ponte Vedra Wellness Center

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, GO TO WWW.SJCCHAMBER.COM OR CALL (904) 285-2004

Chamber EDC meeting to present transportation panel discussion March 26



Shannan Schuessler
Event moderator

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce will host its next quarterly economic development breakfast from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. March 26 at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach. This event will be the Chamber's first indoor event since the pandemic started one year ago.

Featuring a panel of transportation experts, the event will be moderated by Shannan Schuessler, a former Florida Department of Transportation chief of staff, currently with The Fiorentino Group.

It will feature discussions by Greg Evans, FDOT District 2 secretary; Nat Ford, Jacksonville Transportation Authority CEO; and Phong Ngyuen, transportation development manager, county Growth Management Department.

They will address the role of transportation in local and regional economic development.

The event will take place outdoors for networking and breakfast and indoors for the panel discussion. Following best practices and CDC guidelines

regarding social distancing, no more than five guests will be seated at each indoor table with each table spaced at the appropriate social distance. Pursuant to Marriott policy, all guests will be asked to wear a mask or facial covering while not actively eating or drinking on the property.

To register, go to www.sjcchamber.com and click on Events. The registration fee is \$50 for Chamber members at the Economic Development Council level, \$70 for other Chamber members and \$85 for guests. For guests who prefer to attend the event virtually in webinar format, registration will open for virtual attendance when in-person capacity has been reached. Virtual registration is \$20. Future chamber members are invited to contact Sam Ruiz at Samuel.Ruiz@sjcchamber.com to register.

EDC continues on Page 19

Chamber to host business financing workshop April 14

Mark your calendars for a special in-person Chamber panel from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 14 at the TPC Clubhouse. Co-hosted by the Chamber's Economic Development Council and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division, the panel will be moderated by Ed Dwyer, president, Vigeo Alliance and business consultant with the Small Business Development Center.

The panel members will discuss alternative financing methods to help your business grow and will provide information for small and mid-sized businesses and new start-ups in need of obtaining financing to start, operate or grow their business. The speakers include: Joseph Rowell, CEO, North Avenue Capital; Matt Price, VP, Commercial Banking Relationship manager, Regions Bank; and Marius Dobren, Sawgrass Finance, LLC.

Both the chairman of the Chamber's Economic Development Council, Andy Jackson, Jackson Law Firm and chairman of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division board, Matt Price, Regions Bank, agree that this collaboration is timely and relevant.

WORKSHOP continues on Page 19

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.

CULTURAL CENTER continues on Page 19



ABOVE: 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.



LEFT: Donna Guzzo, president and executive director of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, discusses some of the programs offered by the Cultural Center with attendees of the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Photos by Susan Griffin

EDC

Continued from 18

“We are so fortunate that our speakers have agreed to convene to discuss how transportation affects our economic development,” said Isabelle Renault, Chamber president and CEO.

Sponsors for the event are St. Augustine and St. Johns County Board of Realtors MLS, North Avenue Capital, Jackson Law Group, PuroClean Emergency Restoration Services, The Fiorentino Group, Pivot CPAs and Nissan St. Augustine.

To learn more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce or to become a member, go to www.sjc-chamber.com, call (904) 829-5681, or connect on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sjchamber.

Workshop

Continued from 18

“Our members need this information,” Price said. “And this format will allow the panelists to describe how their firms can assist small businesses.”

Registration information is open for Chamber members. Go to www.sjchamber.com and click on events.



PET PARADISE OPENS NEW FACILITY AT WORLD GOLF VILLAGE

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.

Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Cultural Center

Continued from 18

For 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.

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.

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



RIGHT: Attendees network and enjoy lunch at the Chamber event.

Photos by Susan Griffin

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

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 tournament 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 oth-

ers 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 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.”

PLAYERS continues on Page 21



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From left: Garry Redig, vice president of operations for Fields Auto Group, Matt Price, vice president of commercial banking, Regions Bank, Dr. Erika Hamer, owner of Ponte Vedra Wellness Center and chairperson of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS Championship.

PLAYERS

Continued from 20

He said the players are excited about returning and that Rory McIlroy, 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.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Troy Smith, tournament chairman, of the 2021 PLAYERS, speaks to attendees at the Chamber luncheon Jan. 27.

NEW BARBERSHOP FEATURES MASCULINE ATMOSPHERE



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Representative from Diesel Barbershop and members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, Feb. 1. Diesel Barbershop, a modern-day reimagining of the vintage corner barbershop, is expanding with its newest location in Saint Johns. Located at 155 Bartram Market Drive, Suite 114, this marks Diesel Barbershop's 30th location across 10 states. Diesel Barbershop Bartram Market will feature 10 stations, vintage arcade games that are free to play, complimentary beverages and signature services like the Diesel Plus and the Full Service. For more information, go to www.dieselbarbershop.com.

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Driftwood Realty Group opens in Nocatee Town Center

By Shaun Ryan

After more than five years of running a successful residential real estate team based in St. Johns County, Kristin and Quinton Doakes — known as the Doakes Team — have launched their own independent brokerage, Driftwood Realty Group.

“The real estate industry has changed, and your traditional real estate agent is becoming less valuable to sellers and buyers,” said broker Kristin Doakes. “This is due to having multiple online resources at their fingertips. Our advisors guide buyers and sellers through the process, offering resources that extend far beyond the transaction.”

The internet has had a big impact on the real estate landscape. Buyers often go to Zillow or Realtor.com to learn about a property before inquiring about it. They can even see what the current owners paid for a house when they bought it.

“They come in with so much information, and we have to really bring market knowledge that only an agent could provide,” said Doakes.

That the brokerage calls its agents advisers is suggestive of a different approach, one that Doakes said has worked for the Doakes Team. These advisers go beyond

writing up contracts and showing properties.

“We’re advising them through the entire real estate process,” said Doakes.

The brokerage works with title companies, lenders and others all the way through.

“We’ll be there at the inspection, pointing things out and making sure they see everything,” Doakes said.

The role of the advisers doesn’t end with the transaction.

“It’s a relationship,” Doakes said. “We’re always there.”

This means following up with customers on a regular basis.

As part of this approach to real estate in the 21st century, the brokerage makes use of the latest technology, combining automated systems, a fully developed marketing library and an in-house marketing team.

Driftwood Realty Group announced the new brokerage’s opening in January and the team has received a lot of positive feedback.

“The agents that we’ve spoken to are really excited about what we have to offer, because Quinton and I have built an excellent brand over the last six years in real estate,” Doakes said.

More information is available at www.DriftwoodRealtyGroup.com.



Kristin and Quinton Doakes (center) cut the ribbon for their independent brokerage, Driftwood Realty Group.

LEFT: Crystal and Tommy Horton, owners Seaside Slingshots, bring a couple of their slingshot vehicles to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Driftwood Realty Group.

Photos by Susan Griffin

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Shapiro Group, 2012.

PV2-LV45045

Buc-ee's opens 1st Florida travel center near World Golf Village



Photos by Susan Griffin

Co-founder and CEO of Buc-ee's Arch "Beaver" Aplin III (front row, second from right), cuts the ribbon as representatives from Buc-ee's, members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and government officials celebrate the grand opening of the travel center's first Florida location on Feb. 22.

Buc-ee's officially opened its first travel center in Florida at 6 a.m. Monday, Feb. 22 near World Golf Village. A ribbon-cutting ceremony conducted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce was held at 11 a.m.

The center at 200 World Commerce Parkway occupies 52,600 square feet and has 104 fueling stations. The gas station and convenience store are open 24 hours, and the latter features thousands of snack, meal and drink options. Signature favorites include Texas barbecue, homemade fudge, kolaches, Beaver nuggets, jerky and fresh pastries.

The opening drew a large crowd of Buc-ee's fans Monday.

"Picking St. Augustine for our first Florida location made sense for many reasons, but its proximity to our other locations across the South was our initial motivator," said Stan Beard, Buc-ee's director of real estate. "Location aside, our owners fell in love with the rich history and warm hospitality of St. Augustine. With their crystal-clear beaches and walkable atmosphere, St. Augustine is among the most beautiful cities in Florida. We are excited to offer visitors and residents the experience and convenience of Buc-ee's and can't wait to become a part of the local community."

Construction is underway for a second Florida location in Daytona Beach, which is expected to open next month.

The two Florida "outposts" continue Buc-ee's multi-state expansion across the South, joining stores in Georgia and Alabama. Buc-ee's first travel center in South Carolina is also currently under construction and is slated for opening in 2022.

Buc-ee's continues to operate 38 locations in Texas, where it was founded by Arch "Beaver" Aplin III in 1982. In fact, the world's largest gas station is the Buc-ee's in New Braunfels, Texas, which has 120 gas pumps, 1,000 parking spots and a 67,000-square-foot store.

The St. Johns County center will bring approximately 200 new, permanent, full-time jobs to the area.



Buc-ee's, located at 200 World Commerce Parkway, boasts a large retail center, as well as numerous snack, meal and drink options.



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County update subject of Ponte Vedra Chamber meeting

By Shaun Ryan

In an update on the state of the county Wednesday, Feb. 24, St. Johns County Deputy Administrator Joy Andrews gave members of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the Chamber of Commerce a rundown on several issues of interest to local residents.

Many of the items she discussed related to growth.

“People are moving from all over the country to St. Johns County,” she said.

Since 2010, the population has increased 40% to 265,000 people, making St. Johns the 10th fastest growing county in the nation.

At the same time, businesses are inquiring about relocation here. Andrews called that “great news for our residents.”



Joy Andrews

“As long as you want to work, there’s pretty much a job for you,” she said, citing the county’s unemployment rate of 3.6% in December.

In fact, she said the county seemed to be at a “crossroads of growth” where it can be selective in what kinds of business it wants. She emphasized the need for a strong job market for the next generation.

“What kind of jobs do we want to create right here at home for them?” she asked rhetorically.

She listed several projects underway that will create or help retain jobs. Among these was the link, a 22,000-square-foot coworking space and innovation incubator being

built in Nocatee; the newly complete PGA TOUR global headquarters, which has the capacity for 1,100 employees; the Ascension St. Vincent’s hospital, which recently broke ground and will create about 450 new jobs; the Baptist HealthPlace at Nocatee; and Flagler Health+ villages at Durbin Park, Murabella and Nocatee.

The medical facilities are expected to promote the creation of related businesses in their vicinity.

Also on the horizon are five new hotels in St. Augustine and a proposed Baptist Medical Center hospital at State Road 207 and Interstate 95.

Andrews offered some reasons so many people want to live here.

For the ninth consecutive year, St. Johns has been named the healthiest county in the state. The school district has been named

the one in Florida where students are most likely to succeed. Nocatee was recently ranked among the top-selling master-planned communities in the nation. St. Augustine was named one of the 11 Best Small Towns in America. And St. Augustine Beach was ranked number 8 on the list of the 25 Best Beaches in America.

Andrews also listed a number of projects in the works for the Ponte Vedra area.

These include installation of a new water main along Ponte Vedra Boulevard, installation of protective sand on berms along the coast, sidewalk improvements at L’Atrium Circle and sidewalk construction along Palm Valley Road, and intersection improvements at Solana Road and State Road A1A, Roscoe Boulevard and Palm Valley Bridge, Mickler Road and S.R. A1A, and several other places.

St. Johns County Chamber holds inaugural Glow Golf Outing & Soirée

Gathering outdoors on the lovely Palencia Golf Clubhouse Patio, members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce socialized and networked on March 4 while many golfers tried their luck with “Glow Golf.”

“This was a first for the Chamber — I applaud our staff and volunteer leaders for their creativity in organizing fun outdoor events for our members during this trying time,” said Isabelle Renault, president and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. “A glowing good time was had by all.”

The event was sponsored by Florida Power and Light FPL (Illumination Presenting); T-Mobile (Radiance) and Glow Sponsors: OxiFresh, WaveFly, Yellowstone Landscape, ASAP Towing, St. Augustine Lighthouse, Koehn Outdoor, Jackson Law Group, CGC Kinetico and Southern Vibes Tasting Room and Wine Cellar.

The Chamber will be hosting a Classic Golf Tournament in June. Watch for more details.



Sharon Friedes and Alan Lowe attend the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce’s Glow Golf Outing & Soiree on March 4 at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine.



Carol Saviak and Reba Ludlow



Dr. Erika Hamer, Trudy Toche and Lisa Petges



Representatives from Radiance presenting partner T-Mobile participate in the event.

Photos by Susan Griffin

MOSH CEO speaks about expansion project

By Shaun Ryan

Jacksonville’s Museum of Science & History is about to undergo a major transformation that will shift its focus to better fit the role of a museum in the 21st century and better accommodate increasing numbers of visitors.



Bruce J. Fafard

Bruce J. Fafard, chief executive officer at MOSH, presented the museum’s plans Wednesday, March 17, at a virtual meeting of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

The project would entail construction of a 130,000-square-foot facility on four acres of Lot X, which is located on East Bay Street and borders Hogan Creek. This would essentially move the museum from its current site on the south bank of the St. Johns River to the north bank.

If all goes well, construction on the \$85 million project could begin before the end of the year. Currently, it has committed funds of \$30 million. Construction would take an anticipated three to four years.

One of the factors driving the expansion is capacity. On normal years when the pandemic is not a factor, the museum sees as many as 190,000 visitors, with the number growing year over year. The most visitors MOSH has seen in a single year was 226,000.

“We’ve really outgrown our service model,” said Fafard, “both in terms of capacity and in terms of the visitor experience that we can offer.”

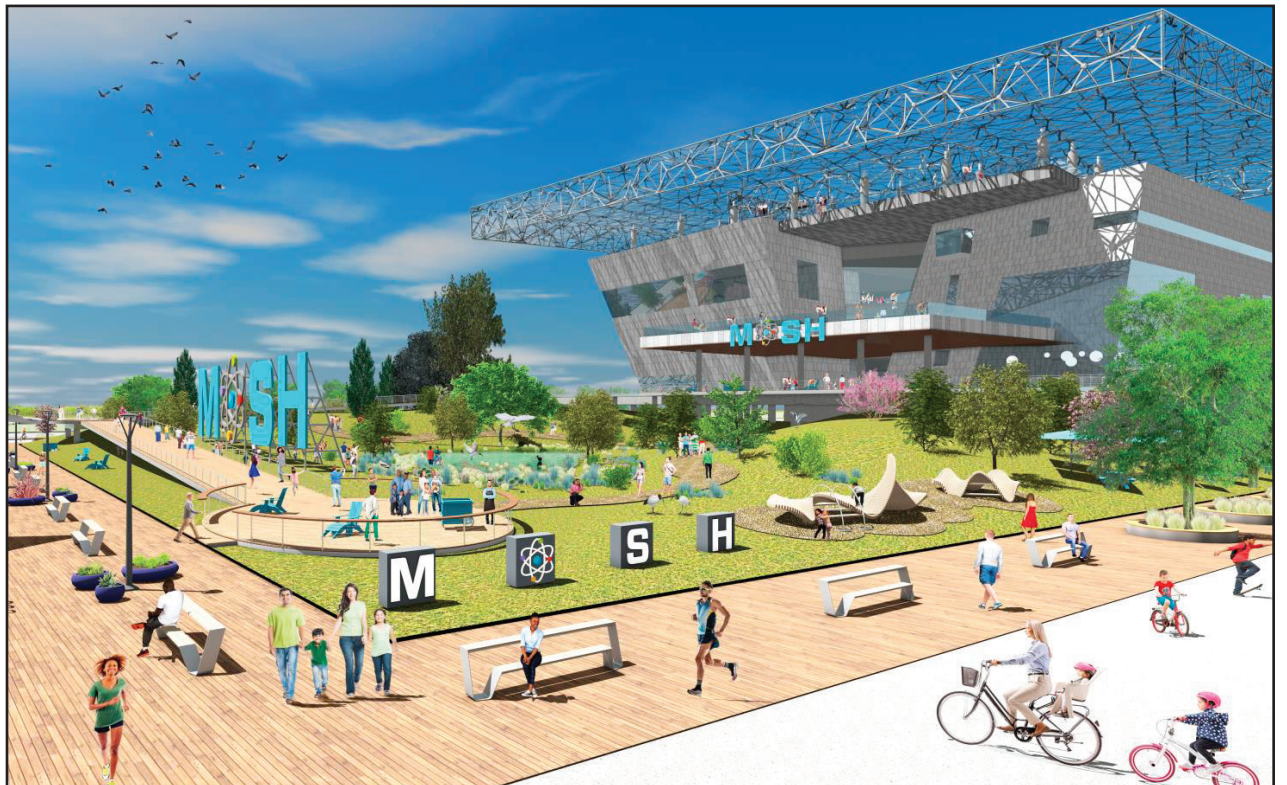
The new museum could accommodate up to 500,000 visitors annually.

The facility will allow MOSH to be transformed from a one-size-fits-all experience to what Fafard called “the museum of tomorrow” — something that’s more nimble, customized and open to new ideas.

It will focus on three “ecosystems,” which will overlap in some areas, weaving together science, culture and innovation.

The innovation ecosystem will focus on capturing Northeast Florida’s “entrepreneurial spirit,” according to Fafard. Experiences will look at new technology, creative problem solving and inventing.

The cultural ecosystem will explore Northeast Florida, its roots and its future identity. Art, music, dance and



Rendering provided by Wingard

A preliminary rendering (for illustration purposes only) shows an example of what the new MOSH facility could possibly look like.

more will take center stage. There will be live demonstrations for cooking, music, performance and story-telling, to name a few.

The natural ecosystem will examine ecology and the natural environment, with live animals and natural history collections.

Throughout, there will be maker spaces, so that visitors can have hands-on experiences.

MOSH is already a major destination for area residents with its core, long-term exhibits regarding science and history, its smaller-scale signature exhibits that frequently focus on the humanities and larger traveling exhibits that cover a variety of topics.

It also has art exhibits, outreach exhibits and online exhibits.

Annually, it serves more than 50,000 students and allows them to participate in STEAM-based programs, which cover more than 31 Sunshine State Educational Standards in the areas of physical, applied, natural and

earth-and-space sciences.

The museum was chartered in 1941 as the Jacksonville Children’s Museum and moved to its current location in 1969. In 1976, it changed its name to the Jacksonville Museum of Science and History and was rebranded in 1988 as MOSH.

In 1989, the facility was expanded to its current 74,000 square feet. Then, last November, the museum launched its Genesis project to build the new facility on the north bank.

The larger museum is expected to have a \$33 million net impact in Duval County, with \$13.6 million of that representing wages and salaries supporting 351 jobs. It is expected to generate about \$185,000 in direct and indirect taxes for the county.

Currently, the museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Hours may be increased later in the year.

For more information, go to themosh.org.

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Business Weekly

PAGE 27 THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021

New community to feature Bobby Weed-designed golf course

Page 29

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photo provided by Azule Vacation Rentals

Azule Vacation Rentals offers unique and luxurious vacation properties with a personal touch and attention to detail.

Local vacation rental company offers high-end experience

Just over a year ago, Randall and Karina Coryell began their endeavor of opening a unique take on a vacation rentals company, Azule Vacation Rentals.

The Coryells, both Ponte Vedra residents, have extensive backgrounds in realty and hospitality management. They felt that the vacation rentals/hospitality industry was lacking a more relevant and successful approach toward real estate

management, so they sat down and devised a solution.

Part of what makes Azule Vacation Rentals different than other management companies is their attention to detail and their hands-on involvement with the entire process. They use custom-integrated technology to ensure that each stay is seamless and unforgettable.



Photo by Holly Tishfield

Karina and Randall Coryell, owners and creators of Azule Vacation Rentals.

VACATION continues on Page 30

Electric bike shop hosts group bike ride, community event

As part of its nationwide “Hello Fun Tour,” Pedego Electric Bikes Ponte Vedra hosted a neighborhood “palooza” event featuring a group Pedego ride along the St. Augustine to Palatka Rail to Trail, live music from local artist Christian Powers and a picnic lunch on Saturday, March 20.

The group ride began at 10 a.m. at the St. Augustine to Palatka Rail to Trail, located at 3797 State Road 207 in Elkton. When the group returned to the trailhead at noon, they were greeted with a complimentary picnic lunch.

“We are thrilled to be celebrating our Pedego community with this palooza event,” said Glenn McIntosh, owner of Pedego Ponte Vedra. “Pedego is focused on connection with others, adventure and simply enjoying



Photo provided by Pedego Electric Bikes

Pedego Electric Bikes Ponte Vedra hosted a neighborhood Palooza event featuring a group Pedego ride March 20.

BIKES continues on Page 31

Dear broken hearted, flow with me ...



Harry Pappas
Columnist

As a certified divorce financial analyst, I received, as you might expect, no training in the emotional aspect of divorce. My certification is about numbers and has nothing to do with arguably a more important issue, healing one’s broken heart.

Guy Winch, a psychologist and author of “How to Fix a Broken Heart,” perhaps sums up what it feels like to have a broken heart; “We feel nothing else. We care about nothing else. And often, we feel as if we can do nothing else except sit with the immense pain, grief and loss.”

If your heart is broken or perhaps you know someone going through the pain perhaps the following narrative will be of interest. I have an approach that fixed my broken heart and I believe could help others. It is called, “Doing things”!

The method works under the premise of what psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, in his book, “Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience,” calls the happiness of flow.

“When people are completely involved in something, they’re not only able to forget their problems, they actually lose track of the passing of time. With further concentration, even the notion of ego or self can disappear. They begin to feel a sense of contentment and the joy of living,” says Csikszentmihalyi. Therefore, our goal to restore our broken heart is simple and straightforward; we proactively create highly engaged flow activities every day. In doing so, it is critical that we adhere to the notion that it is the little things in life that we do consistently, day in and day out, that will generate our breakthroughs.

We cannot fall prey to ignoring the little things that we know are important but at the time, seem insignificant. For example, reading 10 pages of a book every day isn’t much. However, that’s 70 pages a week or 280 pages a month, which is about 12 books a year.

PAPPAS continues on Page 31

Beacon Lake hosts model grand-opening celebrations

The lakefront lifestyle community of Beacon Lake welcomed more than 500 visitors to its model grand opening events celebrating Beacon Lake's newest builder, Toll Brothers. Guests enjoyed entertainment and tours of the community's seven designer-decorated model homes and Lake House, Beacon Lake's resort-style amenity and fitness center.

Beacon Lake is experiencing tremendous growth and success. Nearly half of the home sites at Beacon Lake are sold. In the past six months, the builder team at Beacon Lake has sold more than 200 homes.

"We are thrilled to welcome many new visitors and future homeowners to Beacon Lake," said Bruce J. Parker, managing director for BBX Capital Real Estate, Beacon Lake's master developer. "With award-winning home designs, family-friendly lakefront amenities and a welcoming neighborhood environment, Beacon Lake is one of the finest places to call home in Northeast Florida. I encourage everyone to visit our community, learn more about liv-



ABOVE: Toll Brothers has opened a new designer-decorated model home at Beacon Lake, the Roseberry Elite.



LEFT: Dream Finders Homes offers spacious open floor plans with gourmet kitchens at Beacon Lake.

Photo provided by Clockwork Marketing

ing at Beacon Lake and join the hundreds of families that love living here."

The grand-opening events celebrated the unveiling of Toll Brothers' new, two-story, 3,152-square-foot, designer-decorated model home, Roseberry Elite. At Beacon Lake, Toll Brothers is offering spacious single-family home designs to complement the community's coastal-inspired architectural style and lakefront setting. The

Landing at Beacon Lake, a gated neighborhood with views of Beacon Lake and Lake House, offers five innovative home designs on 73-foot home sites with scenic lake and/or preserve views. Priced from the mid-\$400,000s, floor plans range in size from 2,600 square feet to 3,680 square feet.

While at the community, visitors enjoyed touring Dream Finders Homes' three single-family model homes and three town-home models. At Beacon Lake, Dream Finders Homes is building coastal-inspired single-family homes featuring open floor plans on 43-foot, 53-foot, 63-foot and 73-foot homesites. Dream Finders offers quick move-in homes along with more than 10 floor plans ranging in size from approximately 1,600 square feet to more than 3,200 square feet. Homes are priced starting from the low \$300s.

Beacon Lake is located on the south side of CR 210 between U.S. Route 1 and Interstate 95. For more information, go to www.BeaconLake.com.

GreenPointe names new VP of accounting, investor relations

GreenPointe Holdings, LLC recently announced the promotion of Chris Rusnak to vice president, accounting and investor relations.

"Chris' financial insight and skills combined with his understanding of the real estate industry is invaluable to our company," said GreenPointe President Grady Miars. "His leadership, experience and extensive knowledge of accounting and finance will continue to help chart GreenPointe's growth and business strategy."

In his role, Rusnak oversees the accounting and finance operations and investor relations for the company's entire portfolio of high-value residential and mixed-use communities.



Chris Rusnak

A licensed real estate professional and CPA, Rusnak provides oversight of transactions including land acquisitions and dispositions, community development district bond issuances, construction and development loans. His responsibilities include monitoring the financial health of the company and developing and maintaining investor confidence with its capital partners.

Rusnak joined GreenPointe in 2014 as controller. Prior to joining GreenPointe, he held management roles at Regency Centers and KPMG.

For more information on GreenPointe and its communities, go to www.GreenPointeLLC.com.

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Stillwater community to feature 18-hole golf course, resort-style amenities

By Shaun Ryan

Stillwater, a 549-home community, is currently under construction between Longleaf Pine Parkway and Greenbriar Road west of St. Johns.

Among its amenities, the development will feature a clubhouse, pro shop and an 18-hole golf course.

It will be the first active-adult community with a golf course in Northeast Florida, according to Matt Devereaux, president for the Northeast Florida division of homebuilder Lennar Corp.

In fact, Stillwater will be home to the first 18-hole golf course to be built in the area in more than a decade.

“The course has been designed by renowned designer Bobby Weed in a modern style featuring loops of three, six, nine and 18 holes,” said Devereaux by email. “It’s laid out so that a round is always ready to be played as time allows.”

The course will include a driving range featuring Top Tracer technology, created by Top Golf Entertainment Group.

This technology allows players to see how far the ball goes, play games, play other courses on screens and participate in contests. This is accomplished with cameras and a chip on the ball. Using this technology, residents and their families will have the opportunity to learn more about the game of golf.

“It’s fun for avid golfers and newcomers alike,” said Devereaux. “We’ll also serve great food and beverages to family-style tables.”

In addition to the golf course, Lennar is touting the community’s many amenities. There will be a restaurant, tennis

and bocce ball courts, weekly socials and events and a resort-style swimming pool.

Hampton Golf will manage the community’s social and golf events. It will help create a resort-style community and offer a calendar of events similar to that of a cruise line.

“We know the buyers on this community won’t all be golfers, so we’ve created an active-adult lifestyle with an over-the-top amenity package,” said Devereaux. “We picture residents enjoying a perfect day with their grandkids by the pool, playing Top Tracer games, indulging in the delicious American grill menu or working on their golf swing after work. Then, they’ll socialize at fantastic weekly events by Hampton Golf. It’s not your father’s 55-plus experience – it’s so much more.”

Ultimately, he said, Stillwater is being created to become a destination, rather than just a neighborhood.

“The new, remote-work lifestyle caused by COVID-19 is bringing prospective homebuyers from all over the country,” he said. “Stillwater is a community with something for everyone, that will draw folks to relocate here and put Jacksonville on the map.”

The company’s goal is to have its first homes completed by the end of the year or in the first quarter of 2022. Home prices will begin in the \$300,000s.

“There’s been tremendous interest,” Devereaux said. “We’ve received hundreds of inquiries for our VIP interest list. As a result, we’ve already hosted two virtual events for prospective homebuyers and have more planned for the future.”

For further information, go to stillwatergolfclub.com.



Stillwater will feature an 18-hole golf course with driving range.



Renderings provided by Lennar Corp.

Stillwater will feature a resort-style swimming pool.

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Christy Wenger



Christy has been a Realtor since 2017 and has earned GRI (Graduate, REALTOR Institute) and CLHMS (Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist) certifications. A Jacksonville resident since 2012, Christy is an avid marketer and negotiator who works with buyers and sellers to get the best price possible to protect their long-term investment. A great listener who is truly patient, Christy Wenger is here to guide every valued client each step of the way. Christy is joining as the newest addition to The Moorman Group.



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Looking for listings

Spring selling season is here early this year! I have buyers looking for homes in some specific neighborhoods: Old Ponte Vedra, Marsh Landing, Salt Creek, Sawgrass Pointe, Sawgrass Country Club and South Jacksonville Beach, from patio homes to 6-bedroom homes. Other buyers are open as far as neighborhoods. If you are considering making a change in your abode, please contact me!



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Vacation

Continued from 26

When a homeowner uses Azule to list their home as a vacation rental, the Coryells handle the marketing, tracking and accountability of the property. They hand select tradesman and other employees to maintain full-service management and maintenance for electrical, plumbing, HVAC and other potential issues. Azule keeps their clients constantly in the loop about their property by providing monthly reporting to track their success. The personal dashboard feature on their website allows homeowners to stay updated about bookings, blackout dates and financial overview of the property.

For travelers, Azule customizes each vacation property to fit the needs of the specific travel guests. Their quality is resort standard, meaning upon check-in, the properties are spotless. They boast the service, amenities and convenience of a hotel with the personality and value of a home. Azule includes personalized services from a team of hospitality experts, including the Coryells themselves, to assist travelers in finding local attractions and securing restaurant reservations.

Currently, Azule manages around 10-15 properties in the North Florida beaches/intercoastal area, and while they have intentions of adding more properties, they plan to keep their business on the smaller side.



Photo by Holly Tishfield

Karina and Randall Coryell pose in front the steps of Azule Vacation Rental's "Sea Haven" property.

"Our goal is to stay boutique," said Randall Coryell. "We are uniquely qualified to do what we do."

Since the Coryells have been involved with the community throughout their real

estate management years, Azule Vacation Rentals has been able to grow quickly and organically. The Coryells remain intimately involved with the planning and arranging of Azule properties, unlike

other big name vacation rental companies.

To find out more about Azule Vacation Rentals, or view their available properties, go to azulevacation.com.

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Pappas

Continued from 27

Little things not only make a difference, they make all the difference. Below is a brief summary of my primary flow activities that have become a habit, a way of life, which magically cured my broken heart.

1. Restoring Relationships Online Journal Training: Christian Psychologist Dominic Herbst and his transforming online video series has been a Godsend. Dominic awakened me to the truth. He showed me the power of cracking open my chest and tell what is going on inside my heart. Dominic teaches us the need to reveal our darkest moments. Be vulnerable. Be transparent. Be authentic. Be real! The life changing program uses a combination of Bible based video teachings, short reading assignments, and writing exercises to facilitate the process of healing and restoration. (www.restoringrelationships.org)

2. Prayer/Solitude/Silence: There is power in solitude. I find great inspiration in the way Monks live their lives with simplicity, concentration, and mindfulness. I envy the calm and peace that they find in their days, as they pursue what is meaningful and not what society says is important. If we just shut up, go away, and get quiet on a regular basis, over time, we will witness the magic of stillness in our lives.

3. Write Away: There is abundant research that underscores the benefits of writing. The more I write, the better I feel. Writing became my companion. It is therapeutic regardless how one writes. It could be a journal, poetry or penning a newspaper column or letter.

4. Read Away: Reading is a game changer for me. I call it brain food and try to get as much of it as I can. I often write/journal about what I just read which helps me concentrate and take more copious notes while reading. My focus is with business related and personal development topics.

5. Healthy Body: If we look good, we feel good! Everyone knows this, so let's get and stay in shape by incorporating regular exercise and healthy diet and watch the darkness begin to dissipate.

6. Reduce/Eliminate Alcohol. Far too many of us turn to alcohol to drown out our sorrow. Although we know that drink-

ing brings only temporary euphoria, we continue down the slippery slope nonetheless. Just don't go there!

7. Simple Living: Fumio Sasaki, in his book, "Goodbye, Things: The New Japanese Minimalism" is spot-on when he said, "There's happiness in having less. And it's known that happiness continues for longer periods if it's based on experiences rather than objects." Yep, when I said goodbye to almost all my things, I found I had also changed myself...for the better.

It is paramount to understand that each of our flow activities must have obtainable goals associated. Scientific studies unanimously conclude that when we make progress, we are happy! When we are happy, we enjoy process as much as we enjoy the results, which makes it is easier to stay in the flow. That, my friends, is how we fix our broken heart. I believe you are ready for the transformation or you would not have read this far. I put forth that if one engages in the above flow activities and truly focuses and goes narrow and deep with each activity, not only will he or she find increased and lasting happiness but a mended heart as well. Don't prepare; just begin. Don't think; just act. Go with the flow!

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Photo provided by Pedego Electric Bikes

Pedego Electric Bikes Ponte Vedra hosted a neighborhood Palooza event featuring a group Pedego ride March 20.

Bikes

Continued from 27

the outdoors. We are grateful for our community, and we're excited to see it continue to grow."

The event was one stop of many on Pedego's 2021 Hello Fun Tour. With stops in more than 80 communities that are home to Pedego storefronts, the Hello Fun Tour will highlight more than 40 new store openings, adding to the brand's footprint of over 140 locally-owned locations.

"The Hello Fun Tour is the highlight of our year at Pedego," said Pedego CEO Don DiCostanzo. "We love the opportunity to celebrate our communities. This tour is a unique way for us to show our appreciation and to surprise and delight our store owners and customers. Pedego is all about community, connecting with others and enjoying exercise, and the Palooza events embody just that."

Pedego was founded in 2008 by Don DiCostanzo. For more information on Pedego Electric Bikes go to pedegoelectricbikes.com/ponte-vedra.

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Celebrating 30 years

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

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."

— Luther Burbank



Kathy Esfahani
Columnist

GARDEN DECOR: HOW TO SPRUCE UP YOUR GARDEN

There are numerous ways to utilize garden art and garden décor to spice up your prized garden! There are infinite ways to create your own personal style to any garden or landscape. You can start by looking for items to use around the house, stuffed in a closet, or simply abandoned in your storage shed.

Garden art is important in displaying one's own personal taste and style. Choices of design and planting options — as well as design — are often obvious, how you choose garden art to really spice up your garden's décor and to accentuate your landscape. Using works of art in your garden or landscape provides an open canvas for the imagination! Art in the garden puts emphasis on the differences between nature and composition, yet it also marries the two aspects.

Fitting art into your garden or landscape

Garden schemes reflect the gardener! Making a whimsical garden, especially when young children are around—en-



Photo provided by Kathy Esfahani

hances your dreams and playful spirit. For instance, a fairy garden makes the perfect place to fulfill dreams. For adults in the family, a favorite hobby might be reflected in a simple zen garden enhanced with artificial statues such as the ever popular pagoda, birdbath, angel or cherub. Art in the garden is personal and should suit your tastes by all means!

Purchase art to place in your garden

Many types of decor and feeders can attract animals to your garden. Bird feeders & houses can attract a variety of birds and hummingbirds into your garden. They will keep coming back as you are a consistent source of food. You can also use a bird bath to bring flying friends into your yard!

Butterflies will also be attracted to bright colors in the gardens, in addition to planting their favorite smelling flowers. Some examples online, at garden centers, independent arts-and-crafts festivals and garden shows abound with such examples. Yet simple, homemade art also stands center stage.

Some easy examples the whole family can create might be:

Bottle art, paving stones – Embed colorful stones, marbles, and seashells.

Use colored cement – Have children draw in the cement before it hardens, or place little hands in the stuff to memorial-

GARDEN continues on Page 33

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- 15. *First full-disk image of it was taken in 1966
- 16. Alleviated
- 17. Wildfire remains
- 18. One born to Japanese immigrants
- 19. *"Catch-22" author
- 21. *Oscar-winning leading lady of "Mary Poppins"
- 23. Green or black beverage
- 24. Piercing woodwind
- 25. Mom in U. K.
- 28. ___ and drab
- 30. Good-for-nothing
- 35. *TV's Batman, ___ West
- 37. Figure skater's jump
- 39. Make happy
- 40. Hitchhiker's quest

- 41. *"Wilt the ___" of pro basketball
- 43. Femur, e.g.
- 44. Cut it out
- 46. Away from port
- 47. Largest organ of human body
- 48. Like anti-cruelty society
- 50. Same as #42 Down
- 52. Even, to a poet
- 53. Roaster's spot
- 55. *It's the loneliest number
- 57. *Sam Walton's company
- 61. *Haircut popularized by the Beatles
- 64. Relating to axis
- 65. PC brain
- 67. *Sting Ray and Mustang, e.g.
- 69. Threshing hand tool
- 70. *"On ___ Majesty's Secret Service"
- 71. Dostoyevsky's novel, with The
- 72. Seaside bird
- 73. Tibetan ox
- 74. Condemn
- 11. Meat and potato dish
- 12. Not that
- 15. Take to one's heart
- 20. ___ Grey and James ___ Jones
- 22. Noggin or dome
- 24. #24 Across players
- 25. *___ on Washington
- 26. Farewell in Paris
- 27. Address to a woman
- 29. Just a little
- 31. Young socialites, for short
- 32. Call forth
- 33. *Barbara Eden starred as one
- 34. *First American astronaut to orbit the Earth
- 36. Table in Spanish
- 38. Type of bargain
- 42. Best not mentioned
- 45. Ultimate goal
- 49. Slightly pointed on a Hobbit
- 51. Pro bono
- 54. Scratchy's nemesis
- 56. Chopin piece
- 57. Drift
- 58. Rod for a hot rod
- 59. One with pants on fire?
- 60. Street in Anytown, USA
- 61. Darkness or gloom
- 62. Relating to ear
- 63. Poverty-stricken
- 66. Cause of Princess' downfall
- 68. Pig's home

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			9					

© StatePoint Media
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.

Garden

Continued from 32

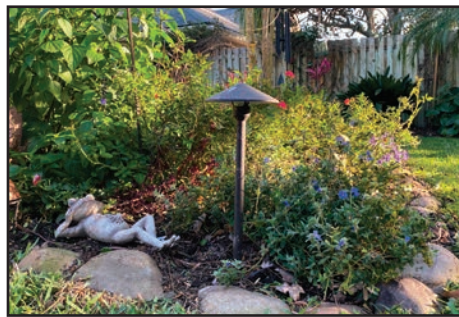
ize childhood. Either go freeform or stencil out the design prior to painting, which transforms an old fence and brightens dark garden spaces.

Create a mosaic – Use different materials like bricks, stones, pavers, various types and colors of gravel or sand. Plant in unusual items, such as a discarded tea pot, an old watering can, and wheelbarrow. When painted and planted, even a toilet can be an unusual and whimsical art installation.

Consider who will view your garden art. Do you want it in front where everybody can appreciate it, or in the backyard for the enjoyment of friends and family? Consider using garden art as focal points to accentuate attractive areas. Forgotten spots: consider placing lawn art in a forgotten spot. For example a dark, moist area where nothing will grow may be an ideal site for a colorful mushroom or capricious frog.

Go and get creative!

Read more at *Gardening Know How*: “Lawn Décor Tips: How to Use Lawn Ornaments Effectively” at www.gardening-knowhow.com/lawn-care/gen/using-lawn-ornaments.htm.



Photos provided by Kathy Esfahani

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

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

EVENT CALENDAR

Suds-n-Shred Fundraiser

When: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 27
Where: Community Hospice Thrift Shop, 11173 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32246

Info: Community Hospice & Palliative Care welcomes the public to kick off spring cleaning by polishing up your wheels and securely shredding old documents at our annual Suds-n-Shred Fundraiser. UltraShred will provide secure, on-site shredding for a \$10 donation per box or bag, and Teen Advisory Board members will be washing cars for an additional \$10 donation. All donations will help provide a day of fun in April for our Community PedsCare patients and families. Members of the Community PedsCare Teen Advisory Board act as ambassadors to raise awareness and funds for the Community PedsCare program. The Teen Advisory Board supports Community PedsCare by volunteering for events and activities, creating and developing clubs or activities for fundraising support through school, creating and hosting an event for the Community PedsCare patients and their families. For more information, contact Community Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation at (904) 886-3883.

Blessing of the Fleet

When: Noon-5 p.m. Sunday, March 28
Where: Plaza de la Constitucion, St. Augustine
Info: Blessing of the Fleet is an annual Palm Sunday event. After Palm Sunday Mass, there is a processional through the Plaza de la Constitucion led by the papal leadership of the Cathedral Basilica, the Knights of Columbus, and St. Augustine's own Royal Family. The processional concludes on the waterfront at the fuel dock of the St. Augustine Municipal Marina. The Bishop stands on a raised platform, sprinkling holy water on any vessel that makes its way past the dock in a procession of boats. Commercial craft as well as personal vessels are invited to participate. The Bridge of Lions will remain closed to all marine traffic during the duration of the event.

Messiah Sing-a-long

When: 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 28
Where: Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Info: Members of the Christ Church Chancel Choir will present selections from Handel's Messiah (including the Hallelujah Chorus) in the courtyard at Christ Church, 3 p.m. on Palm Sunday. All are invited to sing along, music is available. This Courtyard Concert is free and open to the public.



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- Easter Sunrise - April 4, 6:45AM at Mickler's Landing*
- Easter Sunday - April 4, 9AM & 10:30AM at PVPC
- Easter Sunday - April 4, 10:30AM at Waypoint

Childcare Available Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday Services at 9am & 10:30am.
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Easter Sunday Services

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April 4 6:45 a.m.

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Author makes donation of new interactive children's book to local hospital

By Holly Tishfield

Nocatee resident Robin Lemons is a busy woman. On a daily basis, she cares for her two young children, while also teaching as a St. John's County School teacher in science and social studies through St. John's Virtual School. Most recently, she added the title of "author" to her list of credentials as her children's book titled, "Bear Sniffles Soup" made its debut.

"Bear Sniffles Soup" is a tale about a young girl whose beloved teddy bear comes down with a case of the sniffles. She then spends the morning caring for her bear by concocting a recipe named "Bear Sniffles Soup" to help him feel better. The book is an interactive recipe story meant for children to follow along, but none of it is made with actual food ingredients, and instead with play items such as a cup of air and a blanket.

Lemons hatched the idea for this story after spending countless afternoons playing with her own children. One of her daughter's things to do is use her play-kitchen, and Lemons thought it would be a fun idea to create a coordinating cookbook for their games.

"The idea [was] born out of play," said Lemons.

Lemons' father, dubbed Pops, had always been a creative person, so Lemons knew to go to him with this story idea.

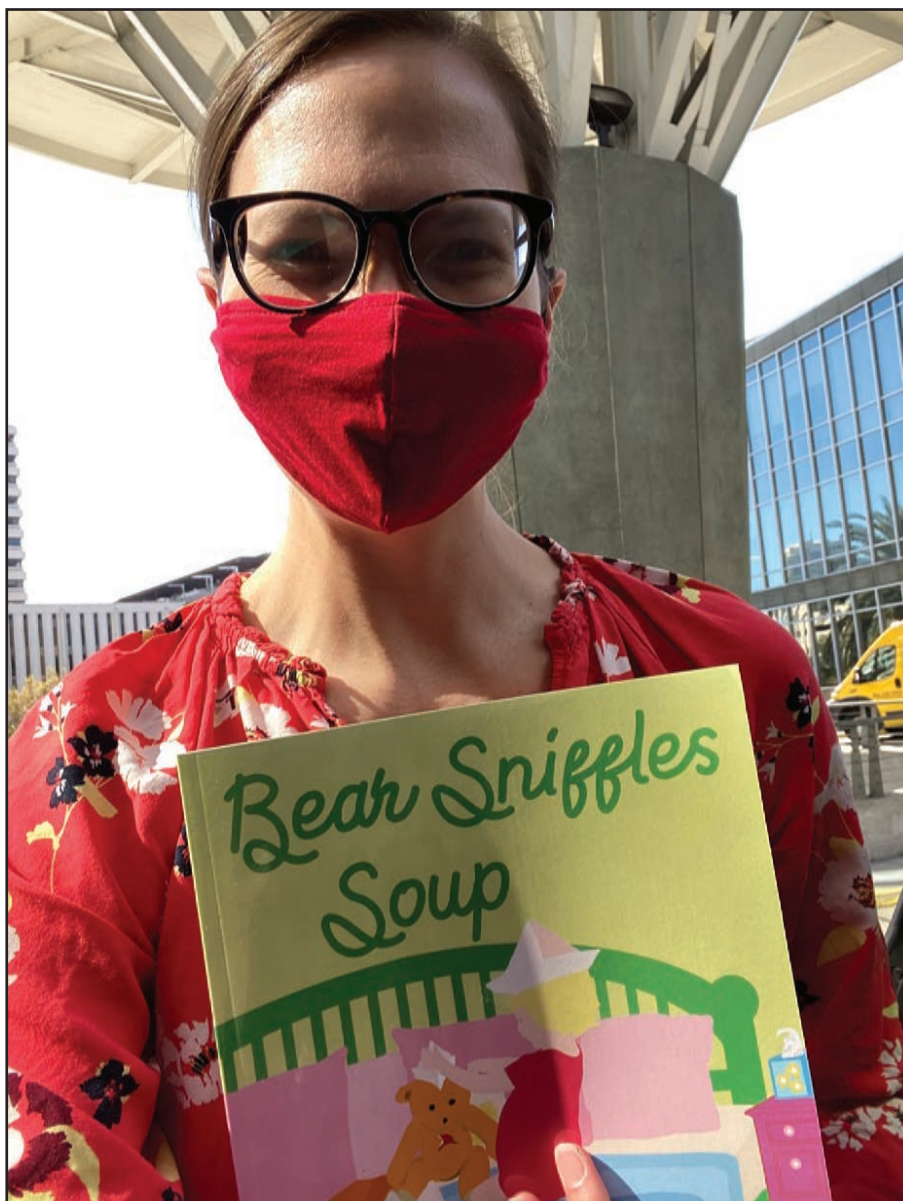


Photo provided by Robin Lemons

Nocatee-based author Robin Lemons proudly poses with her new children's book "Bear Sniffles Soup" as she makes a sizeable donation of the books to Wolfson Children's Hospital.

After some discussion, the two decided on a plot and a coordinating "recipe." While Lemons wrote the story, Pops practiced his use of photoshop to draw images for the children's book. Around eight or nine months later, the story was published.

Upon publication of her children's book, Lemons knew she wanted to do

more than simply leave the book on shelves.

"I feel really fortunate," said Lemons, "and when I think about writing a book, or a business endeavor, I like to think about how I can give back, as well."

AUTHOR continues on **Page 35**

ArtRepublic presents enLiGHTen Art Festival in Atlantic Beach this April

After five successful years bringing world-class art to downtown Jacksonville, ArtRepublic has announced a new partnership with the city of Atlantic Beach with the new AR x AB enLiGHTen Art Festival.

On April 22-25, international, regional and local artists will descend upon Atlantic Beach to highlight the community's history and become catalyzers for Mayport Road's beautification and revitalization efforts through a wellness-centric art festival.

"Genuine human interaction and a connected community is needed now more than ever," said Jessica Santiago, CEO of ArtRepublic. "Artists can open our hearts and minds, inspire us and help create a sense of community."

Some of the festival's highlights will be a landmark mural on the fly-over bridge from Atlantic Boulevard to Mayport Road, a digital art installation projected over One Ocean Resort and Spa, guided tours of the new murals on Mayport Road, an Earth Day beach cleanup and a wellness-centered speaker series at One Ocean Resort and Spa.

"In a canvas as beautiful as Atlantic Beach, we have a unique opportunity through our partnership with ArtRepublic, to bring awareness to our history, community, healthy ways of life and future by turning our walls over to talented artists – locally and from across the globe – to help us transform Mayport Road into an art corridor for the beaches," said Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser. "Sun, sand, culture and art! The enLiGHTen Art Festival will be a great and inspiring opportunity to highlight our local businesses, local artists and safely enjoy our coastal community that we love so much."

The ArtRepublic by Atlantic Beach enLiGHTen Art Festival's sponsors include the city and Haskell. Haskell has been the presenting sponsor of ArtRepublic since its inception.

"This is such an electrifying time for our team as we transition from downtown, and the success of our previous years, to the beaches," said Santiago. "The city of Atlantic Beach and its mayor know first-hand the importance of art as an agent for change and community pride, and we are looking forward to this creative partnership during a weekend of creative activities, community events, wellness and art in Atlantic Beach."

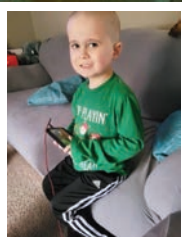
ArtRepublic is looking for local artists to participate in the event. Those interested can email ArtRepublic at info@artrepublicglobal.com for more details. Anyone interested in sponsoring an artist

FESTIVAL continues on **Page 35**

CHARITY TAP TAKEOVER

Fight for Keegan (Facebook group)

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Grace Potter takes the stage April 23 at The Amp

Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Grace Potter will take the stage at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre on April 23 for a limited-capacity concert with distanced seating.

Enhanced safety measures and protocols are in place, including contactless digital ticketing, face-covering requirements and mobile ordering for concessions. Tickets are on sale now.

Described by Spin as “one of the greatest living voices in rock today,” Potter has played every major music festival – Coachella, Lollapalooza, Bonnaroo and Rock in Rio – and has created her own thriving music festival, Grand Point North, in Burlington, Vermont.

She’s shared a stage with The Rolling Stones, Willie Nelson, Robert Plant, the Allman Brothers, Neil Young, Jackson Browne, Mavis Staples and The Roots, to name just a few.

A three-time Grammy-nominated artist (two for 2019’s “Daylight,” one for her multi-platinum duet with Kenny Chesney, “You and Tequila”), Potter has also collaborated with the Flaming Lips for a Tim Burton film, and written and produced music for film and TV, including Disney’s animated feature “Tangled” and the ABC

animated holiday special “Prep & Landing: Naughty vs. Nice.”

In October 2019, Potter released “Daylight,” her second solo LP and first for Fantasy Records.

“Daylight” arrived after a turbulent, life-altering four-year hiatus from music that had the acclaimed singer-songwriter contemplating whether she would ever record another album. Cathartic and emotionally raw, “Daylight” is the result of that arduous journey, the most emotionally revealing, musically daring work of her career.

Releasing “Daylight” ultimately paid off, as Potter was nominated for two Grammy Awards for Best Rock Album and Best Rock Performance during the 63rd Annual Grammy Awards.

Tickets are available at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office and online at Ticketmaster.com.

Tickets are sold in pre-configured pods (groupings) ranging from two to six seats per pod. Each pod is at least six feet from one to the next, and all seats within the pod must be purchased together. All tickets are digital. The box office is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. It accepts payment via debit or credit card only.

Author

Continued from 34

Since the theme of the book dealt with sickness, and healing, Lemons reached out to a children’s hospital in the area that holds a special place in her heart: Wolfson Children’s Hospital. She donated 100 copies of her new book to the auxiliary department of the hospital, a division that provides toys and comfort items to children and families staying at the hospital. Along with the book donation, Lemons

will be donating 20% of all future book proceeds to the hospital, as well.

Response to her book, so far, has been overwhelmingly positive.

“My absolute favorite thing is hearing that kids love the book,” said Lemons. “That is really what makes it all worthwhile and makes me happy.”

To purchase “Bear Sniffles Soup” and learn about any of Lemons’ future book endeavors, go to robinlemons.com.

Festival

Continued from 34

or mural can also contact ArtRepublic online. The city of Atlantic Beach has committed to matching any private mural sponsorships.

As the headquarter hotel for the festival, One Ocean Resort and Spa is offering a special rate for a staycation or spring beach getaway during the event. The rate can be booked online.

The complete lineup of artists, events and the location of be murals will be revealed via social media in the next few weeks.

Find ArtRepublic on Instagram at @artrepublicglobal for all the updates.

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Sports

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021 · PAGE 36

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Friends mourn former Nease football player

Standout running back Joe Bradshaw died at age 19 last Friday in South Carolina

By Shaun Ryan

Charleston Southern University announced Friday, March 19, that freshman football player Joe Bradshaw had passed away in the early morning hours. He was a 2020 graduate of Nease High School.

According to a GoFundMe page set up to help with funeral expenses, he died unexpectedly of natural causes.

Bradshaw, known as Jo Jo to friends and family, was a wide receiver at Charleston Southern where he was a preferred walk-on. He was majoring in computer engineering.

At Nease, he played football and basketball and ran track. He was honored as the 2020 St. Johns County Student Athlete of the Year.

Bradshaw's senior year coach, Collin Drafts, spoke with him by telephone a few days before he passed away. Aside from Panthers football, the two had something else in common: Drafts himself is an alumnus of Charleston Southern, where he is a school Hall of Famer.



Photo by Chris Norton

Nease running back Joe Bradshaw (6) takes off for a long touchdown run against Creekside on Aug. 30, 2019.

BRADSHAW continues on Page 37



A Ponte Vedra batter bunts during a March 16 game against rival Nease. The Sharks won 4-3 in extra innings.

Photos by John Noell

PVHS rallies to beat Nease in extra innings

Trailing by three runs and down to its last six outs, a very young Ponte Vedra baseball team rallied to defeat rival Nease 4-3 on Tuesday March 16.

The victory improved the Sharks' season record to 5-7, while the Panthers currently sit at 6-6.

Visiting Nease bunched together its entire collection of hits in the third inning. The Panthers tallied together three hits and all three of their runs in the game with the big blow — a two-out, two-RBI single by Ryan Miller.

The Sharks ended a scoreless streak over their past three games that reached 19 innings when they tallied a solo run in their half of the sixth inning to close the gap to 3-1. A sacrifice fly from Corey Udell brought home Joe Hoban, who singled as a pinch hitter to lead off the inning, closing the gap to within one. Will Hynes, with his second hit of the night, brought home the tying run to send the game into extra innings.

Sam DeMaio, in his second of relief, retired all three Nease batters he faced in the eighth to set the stage for the game's bizarre ending. With the bases loaded and two outs, Tyler Bernstein hit a high pop-up



The Sharks' Sam Demaio throws a pitch to a Nease batter.

that was misplayed by Nease as Hoban crossed home plate with the winning run. Nease hurt its own cause with five errors in the contest.

After a slow start to begin the season against some stellar competition, the Sharks have shown vast improvement of late as they approach the midway point of the 2021 season. Their last five losses have come

BASEBALL continues on Page 37

Panthers, Sharks to play district game after both moved to Class 7A

By Shaun Ryan

A northern St. Johns County football rivalry has just been ratcheted up a notch.

This week, the FHSAA released its district assignments for the 2021 varsity football season, and Nease and Ponte Vedra high schools have both been moved into District 3 Class 7A.

Nease had been Class 8A before being moved down to 7A. Ponte Vedra had been Class 6A before it was moved up.

Panthers Coach Collin Drafts predicted the change would intensify the traditional rivalry.

"We're going to be playing a district game now," he said. "Out of tradition, we're still going to keep that game the first game of the season."

Normally, the district game would be played in a pre-determined week later in the season, but the local teams got approval to make it their opening game.

"We get to open up with a district game against our biggest rival," said Drafts. "It'll be a lot of fun ... we're looking forward to it."

The new classifications come on the heels of another first for local teams. The 2020 season had a delayed start due to disruptions from COVID-19. But even then, the Nease-Ponte Vedra rivalry did not take the year off. The non-conference "Battle of the Bridge" game was played Sept. 11.

In addition to the 2021 classification changes, the Sharks will have a new coach, Steve Price. He could not be reached for comment for this article.

CLASSIFICATION continues on Page 37

Young Alabama golfer earns 1st APGA Tour win

By Holly Tishfield

This week, 39 players from around the country gathered at the renowned King & Bear golf course with the APGA Tour to compete in two days of games, where a prize of \$7,500 was awarded to the young winner.

The APGA organization, which stands for The Advocates Professional Golf Association, was established in 2008 by a group of motivated individuals striving to include more diversity in the world of golf. They aim to develop and nurture the next generations of minority college and professional golf players by leading developmental programs with free clinics, mentors, equipment and complimentary entries fees for young golfers. APGA partners with inner city youth organizations in different cities to introduce both boys and girls to the game, while also sponsoring Diversity Symposiums, where leaders of the minority golf community gather to discuss ways to best diversify the sport.

“It is really a passion of all of ours,” said Cole Smith, Executive Director of the APGA Tour and member of the Board of Directors, noting that most employees for the APGA are volunteers.

Former Alabama A&M Men’s Golf team star Rovonta Young shot 31 on the back of nine enroute to a final round 66 to capture the APGA Tour at World Golf Village win. The 26-year-old passed 14 players to finish the 36 holes at four under par (74-66-140) and win his first APGA Tour title in his fourth year on the circuit.

Willie Mack, number one ranked in the APGA Collegiate Ranking and 2019 APGA Tour Player of the Year, ended up in 10th place at one-over. The top two



LEFT: Willie Mack, No. 1-ranked APGA Collegiate Player, lines up his shot on the 15th hole during the APGA Tournament on Tuesday at World Golf Village.

BELOW: Members of APGA Tour’s Board of Directors gather by the scoreboard at the tournament.

Photos by Holly Tishfield



Mulbe Dillard and Tim O’Neil have a quick chat as they take a pause in between holes.



amateurs were Florida A&M teammates Mulbe Dillard and Mahindra Lutchman, the #1- and #3-ranked players in the APGA Collegiate Ranking of the best Black golfers in America. Dillard shot the third best round of the day, a three-under 69, to finish at even par and tied for seventh.

“The APGA Tour is providing a great opportunity for HBCU players like me by providing greater access,” said Rovonta Young in a press release. Young, a California native, caught fire on the par-5 13th hole with a 15-yard eagle chip from just off the green. He then took a one-shot lead over White into the final hole and sank a

12-footer for birdie to secure the victory. The APGA Tour heads to Las Vegas next for a three-day competition, where they will then continue another four games at golf courses around the country. Now in its 12th year, the APGA Tour is working to bring greater diversity to the sport of golf.

Baseball

Continued from 36

against teams with a combined overall record of 45-10.

Although their bats have been silent, the Sharks have received some stellar pitching of late to go along with some outstanding defense. The Sharks have played their last three contests by committing errorless defense giving head coach Tom Stanton high hopes that when the bats begin to wake up, more wins will follow.

Following a nine-day layoff for spring break, the Sharks will return to action

at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 25, when they host yet another tough foe in Episcopal, which brings to Shark Park an impressive 8-2 record.

One of the top players for Episcopal is no stranger to Shark fans. Dillon Haines played for PVHS in his freshman and sophomore years before transferring to Episcopal. Haines carries a healthy batting average near .400 and a perfect 2-0 pitching record for the Eagles.

Expected to start on the mound for Ponte Vedra will be the ace of its staff, Scott Griesemer, a North Florida commit. Griesemer has a sound ERA of 2.00, while striking out 32 batters in 21 innings pitched.

class beyond next season, the first game of 2021 should prove a major development in the rivalry.

“It’s already meaningful, but now it actually means something towards the playoffs, too,” said Drafts. “It’ll be a big game.”

Classification

Continued from 36

The new classifications are for one year only. But regardless of whether the local teams will remain in the same

Bradshaw

Continued from 36

Bradshaw told him how he had broken his wrist and was not able to play football; the university is playing a spring season due to the impact of COVID-19.

“He’d just had surgery,” Drafts said. “He was going to be fine and bounce back and come back in the fall. We chatted for 20 to 25 minutes. I wished him the best, and that was the last time we spoke.”

Drafts said Bradshaw was the kind of person whose personality caused others to gravitate toward him.

“He was always smiling,” Drafts said. “Just a positive individual.”

He said he’s spoken with a lot of Bradshaw’s former teammates since hearing the news.

“They’re just heart-broken and shaken up over the whole thing,” Drafts said. “Having a peer and a really good friend like that pass away – it’s been extremely tough on them.”

Bradshaw and his family moved to St.

Johns County from Kansas when he was a sophomore, joining the Panthers football team that year.

His coach for that and his junior year, Tim Krause, called him a stand-out and “an incredibly hard worker.”

He cited Bradshaw’s effort in the weight room, in track, in football and as a student.

“He was just really highly respected by so many people,” Krause said.

He said he was shocked upon learning that Bradshaw had passed away.

“I’m just really saddened,” he said.

This has been a difficult year for Nease and its alumni. Early last month, another former football player, Michael Vaughn, 19, died after apparently falling overboard from a 30-foot commercial fishing vessel near the Buckman Bridge.

A celebration of life event is planned for Bradshaw. It will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 28, at the Nease stadium.

“We’re going to honor him and try to keep his memory alive as best we can,” said Drafts, “because he deserves it. He was just a great young man.”

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