

Your Community Voice for 50 Years

PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

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Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

BREAKING GROUND AT OAK BRIDGE



Vicar's Landing recently broke ground for its new facility at Oak Bridge. FROM LEFT: Sherrie Tatham, president, Vicar's Landing Members Council; Tess Crosby, director of marketing for Vicar's Landing; Dale Pirkle, Vicar's Landing COO; Rev. James Cooper, rector emeritus of Christ Episcopal Church; Bruce Vorsanger, chairman of the board, Life Care Pastoral Services, Inc.; Darren Roy, Vicar's Landing CFO; Mark Bonner, chairman of the board, Life Care Ponte Vedra Inc.; and Bruce Jones, Vicar's Landing CEO. For more, go to page 4

Photo provided by Vicar's Landing



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



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In the Arts
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Send us your news

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

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

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 Murphy. I am a 2-year-old male domestic short-hair cat. I came to the shelter when my family had a change in their living situation and I am looking for a quiet home with a lot of love. I am a big fan of chin rubs, back scratches and boy, do I love attention! Stop in to meet me and I promise, you will fall in love. #57954



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi! My name is Tanner. I am a 3-year-old male terrier mix. I am looking for a family with lots of love and energy to match my own. Looking for someone who will not leave because with all of my loyalty, I will never leave you. Please stop in soon to meet me at the Pet Center. # (57856)

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

Planning for City's annual Independence Day celebration resumes

At the March St. Augustine City Commission meeting, City Manager John Regan recommended the city proceed with plans for the return of Fireworks Over the Matanzas, the city's annual Independence Day celebration, in 2021, with some modifications to services being offered and particular attention to CDC guidelines. "We want to move ahead with planning this year's event for the 4th of July celebration," Regan said, "based on the position we took with outdoor gatherings and following the CDC guidelines. This means being completely agile if we need

to cancel it, but if we don't plan and produce it, then we have no option." Entertainment will be provided by The All-Star Orchestra in The Plaza de la Constitución from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and fireworks will begin at 9:30 p.m. over Matanzas Bay. Satellite parking and shuttle service will not be provided this year. Additional details will be provided as they become available at www.CityStAug.com/Fireworks.

St. Johns County now vaccinating Florida residents 16 years of age and older

St. Johns County is now accepting COVID-19 vaccination appointment preregistrations for persons who are 16 years of age and older to

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

NEAP			COS			MAST		
APSE			WOVE			AORTA		
BETA			AVOW			SMEAR		
EINSTEIN						TEAR		
			UPEND			PIN		
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AVE			CYMBAL			USAF		
LIMPS			EAT			SMART		
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4	9	7	6	2	3	8	5	1
2	4	1	9	6	8	7	3	5
9	3	5	4	7	1	2	8	6
7	6	8	3	5	2	1	9	4
6	8	3	1	4	5	9	7	2
1	2	4	8	9	7	5	6	3
5	7	9	2	3	6	4	1	8

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

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receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Qualifying individuals who are interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine may preregister for an appointment by going to sjvaccineappointment.sjcfl.us. Individuals under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. The appointment preregistration system is only for individuals

who are receiving their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Call (904) 295-3711 for additional information.

Upcoming SJC School Board meeting

There will be a School Board meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday, April 13, in the auditorium of the SJCSD Administrative Building at 40 Orange St. in St. Augustine and via Webex. Instructions to access this virtual meeting will be posted on the St. Johns County School District website at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Permitting continues for new Gate station

Gate Petroleum remains in the permitting stage for construction of a new convenience store, gas station and car wash at 280 A1A North in Ponte Vedra.

According to a company spokeswoman, no dates have yet been set for beginning and completion of construction. Also, the opening date for the business will be announced at a future point.

The business will have a 6,536-square-foot convenience store, including a Fresh Kitchen restaurant and a Yobe Frozen Yo-

gurt shop, 24 fueling stations and a 145-foot, 5,089-square-foot car wash building. The business sits on a 6.79-acre parcel.

In December, the project survived a court challenge from C.X.C., which was listed in a court document as the owner of The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra, which is located just south of the project site.

C.X.C. and some residents of nearby Dolphin Cove had opposed the new station, citing its proximity to wetlands and variances related to signs and architecture.

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COLLECTION



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Beautiful waterfront home in the highly desirable gated neighborhood of Fairfield, moments away from the beach, great restaurants, shopping, & country clubs. This pristine home offers a fabulous floorplan with soaring ceilings, abundant natural light, & water views from main living areas, master suite, & upstairs guest bedroom. Features a paved driveway, screened lanai, & sunning deck. Fairfield has excellent amenities & no CDD fees. MLS 1101765

For more information, contact Kay Kennedy: 904.631.4184



24604 DEER TRACE DR. | PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL
4 BED | 4.5 BATH | 4,423 SQFT | \$1,195,000

Private oasis offering picture perfect sunsets & pristine marsh views in the heart of Marsh Landing! This home has been thoughtfully designed with open sun-drenched living areas, Pella windows, wood floors, & natural sea grass floor coverings. The downstairs owners' suite features a sumptuous bedroom, study, & 2 full baths. There are 2 additional bedrooms upstairs & a first-floor guest retreat with private bath & morning kitchen. MLS 1101955

For more information, contact Missy DeKay: 904.613.2445



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Proposed parking change on Ponte Vedra Boulevard advances

By Shaun Ryan

A proposed change to the ordinance governing parking on Ponte Vedra Boulevard is one step closer to implementation after unanimous approval Monday, April 5, by the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board.

If passed by the Board of County Commissioners, vehicles associated with regular periodic deliveries or services, such as lawn maintenance and repair services, will have to be parked in private driveways rather than on the street.

Variances may be awarded for properties with fewer than 150 feet of frontage if there is a hardship.

Truck tractors or truck tractor semi-trailers used to transport or deliver furniture, appliances, bulk materials, packages or similar items would be allowed to park on the boulevard for up to 10 minutes. However, if they must be parked there longer, they will be required to use flaggers and safety cones.

The amended ordinance would apply to the 6.69-mile segment of Ponte Vedra Boulevard between the Jacksonville

Beach line and Mickler Road.

The proposal was first made by the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Board of Trustees. It was prompted by an increase in traffic, homes and fulltime residents in that area.

In other business, the zoning board agreed to continue a request by Natural Life for the rezoning of one acre of land at 510 A1A N. The change, if approved, would allow commercial uses on the property that are not restricted to office and professional uses.

Natural Life is a retail business that spe-

cializes in women's clothing, accessories and gifts. It wants to use a vacant building at the site for corporate and creative studio space and include a small café and coffee shop, as well as sale of merchandise.

The issue will be taken up at a future meeting.

The zoning board also elected John Patton as its new chair and Megan McKinley as vice chair. Two new members were approved: Richard D. Ensslen and Jane Elizabeth Rollinson. They will fill the seats being vacated this month by Thomas "Brad" Scott and H. Timothy Powell.

Vicar's Landing begins construction on new facility

By Holly Tishfield

Vicar's Landing has been a staple of the Ponte Vedra community for more than 32 years, assisting countless amounts of people find a safe and comfortable location for retirement living. The facility has become extremely popular for its luxurious amenities, activities and dining options. Its waitlist continues to grow, with dozens of hopeful residents fighting to snag a unit.

On March 18, Vicar's Landing broke ground on their new Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge facility, an extension and upgrade of the already desirable living facilities.

The original property is landlocked, with little option for expansion, so the management team at Vicar's Landing was more than pleased to learn about the sale of land at the Oak Bridge golf course less than half of a mile away.

"It is a great way to expand the great offerings that we have and add to our campus," said Bruce Jones, CEO of Vicar's Landing. "It gives us an opportunity to add complimentary amenities to what we have on our existing campus and meet more of the demand."

Jones said that the new campus will offer a more modern take on retirement communities, with different dining options, new walking/green spaces, and a boatload of new amenities, all of which can be viewed from their design and sales center, which will open soon at the Oak Bridge property.

The new campus will host 235 updated units, 175 of which will be independent living homes, available in either apartment, duplex, or triplex cottage style between 1400-2400 square feet; 42 of the units will be assisted



A rendering shows the possible exterior of the new Vicar's Landing facility at Oak Bridge.



Photos provided by Vicar's Landing

ABOVE: A map shows the location of the new Oak Bridge facility.

LEFT: A rendering displays what a bedroom would possibly look like at the new Vicar's Landing location.

The link taking shape in Nocatee Town Center

Unique co-working facility expected to open in summer

By Shaun Ryan

It's been called the next step in the evolution of working, and it's taking shape now in Nocatee Town Center.

The link, a 22,000-square-foot co-working space and innovation incubator that follows a new concept in balancing career, family and recreation, is expected to open this summer.

"It's coming along great," said entrepreneur Raghu Misra, who is also founder and CEO of Wired2Perform.

The facility will be a hub for tech entrepreneurs to launch their businesses and then flourish.

But it will be much more than that.

There will be an emphasis on lifestyle, as well, with a variety of recreational and educational activities for children and families. There will be a fitness room and an area for yoga classes.

Generally, the building's second floor will be devoted to business while the ground floor will be home to the various lifestyle elements.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Raghu Misra, the man behind Wired2Perform and the link, stands on the second floor of the latter's building, which is under construction. When the facility is completed, large windows here will look out on a balcony.

In formally announcing the \$7 million project last June, Misra said the link would have "everything a family needs to learn, play, think and do."

Recently, Misra and Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach Executive Director

Donna Guzzo announced a partnership between the link and the center. That will mean exhibition of works by local, national and international artists, as well as summer camps and art classes.

In fact, several summer camps and

robotic camps are already signing campers up. To read more about these camps, go to the link's website, thelink.zone.

"We're bringing in more and more features that will make the link one of the best places in the world in terms of both building design and what is going to happen inside the building," Misra said.

The building itself, located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., will break some new ground.

Robots will sanitize surfaces against contagions, such as COVID-19. A high-efficiency particulate air system will make the interior environment healthier. And the building will employ contact tracing technology so that occupants will be alerted to potential vectors of infection.

Should a security issue arise, the building itself will contact authorities immediately.

A lot of attention has also been given to energy conservation, with technology holding the building's energy use to as near net-zero as possible.

There has been a lot of interest in the link since Misra first announced it.

"We've identified at least half a dozen or so start-ups that want to start fairly soon after we open," said Misra.

To learn more, go to thelink.zone.



Photos provided by Vicar's Landing

A rendering shows the proposed amenities center for the new Vicar's Landing facility at Oak Bridge.

Vicar's

Continued from 4

living residences, and 18 will be memory care residences.

Though the groundbreaking just began, Jones said they expect the construction to go vertical this summer, and to move in residents by middle-end of next year.

Units at the new campus are already filling up, prompting the Vicar's Landing team to expand the footprint of previously stated Phase I plans.

So far, community reaction to the new facility has been positive overall, since this will give many interested residents a better opportunity to be removed from the waitlist and placed into a unit.

"This [new campus] allows our local seniors to stay independent in their community and stay connected with their community, as well," said Jones, speaking about the significance of such a large project. "This [will] add to our legacy."

To learn more about the Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge construction, go to vicarslanding.com/oakbridge.



A rendering of a dining area in one of the units at the new Oak Bridge location.



A rendering of a living area in one of the units at the new Oak Bridge location.

Kay Nichols

Kay Nichols is a Ponte Vedra Beach resident and founding investor of JaxAngels, which provides a network of relationships and a wealth of member experiences to help build and grow local companies. Nichols has also served the Northeast Florida community as a board member for numerous organizations, including MOCA Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra.

As told to Holly Tishfield

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I am a British national and U.S. citizen with 30 years of global financial technology experience. It has been an exciting time to be in Fintech and ride the digital transformation wave! I have spent my career building major portfolio businesses for Fortune 500 companies, FIS and IBM, which have helped banks navigate the transition from cash and checks to eBanking and digital payments. I have recently parlayed that experience into corporate board participation and advisory work. I currently serve on the board of directors for a digital payments company, a cybersecurity firm and an artificial intelligence business. I was also one of founding investors in JaxAngels, a group of local executives and subject matter experts who invest in and nurture startups and growth companies here in NE Florida. It really exciting to be part Jacksonville's transition into an East Coast technology hub.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

I enjoy being involved with bleeding edge technologies that disrupt how we currently do things. My work serving on boards and with JaxAngels gives me a lot of exposure to digital commerce and the entrepreneurs driving it.



Photo provided by Kay Nichols

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

Cyber crime is a major issue — and opportunity — in today's business environment. In Northeast Florida, we have seen a major uptick in cyber crime involving threats like ransomware — especially in the last year — as COVID has heightened the urgency to move many business operations to the cloud. From large-to-small organizations, everyone is at risk and needs to have a robust cybersecurity strategy and plan to manage the challenge.

What are your primary roles/responsibilities?

I am a big picture thinker and, as board

director, I play a strategic function in supporting the vision, mission and goals of the organization. In contrast, my role as advisor allows me to roll up my sleeves and work shoulder-to-shoulder with the CEO and leadership team to solve today's pressing issue. I love brainstorming new ways of doing things with the team and then work out how technology can help get us there.

What do you enjoy most about living in the Northeast Florida area?

I have lived in 15 cities around the world and have done business in over 50 countries; I could not be more pleased to call NE Florida my home! We should be proud of our beautiful beaches, our

brehtaking downtown and our generous, involved community.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I am an avid contemporary art collector and very much enjoy my involvement with MOCA Jacksonville, where I sit on the board. I love real estate and have just indulged this passion with my seventh renovation project (along with the rest of the COVID world)! Anyone for croquet? I remember playing with my grandad as a girl in the U.K. and am just taking it up again. I am absolutely rubbish, but it's fun to get out there and what-ho. As a Brit, any sport involving wickets must be good, right?



EASTER BUNNY VISITS FLAGLER HEALTH+ VILLAGE AT NOCATEE

ABOVE: Young children have varied reactions to sitting with the Easter Bunny, who made a visit to the Flagler Health+ Health Village at Nocatee on Thursday, April 1.

RIGHT: Blair Burgos and Courtney Johnson hand out treats and refreshments at the Flagler Health+ booth during the event.

Photos by Paris Moulden



5K to benefit family of girl fighting cancer

By Shaun Ryan

In July, Ava Jones began to experience debilitating headaches, and a bump formed on the right side of her face. Parents Kevin and Kym Jones got their daughter medical attention right away, but the diagnosis was not comforting.

It turned out that Ava was suffering from rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare form of cancer that attacks soft tissue, such as muscle.

Nine months later, the eight-year-old bravely undergoes intense chemotherapy and proton radiation therapy while her parents juggle the demands of the workplace with the need to remain at the girl's side.

But the Twenty Mile family soon discovered that they were not facing this challenge alone.

"A few neighbors, we all got together and just said, 'It would be great to raise some funds for them and help them out,'" said Jon Stellwagen.

The neighbors began to plan a fundraiser that would help the Jones family with medical bills. At first, the organizers of Ava's Army 5K were hoping to get between 50 and 100 runners to take part and raise about \$10,000.

5K continues on Page 8



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. \$1,400,000**



Renovated Coastal Cottage

Fully renovated and ideally located in central Ponte Vedra Beach, this pristine home offers easy access to JTB, entertainment, and just a short bike ride to the beach. With custom craftsmanship and quality finishes throughout, you would think it was newly constructed. **3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms. \$795,000.**



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**



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**



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Atlantic Beach Retreat

Ideally located in Atlantic Beach, this 3-story townhome is only two blocks away from the ocean as well as the Beaches Town Center. Enjoy the home's rooftop deck or the easily maintained backyard oasis complete with a 6-ft. privacy fence, covered patio, and relaxing hot tub. **3 Bedrooms, 2F/2H bathrooms \$835,000.**



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5K

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But then something phenomenal happened.

The number of registered participants has shot up to about 400 in the past four weeks, and more than \$35,000 has been raised.

This increase prompted organizers to seek a locale large enough to accommodate the event. And Nocatee Community Manager David Ray stepped up to help. The 5K was relocated from its original site to the Nocatee Station Field at 400 Nocatee Center Way.

“We have a professional timing company for the race, as well,” said Stellwagen, “and they said it’s one of the biggest races they’ve done.”

The event is open not only to runners, but also to walkers and virtual runners. And straight donations may also be made.

Since planning began, the event has been expanded into a day of fun for

families who want to do their part to help Ava.

There will be a kids’ fun run and other activities, a DJ, food trucks and tables and booths managed by each of the event’s 15 sponsors. Custom hats will be available for sale, and bidding has begun on a donation from the Serenata Beach Club – zero initiation and a free first month for a family membership.

Anyone wanting to participate in the run may register at avasarmy5K.com before the end of the day Thursday, April 8. Those missing that deadline may register at special packet pickup event to be held between 5 and 7 p.m. Friday, April 9, that has been dubbed “Grab a Bib, Beer & Pizza Night.” Sponsors for that event are KydRides, Anheuser-Busch and Kiki’s Ice Cream.

There will also be onsite registration and packet pickup Saturday from 7 to 7:45 a.m.

The 5K begins at 8 a.m.

For complete information, go to avasarmy5K.com.

Rotary Club of Palm Valley to host shredding event

April 17 drive-through event benefits Replenish the Pantries

Working together with the United Way of St. Johns County, the Rotary Club of Palm Valley (formerly the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset), will host a combined shredding and replenishment event from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 17, at the Ponte Vedra Beach United Methodist Church, 76 S. Roscoe Blvd.

The combined event will provide community members throughout St. Johns County the opportunity to quickly and safely dispose of paper documents — tax records, personal and business documents, etc. — and also help Replenish the Pantries by donating much-needed food items to more than 20 local area food pantries.

Following CDC protocols, Rotary and Interact volunteers will do all the lifting and transfer all donations directly from vehicles to either UltraShred Technologies’ on-site industrial shredder and/or one of the food pantries’ collection points.

Those using the shredder are asked for a minimum donation of \$20/box or bag with all monetary contributions going directly to the United Way of St. Johns County and other Rotary-supported charities.

Credit cards and cash will be accepted. Checks should be made out to the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset.

Replenish the Pantries is requesting donations of unexpired canned and boxed food items and supplies to include, but not limited to, canned vegetables, fruits, meats, fish, soups, cereals, oatmeal, pastas, baby food, formula, diapers, wipes, toilet paper, paper towels, dry pet food, grocery gift cards and cash donations to be used to buy fresh foods and meat. Items in glass jars will be not accepted.

This combined shredding and Replenish the Pantries event is co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Palm Valley, the St. Johns County United Way, the Ponte Vedra Beach United Methodist Church, Nocatee Branch/VyStar Bank Credit Union and MSW CPA Wealth Advisors, all working together to help support neighbors in need in St. Johns County.

Instead of tossing out post-tax paperwork this year, consider boxing or bagging it up for safe shredding. Check out your pantry and fill up a bag or two of any “extras” for the food pantries.

For more information or questions, contact Paula Roderick at paroderick1@comcast.net or call (904) 280-8933.



annette görtz
fall/winter 2021

Trunk Show
April 8, 9, 10, 12
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Scholar explores possible Jewish roots of Palm Valley founder

By Shaun Ryan

Could the founder of Palm Valley have had Jewish roots — roots that his ancestors hid during the Spanish Inquisition to avoid persecution?

A Zoom program presented on Wednesday, March 31, by the St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society and the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies sought to answer that question.

The featured speaker was author, genealogist and award-winning educator Genie Milgrom, who had researched the issue extensively. She presented her findings, as well as information regarding the challenges of tracing Jewish roots in St. Augustine's colonial period.

CRYPTO-JUDAISM

The Edict of Expulsion signed in 1492 by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand ordered practicing Jews to leave Spain.

Milgrom said about a third of those expelled went to the Ottoman Empire, where they became known as Sephardic Jews. Another third remained and converted to Catholicism.

But the final third only pretended to

be converted, practicing their Jewish faith underground. These were known as crypto, or hidden, Jews.

Milgrom said Crypto-Jewish genealogy was extremely different than regular genealogy, and there were several unique challenges.

Many of her sources were located overseas in difficult-to-find places.

"We're talking about physical books and libraries that are not on the internet," she said. "Books and libraries in obscure little towns all over Spain."

She also tracked down Inquisition records and manifests of ships traveling to the New World, and consulted all of the sources most commonly used in genealogy.

PALM VALLEY

Palm Valley traces its roots back to 1703 when Don Diego Espinosa settled in the area and established a large ranch on territory known as Diego Plains. In the 1730s, the ranch was fortified against attack by native Indian tribes.

By 1739, Great Britain and Spain were at war and Florida, being a Spanish

colony, was a target of the British. The Spanish fortified the Diego farmhouse further and called it Fort San Diego.

After the Spanish military abandoned the site following the defeat of the British in St. Augustine, other people began to move into the area, which in the early 20th century would come to be called Palm Valley.

DON DIEGO

The surname Espinosa comes up so frequently among Crypto-Jews that scholars began to ask the question: Was Palm Coast's founder among their number?

Milgrom meticulously investigated, in part because she herself had Diego Espinosas in her family tree. She even collected information on all 2,900 entries of every person who came before the Inquisition in Mexico City, because Espinosa lived in Mexico before coming here.

In the end, she had some answers to her questions.

"Was he my personal ancestor?" she asked rhetorically. "I don't believe that he was. Was he Crypto-Jewish when he lived, pretending to be Catholic? We don't know



Genealogist and educator Genie Milgrom

this with certainty."

She did conclude that Espinosa probably had Jewish ancestry, but an important life choice indicates that he was not a hidden, practicing Jew.

"He married a freed slave," Milgrom said. "That is very telling. Crypto-Jews that were going to continue as Crypto-Jews wanted, more than anything, to continue these lineages. That was like, number one, to continue the Jewish lineage."

But Milgrom's findings are not the final word on Palm Valley's founder. Milgrom encouraged her audience to further explore the issue.

"I have given you a presentation of circumstantial evidence," she said. "You will have to go deeper into it."

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BARRACUDA

Baptist Health introduces innovative device for aortic aneurysm repair

Technology provides patients a long-lasting seal to preserve blood flow, enhance recovery

Continuing to offer a full spectrum of care for vascular diseases using the most state-of-the-art technology available, Baptist Health is the first health system in the southeastern United States to introduce the Food and Drug Administration-approved Gore Excluder Conformable AAA Endoprosthesis to treat aneurysms found inside the largest blood vessel of the body. The health system implanted its first such device on March 31.

This device permanently seals off aneurysms located in the abdominal section of the aorta and maintains the pathway for blood to circulate unobstructed. The device can be implanted while a patient is under local, regional or general anesthesia through a small puncture site in the groin, eliminating the need for invasive, open surgery to restore blood flow.

Implanted by a physician using real-time X-ray imaging called fluoroscopy, the device is made up of two pieces, a flexible body created from a long-lasting synthetic material and a sturdy outer metal stent structure. When inserted, it reduces blood loss compared to traditional, open surgery where the abdomen is cut open to access the aneurysm, speeding

recovery and helping patients leave the hospital faster following their procedure.

Dr. Erin Moore, vascular surgeon at Baptist Health, is one of six physicians in the U.S. to be the first to offer this device to patients affected by abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA).

“AAAs can cause the largest blood vessel in a patient’s body, the aorta, to swell to several times its normal size. If the aneurysm grows too large, it can rupture, resulting in significant injury or even death,” Moore said. “This device eliminates the risk of aortic aneurysm rupture through a low-risk, minimally invasive intervention and will significantly improve the peace of mind for AAA patients post-procedure.”

Before being approved by the FDA, an 80-patient study was conducted to assess the safety and effectiveness of the prosthesis. Leading the way in innovative research that will transform the way health systems care for those affected by vascular disease, two Baptist Health patients are currently participating in a secondary arm of a clinical trial to further evaluate the device’s efficacy. Results from the trial will be available in early summer 2021.

Implantations of the new device will be performed in the cardiovascular operating room located at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.



Photo provided by Th Volen Group

PVHS senior Katherine Bi-Ji earned scholarship money for her blog writing.

PVHS senior awarded blog writing scholarship

Ponte Vedra High School senior Katherine Bi-Ji has been named the recipient of the Ponte Vedra Focus Blog Writing Scholarship, sponsored by The Volen Group, Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners. Katherine will receive a \$1,000 check towards college expenses.

This award is annually presented to an area high school student who presents “the most compelling community-oriented blog” post. Katherine’s blog titled, “Eat More ‘Hole’ Foods: A Collection of Northeast Florida’s Best Mini Donut Shops,” was selected from numerous fantastic entries received.

Read Katherine’s blog in its entirety at PonteVedraFocus.com/blog



Raise your hand if you’ve ever had shoulder pain.

5 symptoms you shouldn’t ignore

If you have shoulder pain, even raising your hand can hurt. How do you know when it’s time to see a doctor?

If you’re experiencing any of these symptoms, you could be making your shoulder worse by waiting:

1. Clicking or popping in the shoulder joint
2. Persistent pain that intensifies with use
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4. Stiffness and inability to lift your arm over your head
5. Numbness, tingling or burning sensation

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Cypress Village auctions off eggs of art to raise funds for employee scholarship fund

The Cypress Village marketing team silent auctioned off 45 ornate hand-decorated eggs to raise money for the community employee scholarship fund this Easter season.

The eggs were originally donated to the community by a former resident, Pat Kilpatrick, and have been on display in the marketing office for more than five years. Lisa Green, director of sales and marketing, knew the Kilpatricks, who were residents at the community for nearly 30 years and were loved by many, including Green, who helped Pat Kilpatrick sell his home and move into an apartment in 2012 after his wife's passing.

Kilpatrick was well known for the elaborately designed and decorated eggs that he created as a hobby later on in his life.

"I was always intrigued by his collection," Green said, "and I remember he had thousands of different eggs that he had decorated over the years."

The collection includes a variety of hand-carved or decorated quail,

chicken, duck, goose and even ostrich eggs of all sizes. Some are decorated with stamps the Kilpatricks collected on their travels, and others have unique shells or other decorations. Upon his passing in 2014, Pat's son Terry Dix donated the eggs to Cypress Village and they have been proudly displayed in the marketing office for many years.

After more than five years on display, the marketing team at Cypress Village is raising funds through a silent auction towards the employee scholarship fund, a resident-led initiative to help employees pursue continuing education while working at the community.

The Kilpatricks lived at the community since 1995 and made lots of friends and were very loved by the marketing team.

"It only made sense to give back to the community that Pat loved so much, and the response has been tremendous, with residents stopping by every day to share their stories of Pat, and admiring his work," Green said.



ABOVE: Lisa Green, director of sales and marketing for Cypress Village, stands in front of eggs hand-decorated by former Cypress Village resident Pat Kilpatrick. The eggs were auctioned off to help raise money for the facility's employee scholarship fund.



Photos provided by Cypress Village

ABOVE: Pat and Louise Kilpatrick were long-time residents of Cypress Village.

LEFT: A goose egg decorated with collected stamps from around the world.

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OBITUARIES

Mary Eleanor "Wendy" McDevitt

Mary Eleanor "Wendy" McDevitt, age 91, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 with family by her side in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Wendy was survived by her three beloved children, Katherine, William, Todd (Susanne); and three grandchildren, Anna, Meredith, and Jacob McDevitt. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Lester, and her daughter, Barbara.

Wendy was born in Flint, Michigan on January 17, 1930 to Eleanor and Thaddeus Waters. She graduated from Penn Hall Boarding School, Denison University, and the University of Michigan with a Master's in the Arts. She married the love of her life and soulmate on October 9, 1954. They had numerous life adventures together traveling and living in both Weston, Connecticut and Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. She spent her summers in Onekama,



Mary Eleanor "Wendy" McDevitt

Michigan at her family cottage with beautiful sunsets and full of friends and family. Wendy lived a full and blessed life and was extremely active in numerous community and advocacy projects over her many years. She had an incredible gift of the arts and was an accomplished pianist and artist (watercolor was her favorite). She had an unwavering love for her family and treasured her children all the days of her life. She was an active member of the Junior League of Jacksonville, P.E.O. International, Beaches Residents Actively Supporting the Symphony (BRASS), Florida and Michigan Garden Clubs, and the Scenic and Historic A1A Corridor Preservation Project. She was a devoted member of Christ Episcopal Church and St. John's Episcopal by The Lake in Onekama. She spent her last fourteen months in Ann Arbor, Michigan and received the most exceptional care and support.

A celebration of Wendy's life will be held at Christ Episcopal Church at 11:00 am on Saturday, May 22, 2021. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.

Carolyn Troup Atwood-Van Laanen

Carolyn Troup Atwood-Van Laanen, 90, of Jacksonville, died March 27, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Patricia S. Lambertson

Patricia S. Lambertson, 85, of Atlantic Beach, died March 27, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

BLESSING OF THE FLEET IN ST. AUGUSTINE



Photos provided by Lauren Eastman

The annual Blessing of the Fleet was held Sunday, March 28, in St. Augustine. The Rev. Felipe J. Estevez, bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine, offered the blessing from the docks of St. Augustine Municipal Marina. Vessels on the Matanzas Bay were invited to participate in the event, which kicked off with processional through the Plaza de la Constitucion led by the papal leadership of the Cathedral Basilica, the Knights of Columbus and St. Augustine's Royal Family.



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Understanding Grief: A virtual program for the newly bereaved

When: 10-11:30 a.m. April 8; 6-7:30 p.m. April 21
Understanding Grief is designed to help people learn that healing is possible after the death of a loved one and there are effective ways to cope with grief and loss. The 90-minute virtual workshop will help attendees:

- Identify normal responses to loss
- Identify coping skills that may be helpful
- Understand the importance of self-care in the grieving process

Understanding Grief is designed to be most helpful for those who have experienced a loss within the last 90 days, and are at least 18 years old. To register, call (904) 407-7001. All Community Hospice & Palliative Care bereavement services are free of charge and are available to anyone in the community for up to 13 months after a loved one's death.

UNF Opera Program/April Opera Production

When: 8 p.m., April 9 and April 11
The University of North Florida's Opera Program is currently preparing to complete a production based on La finta giardiniera April 9 and 11 on UNF's campus at the Coxwell Pavilion Stage. This will be performed in front of a live audience and live streamed on the UNF Opera YouTube page. For more information, contact Dr. John Daugherty, Voice & Opera program director at john.daugherty@unf.edu.

Beaches Museum's 'Springing the Blooms'

When: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday April 10
Beaches Museum presents "Springing the Blooms" on Saturday, April 10. Taking place throughout the Museum's Pablo Historical Park, Springing the Blooms will feature horticultural exhibits, family-friendly activities, educational lectures and live children's music on the historic Foreman's House front porch. The event will also feature a gallery exhibit opening. The new "Celebrate & Explore Our Wilderness Parks" exhibit will be unveiled on April 10 in the Dickinson Gallery inside the Beaches Museum. Reservations will be required, as well as social distancing and masks. Reservations will be scheduled for a specific time period. This event is free to members with a suggested donation of \$5 for nonmembers. Register at www.beachmuseum.org or call (904) 241-5657.

National Healthcare Decisions Day webinar

When: 2-4 p.m., April 14; 10 a.m.-noon April 15
April 16 is recognized as National Healthcare Decisions Day. Honoring Choices Florida and Community Hospice & Palliative Care are providing the opportunity to learn more about advance care planning on April 14 and 15. Learn about the importance of having a conversation with family and health providers, how to start the discussion and how to document decisions before it's too late. Call (904) 268-5200 for more information or to find out how to register.

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Business Weekly

PAGE 13 THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

St. Johns County earns award for financial reporting

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New management company takes over Hilton Garden Inn in Sawgrass Village

A new management contract has been announced for Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville/Ponte Vedra.

Tampa-based McKibbin Hospitality, an award-winning hotel management company, has added the local hotel to its portfolio, which includes 83 hotels located throughout the United States with

more than 10,000 guest rooms.

“We are pleased to add the Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville/Ponte Vedra to our management portfolio,” said McKibbin Hospitality President Randy Hassen. “This new opportunity allows us to expand our presence in the Jacksonville area and provide our guests with

the highest level of service and warm hospitality.”

The 127-room Hilton Garden Inn is located at 45 Tournament Players Club Blvd., within the Sawgrass Village Shopping Center. It is positioned at the

HOTEL continues on Page 17

‘I’m not gambling, I’m speculating.’ A cautionary tale



Scott A. Grant
Guest Columnist

There are many famous investors. Some, like JP Morgan, Henry Dow and the celebrated Warren Buffett are household names; others are less known. This is a story about one of those lesser-known capitalists, Jesse

Lauriston Livermore. Livermore was a legend in his own time, both reviled and exalted. He made and lost fortunes trading stocks, filing for bankruptcy on three occasions. Interestingly, he had as many bankruptcies as he had wives.

Livermore was born to a poor family in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, in 1877. At the age of 14, he went to work for Paine-Webber. He posted stock quotes on the board for \$5 a week. He was well-liked and might have risen up the ranks of the company, but he preferred to trade on his own account, and he did not care much for the traditional broker houses. Livermore preferred the “bucket shops.” At the time, the “bucket shops” allowed speculators to bet on the price of a stock. You did not actually buy the stocks, you just bet on whether they would go up or down, sort of like modern options trading. At the age of 15, he made his first bet, placing a week’s pay on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad to go up. He made \$8.12 on the five-dollar bet and he was hooked. He quit his job at 16. The next year, he presented his mother with a thousand dollars. She protested that she disapproved of his gambling. Livermore responded that he was not gambling, he was speculating.

Livermore made his first truly big score in 1901, turning a \$10,000 investment in the Northern Pacific Railway into half a million dollars. In 1906, he shorted shares of the Union Pacific Railroad just days before the San Francisco earthquake making a profit of \$250,000. During the infamous Panic of 1907, he was said to have made a million dol-

GRANT continues on Page 16



Photo by Susan Griffin

Representatives of Body 20 workout studio and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Ponte Vedra Beach Division, hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 29 for the new fitness studio now open in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Boutique fitness studio offers unique 20-minute workouts that pack a punch

By Holly Tishfield

Amy Yorio, a physician and fitness instructor from Ponte Vedra, recently accomplished her goal of bringing more health and wellness options to the community by opening a new franchise of the Body 20 workout studio in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Body 20 is a boutique fitness studio

with a unique take on a fast yet effective workout routine, which only takes 20 minutes and provides the effect of 3-5 hours at the gym.

How is this possible? Thanks to new EMF electro-muscular stimulation. EMF, or electric and magnetic fields, that recruits more muscle fibers to localized areas of the body to create a full body workout. The impulses from the EMF are

customizable depending on the person, ranging from high to low depending on the person and the desired effect. Since it recruits more body fibers, it is effective at recruiting lean muscle mass, as well as strengthening your core, relieving low back pain, helping improve posture, and reduce overall body fat.

FITNESS continues on Page 17

There's no debate. The stock market doesn't care who president is in the long run



Harry Pappas
Columnist

Although presidents get a lot of the blame, and take a lot of the credit, for the performance of the stock market, there is no evidence that the president has the ability to impact the economy and markets in any meaningful

way, especially in the long run. There is abundant data that supports the above notion, but there are still far too many folks that believe that the future performance of the stock market is predicated on who is the president. I argue that there are three paramount facts to know about the subject title:

- 1.) Stocks have soared when both Republicans and Democrats were in power.
- 2.) Stocks have tanked when both Republicans and Democrats were in power.
- 3.) The performance of the stocks is exceeding more dependent of where we are in the cycle when presidents come into office.

Nevertheless, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed the Dow's performance under every president since the end of WWI, calculating the percent change in the index during each president's term.

Here are the results:

17. Herbert Hoover

DJIA performance: -82.1%
Served from: March 4, 1929 – March 4, 1933
Months in office: 48
Party affiliation: Republican

16. Richard M. Nixon

DJIA performance: -28.3%
Served from: Jan. 20, 1969 – Aug. 9, 1974
Months in office: 67
Party affiliation: Republican

15. George W. Bush

DJIA performance: -26.5%
Served from: Jan. 20, 2001 – Jan. 20, 2009
Months in office: 96
Party affiliation: Republican

14. James Carter

DJIA performance: -0.7%
Served from: Jan. 20, 1977 – Jan. 20, 1981
Months in office: 48
Party affiliation: Democratic

13. John F. Kennedy

DJIA performance: +15.8%
Served from: Jan. 20, 1961 – Nov. 22, 1963
Months in office: 34
Party affiliation: Democratic

12. Warren G. Harding

DJIA performance: +23.4%
Served from: March 3, 1921 – Aug. 2, 1923
Months in office: 29
Party affiliation: Republican

11. Lyndon B. Johnson

DJIA performance: +26.1%
Served from: Nov. 22, 1963 – Jan. 20, 1969
Months in office: 62
Party affiliation: Democratic

10. Donald J. Trump

DJIA performance: +35.5%
Served from: Jan. 20, 2017 – Present
Months in office: 46
Party affiliation: Republican

9. Gerald R. Ford

DJIA performance: +40.6%
Served from: Aug. 9, 1974 – Jan. 20, 1977
Months in office: 29
Party affiliation: Republican

8. George H. W. Bush

DJIA performance: +41.3%
Served from: Jan. 20, 1989 – Jan. 20, 1993
Months in office: 48
Party affiliation: Republican

7. Harry S. Truman

DJIA performance: +75.2%
Served from: April 12, 1945 – Jan. 20, 1953
Months in office: 93
Party affiliation: Democratic

6. Dwight D. Eisenhower

DJIA performance: +123.7%
Served from: Jan. 20, 1953 – Jan. 20, 1961
Months in office: 96
Party affiliation: Republican

5. Ronald Reagan

DJIA performance: +147.3%
Served from: Jan. 20, 1981 – Jan. 20, 1989
Months in office: 96
Party affiliation: Republican

4. Barack Obama

DJIA performance: +148.3%
Served from: Jan. 20, 2009 – Jan. 20, 2017
Months in office: 96
Party affiliation: Democratic

3. Franklin D. Roosevelt

DJIA performance: +198.6%
Served from: March 4, 1933 – April 12, 1945

PAPPAS continues on Page 18






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St. Johns Clerk of Courts and County Comptroller receives award for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA's) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Fiscal Year 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

"This prestigious award recognizes what we all know: St. Johns County maintains a high level of transparency and accessibility with its finances, primarily communicated in its annual financial report," said Brandon J. Patty, clerk of courts and county comptroller.

"The report has been judged by an independent panel of accounting experts to meet the high standards of the GFOA and their policies," said Dwala Reid, chief financial clerk. "Our office works very diligently to ensure the standards are met and exceeded."

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The certificate is earned when the annual report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program,

which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the county's financial status and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. This is the 28th consecutive year St. Johns County has been awarded the certificate of achievement, a significant accomplishment by local government and those in leadership.

To access the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, which provides a very in-depth review of all county financial information, go to stjohnsclerk.com/cafr.

Saving strategies to consider as retirement draws near

Professionals on the cusp of retirement are often excited about what lies ahead. Some prospective retirees may look forward to traveling once they no longer have to go to work each day, while others may plan to return to school. Regardless of how adults envision spending their retirement, they're going to need money when they're no longer being paid by their employers.

As retirement nears, some professionals may be concerned that they haven't saved enough. There's no one-size-fits-all answer in regard to how much money people will need in retirement. People who are worried they haven't saved enough can try various

strategies to build up their account balances before they officially call it a career.

■ **Take advantage of catch-up contributions.** Adults who are 50 or older are eligible to take advantage of catch-up contributions. These are designed to help people over 50 contribute more to certain retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or IRA, than statutory limits would otherwise allow. There are limits that govern the amount of money people can designate as catch-up contributions, but taking advantage of this perk can help people save more as retirement draws closer.

■ **Consider relocating.** A recent study

from the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that housing costs accounted for 49% of seniors' spending. Professionals nearing retirement who live in areas traditionally associated with a high cost of living can begin to rethink their long-term housing strategy. Relocating to an area with a lower cost of living is one option, but those who prefer to remain in their current town can consider downsizing to a smaller home.

■ **Continue investing.** Conventional wisdom suggests moving away from investing in stocks the closer you get to retirement. Though that's a sound strategy, professionals who are trying to build their

retirement savings in the final years before retiring could be missing out on significant growth by abandoning stocks entirely. Speak with a financial advisor about stock-based investments and your risk tolerance. Maintaining a diversified portfolio with a little risk can be a great way to grow your savings as retirement draws near.

Professionals approaching retirement may be dealing with a mix of excitement and anxiety, particularly if they're concerned about their retirement savings. Various strategies can help quell such anxiety and make it easier for professionals over 50 to build their savings as retirement nears.



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Jacksonville Spring Boat Show promises food, music, fishing seminars – and boats

A new event focused on watercraft, fishing and family fun will be held next week at Metropolitan Park and Marina in Jacksonville.

The inaugural Jacksonville Spring Boat Show will feature activities, seminars and opportunities to board brand-new models of all types of watercraft, including fishing boats, cruisers, ski boats, pontoons, inflatables, personal watercraft and more.

In addition, hundreds of boats and thousands of accessories will be offered for sale.

“We’re very excited to make a splash with the Boat Show and to welcome attendees to one of the most fun and diverse watercraft events of the spring,” said Erin Johnson, Jacksonville Marine Association administrative director. “There truly is something for everyone at the Boat Show — whether you’re a serious fisherman, a weekend cruiser, an adventure seeker or a nature lover.”

The show is scheduled for April 16-18.

Capt. Rick Murphy and Brie Gabrielle of Florida Insider Fishing Report will offer seminars on throwing a cast net, fighting a fish and dissecting a water column. These seminars are sponsored by Fishbites Trading Post.

In addition, kids’ fishing clinics will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 17, and

Sunday, April 18. The first 150 kids to complete the clinic each day will receive a rod and reel combo courtesy of Barracuda Batteries by Continental.

Food trucks will be on site to offer a variety of dining, snacks and beverages. And there will be live music on April 17 and 18.

“We think life really is better with a boat,” said Johnson, “and the Jacksonville Spring Boat Show celebrates every aspect of life on the water.”

The Jacksonville Marine Association is hosting the show, which is sponsored by Vystar Credit Union.

Boat Show hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, April 16; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 17; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 18.

Admission is \$15 for adults, \$5 for children age 12 and younger and \$12 for seniors, military and first responders with ID. Metropolitan Park & Marina is located at 1410 Gator Bowl Blvd., Jacksonville.

Parking is available for \$10 in Lot J of TIAA Bank Field; due to COVID-19 restrictions, payment for parking may be made by credit or debit card only.

For more information, go to boatjax.com.

Grant

Continued from 13

lars on short positions in a single day. When JP Morgan urged him to close his shorts for the good of the country, he did, making another three million on the rebound. Astoundingly, one year later, he was bankrupt. He recovered and then went bankrupt again in 1915. When his first wife refused to pawn the expensive jewelry, he had lavished on her to bail him out, he divorced her.

At the end of World War I, Livermore set out to corner the cotton market. He would have done it, but President Woodrow Wilson, concerned about the effect Livermore’s actions would have on the economy called him to the White House and pleaded with the speculator to sell his cotton at cost. Livermore agreed. When Wilson asked him why he had set out to corner the cotton market, Jesse Livermore responded “to see if I could, Mr. President.” During the Roaring ’20s, he manipulated the wheat market and made \$10 million by engineering a short squeeze on the stock of Piggly Wiggly.

In 1929, Livermore decided the markets were overpriced. He began to short stocks using

multiple brokerage firms to hide his actions from the public. The market kept rising and at one point he was down over \$6 million, but he stuck to his convictions and when the markets crashed in October of 1929, he made a profit of over \$100 million. The media hailed him as “The Great Bear of Wall Street.” Many, in the public, blamed him for the crash. He received numerous death threats.

Five years later, he was divorced for a second time, and astoundingly, he was filing for bankruptcy a third time. He had somehow managed to lose \$100 million in half a decade. It is unclear how he lost that money or how he recovered, but by 1937, he had made enough to pay off the \$800,000 he owed to the IRS.

In 1940, just after Thanksgiving, Livermore shot himself in the cloakroom of the Sherry-Netherland hotel in Manhattan. He left a note for his third wife, whose fourth husband had hung himself after the 1929 crash, declaring himself a “failure.”

Scott A. Grant is an author, historian, and columnist. By day, he manages assets for those who trust him at Standfast Asset Management of Ponte Vedra Beach. He welcomes your comments at scottg@standfast.com

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Fitness

Continued from 13

The Body 20 studio also offers its members a special in-body analysis, which is used both to prescribe the best fitness program for the specific member, but also to keep members accountable at their six-week check-ins. Additionally, the analysis can show muscular imbalances, which can help decrease injuries based on muscle-related issues.

“This is basically a new, revolutionary fitness concept,” said Yorio.

When deciding to open a Body 20 franchise, Yorio was extremely devoted to ensuring the scientific proof of the method.

“I really did the research on the science behind it,” she said, “just to make sure it was not something that was a gimmick.”

After taking some classes, and doing her research, Yorio opened the new studio and held an official ribbon cutting on March 29.

The workouts are one-on-one based with a nationally certified EMF coach, and offered in two methods: strength mode and cardio mode.

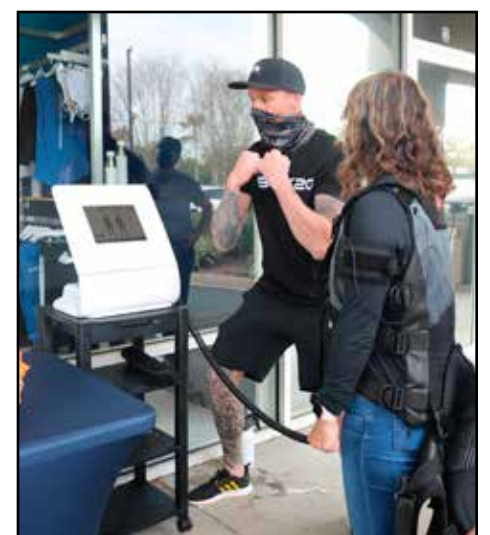


Amy Yorio (center) opened Body 20 with a “revolutionary fitness concept” in mind.

Membership options come in three packages, with each increasing the number of classes per month. “Activate” comes with four classes per month, all of which are strength mode. “Amplify” comes with six classes per month, four of which are strength mode and two are cardio mode.

“Transform” comes with eight classes per month, with an equal number of strength mode and cardio mode classes.

So far, member and community reaction has been overwhelmingly positive, with many happy customers signing on for additional classes and upgraded memberships.



Photos by Susan Griffin

A Body 20 instructor displays some fitness techniques during the grand opening ceremony on March 29.

“Almost everyone can agree on the benefits of exercise on over health and wellness,” said Yorio. “To be able to bring that to my own community and see people benefiting from it is really rewarding.”

To book a session or learn more about the programs, go to body20.com.

Hotel

Continued from 13

entrance to TPC Sawgrass, home of THE PLAYERS Championship, and is near the new PGA Tour headquarters.

The hotel is within a short drive of a number of key sites in the region, including the Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, Blue Cross Blue Shield’s Florida headquarters, St. Johns Town Center and four public beaches with more than 22 miles of coastline.

The new management contract expands

McKibbon’s presence in the Jacksonville area, where the company currently manages two additional hotels: Aloft Jacksonville Airport and Homewood Suites by Hilton Jacksonville-South/St. Johns Center.

Among the amenities provided by the Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville/Ponte

Vedra are free Wi-Fi, an outdoor pool, a fitness center, Mulligan’s Irish Pub and nearly 3,000 square feet of flexible meeting space.

McKibbon Hospitality operates dozens of hotels for Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, IHG and other iconic hospitality brands.

Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

Criminal Defense Attorney



Janet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL “Blood, Breath & Tears” annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson has been awarded the AV preeminent rating™ from Martindale-Hubble® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America™, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys. She also appears as a legal commentator on CNN and HLN.

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Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR to host Mega Open House

Company's listings include wide range of prices, styles and neighborhoods

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty announces its next Mega Open House Weekend is Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18.

The event offers dozens of open house viewings of the company's listings of available homes. The listings

encompass homes in a wide range of prices, styles and neighborhoods throughout Northeast Florida.

"Our Mega Open House weekends have been a tremendous success and are popular with both buyers and sellers," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty President and CEO Christy Budnick. "Prospective buyers can view several homes and neighborhoods in one weekend, while sellers have discovered the Mega Open House is an outstanding

way to showcase their home to numerous potential buyers."

Go to OpenHouseNEFlorida.com for a list of open houses. Visit the company's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/FloridaNetworkRealty, to view the homes virtually during the event.

Everyone is welcome to tour homes for sale during the Mega Open House weekend. For more information, go to FloridaNetworkRealty.com.



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Pappas

Continued from 14

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Months in office: 96
Party affiliation: Democratic

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ACROSS

- 1. Hedgehog of video games
- 6. And so forth, acronym
- 9. *Oscar-nominated black and white movie
- 13. Treeless plain
- 14. Grazing field
- 15. Moses' mountain
- 16. Sty sounds
- 17. Nelson Mandela's org.
- 18. Like beer at a keg-ger (2 words)
- 19. *Posthumous nominee

- 21. *Anthony of "The Father"
- 23. "What's up, ____?"
- 24. Huge pile
- 25. Protestant denom.
- 28. Feed storage cylinder
- 30. Load again
- 35. Relating to ear
- 37. Flighty one
- 39. Proclaimed true without proof
- 40. Musician David Lee _____
- 41. Ascetic holy Hindu
- 43. Eastern European

- 44. Plural of #10 Down
- 46. 500 sheets
- 47. Looking for aliens.org.
- 48. Kitchen whistler
- 50. Wails
- 52. Bad-mouth
- 53. Medieval torture device
- 55. Pied Piper follower
- 57. Politburo hat fur
- 61. *Daniel of "Judas and the Black Messiah"
- 65. Raspberry drupelets
- 66. Fuss, to Shakespeare
- 68. Void, as in marriage
- 69. Defective car
- 70. Given name of Jack Kerouac's Paradise
- 71. ____ of Honor
- 72. Adam and Eve's first residence
- 73. Money in Myanmar
- 74. Shoemaker without shoes, e.g.

- 15. Soaked
- 20. DNA and RNA
- 22. Argonaut's propeller
- 24. Shared work surface at an office
- 25. *Sasha Baron Cohen's "Subsequent Moviefilm" role
- 26. Be sorry for one's wickedness
- 27. Pita, in UK
- 29. *Like Roberto Benigni's fictional son
- 31. Husband to a widow, e.g.
- 32. Checked out
- 33. Stradivari competitor
- 34. *"Fences" winner and "Ma Rainey" nominee
- 36. Poker ante
- 38. *"Nomadland" director
- 42. Shadow
- 45. *The Trial of the Chicago 7" screenwriter
- 49. Greek "t"
- 51. Sandwich sausage
- 54. Necklace lock
- 56. Radio receiver
- 57. Nutritious leafy green
- 58. Got A+
- 59. Ice on a window
- 60. Happening soon, old fashioned
- 61. Caffeine-containing nut tree
- 62. Editing arrow
- 63. Chinese monetary unit
- 64. Friend in war
- 67. *Nominee for Billie Holiday role

DOWN

- 1. Undesirable room-mate
- 2. Medley
- 3. Grannies, in UK
- 4. Tattooed
- 5. Universe
- 6. Panache
- 7. *Most 2021 Oscar nominations for one film, #9 Across
- 8. Secret storage
- 9. Stole fur
- 10. One opposed
- 11. Indian restaurant staple
- 12. U.S. customary unit of force, pl.

SUDOKU

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

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Photo provided by Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The Florida Chamber Music Project will hold two spring shows at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. The first show will be Sunday, April 25, and the second one will be Sunday, May 23.

Florida Chamber Music Project to perform spring shows at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

Ponte Vedra Concert Hall recently announced the Florida Chamber Music Project (FCMP) have confirmed two spring 2021 limited-capacity performances with distanced seating on Sunday, April 25, and Sunday, May 23.

Enhanced safety measures and protocols are in place, including contactless digital ticketing and face-covering requirements.

Currently in its eighth season, the Florida Chamber Music Project will perform works by Piotr Szewczyk and Edvard Grieg at 3 p.m. April 25, celebrating Contemporary Classical and Music of the Romantic Era. On Sunday, May 23 at 3 p.m., FCMP presents Mozart Prokofiev and Bartok, celebrating music of the Masters and Romanian Folk Dances.

"We are pleased to be able to perform again at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall,"

said Susan Pardue of the FCMP. "These difficult times make music even more important."

The Florida Chamber Music Project provides live classical music in an intimate chamber music setting for residents of St. Johns County, St. Augustine, Clay County and the surrounding areas of Jacksonville and Northeast Florida. The primary purpose of the Florida Chamber Music Project is to foster and encourage the presentation of classical chamber music; to present and sponsor presentation of classical chamber music by highly qualified professional musicians; to increase awareness of classical chamber music in the State of Florida in general and in North Florida in particular and to provide educational institutions with

MUSIC continues on Page 20



FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT

Florida Chamber Music Project Presents

Piotr Szewczyk and Edvard Grieg



Please join the Florida Chamber Music Project as we celebrate Contemporary Classical and Music of the Romantic Era

Sunday, April 25th, 3pm

at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.
Doors to open at 2 p.m.

CDC protocols: Patrons, performers, and staff will adhere to both FCMP & SJC Guidelines (see COVID-19 Guidelines, policies, updates at theamp.com) Masks will be required at all times. Tickets will be sold in advance in socially distanced pods, through Ticketmaster or at the St. Augustine Amphitheater box office. Advance box office sales will not be available at the PV Concert Hall, however you may purchase at the box office on the day of the concert.

For more information please visit our website at flchambermusic.org

PVHS to present 'High School Musical'

Fun, family-friendly show based on iconic Disney movie opens April 22

By Shaun Ryan

When shy transfer student Gabriella Montez and basketball team captain Troy Bolton decide to try out for the lead parts in their high school's musical production, the stage is set for an evening of intrigue, rivalries, dynamic dancing and songs that make audiences want to sing along.

Ponte Vedra High School students will present eight performances of "High School Musical" beginning April 22. The fun, family-friendly show is based on the 2006 Disney television film that has sparked a franchise.

The cast of about 70 includes many students who are enjoying their first taste of musical theater.

"What I love about it is that there are so many first-timers," said director and PVHS educator Jason Nettle. "I'm not necessarily out to create professional actors. I'm out to give them as much a well-rounded high school experience as possible."

Senior Alex Hamernik, who plays basketball team member Zeke, echoed that thought. Having never performed in a stage production before, Alex wanted to try something new before he graduated.

"It's great," he said. "I've had a blast so far."

For Alex, like many members of the cast, art imitates life. Or perhaps vice versa.

In the show, his character tries out for the school play after Troy — one of his best friends — does. In real life, Alex tried out after he learned that friend and teammate, Evan Fleischer — who actually plays Troy — did.

And, like his own character, Evan is performing in his first stage production.

"It's a totally new experience, but I love it," he said. "I think it's awesome meeting a new crowd of people."

It's also a first for Presley Baesler, who plays Gabriella. And though she shares that with her character, Presley has to work as appearing shy.

"It's definitely harder for me to play a shy girl, because I see myself as more outgoing," she said. "But it allows me to find a new part of myself, a more introverted portion of myself."



Photos by Shaun Ryan

The cast of "High School Musical" dramatically represents the struggle faced by the two main characters — Troy (Evan Fleischer) and Gabriella (Presley Baesler) — who must decide whether to try out for the main roles in their school's stage production or pursue competing interests.



ABOVE: Evan Fleischer (left) is Troy and Presley Baesler is Gabriella in the PVHS production of "High School Musical."

LEFT: The basketball team in "High School Musical" has its own production number.

Not everyone in the cast is a student. PVHS history teacher Mark Casper plays the coach, a role he understands well as he coaches football at the school. He is also acquainted with the young actors who portray athletes in the show because they have been athletes in real life.

Presenting a musical at a time when COVID-19 has forced a number of restrictions on activities has been a challenge, but one that Nettle has accommodated.

Because the students must all wear masks, he has set the show in 2021. And he has arranged the staging so that the cast can spread out, and not everyone is on stage at the same time.

And he has had to incorporate redundancy in casting.

"Everyone in the cast knows they could be quarantined at any moment, so I've double-cast the show," he said. "I

have two understudy shows — so if Evan gets quarantined, James (Duncan) will go on."

Another challenge is that only 200 people are permitted to be seated in the audience at one time. In order to accommodate the full audience, there will be extra performances.

Still, available seats are being claimed quickly, and Nettle recommends people reserve their seats prior to the shows.

"High School Musical" will be presented at 7 p.m. April 22, 23, 24, 29, 30 and May 1, and at 2 p.m. April 25 and May 2. Tickets are \$10. Reservations can be made at signupgenius.com/go/70a0b4fa5a82dabf85-high. Also, a QR Code linking to the sign-up site can be found by going to the Ponte Vedra Sharks official Twitter feed, @PonteVedraHigh.

UPCOMING SHOWS

THE MUSIC MAN

May 6 - June 6

.....

SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL

June 17 - August 1

.....

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

August 12 - September 26

Music

Continued from 19

opportunities to educate students of all kinds concerning the nature and value of classical chamber music and its performance.

Tickets for Florida Chamber Music Project are on sale at Ticketmaster.com. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Box Office remains closed at this time. 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. Additionally, all tickets are digital. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Office will be open on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and will only accept payment via debit or credit card.

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Mini-golf tournament benefits homeless youth center



Photo by Justin Snavely

Grand champion Matt O'Rourke (center), of HW Roofing, poses with Victoria Long (left), of Flagler Health+ and Judy Dembowski, executive director of Port in the Storm.

Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Shelter held its second annual Swing Into Action mini-golf tournament sponsored by Coldwell Banker Premier Properties, Schmidt Realty.

On March 8, 144 golfers enjoyed a picture-perfect day as they played in a real golf tournament style event at Fiesta Falls Mini Golf in St. Augustine. The emcee for the day was Ed Dwyer of the Florida Small Business Development Center, a St. Francis House board member, who got the golfers started and assisted in giving away the trophies and prizes.

Prizes were awarded for round one champion, round two champion, grand champion, best-dressed teams, most team spirit and highest score.

The first-round champion was Richard O'Rourke's team, HW Roofing, and the second-round champions were Scott Beavers' team from the St.

John's County Sheriff's Office.

In a sudden death, one-hole playoff, HW Roofing became the events first grand champion. The grand champion sponsor was Flagler Health+ and Beaver Toyota was the trophy sponsor.

Judy Dembowski, executive director of Port in the Storm, gave brief remarks and congratulated the winning teams.

Local business sponsored all 18 holes.

Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Center is a program of St. Francis House. It serves local homeless youth by providing safe shelter, meals, a safe and caring environment with the structure and stability necessary to build a positive future and comprehensive life-skill programs to prepare youth for adulthood.


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Shapiro Group, 2012.

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