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The First Coast Register is a bimonthly general interest magazine published by The Ponte Vedra Recorder and OPC News, LLC. The magazine can be found throughout the upscale areas of greater Jacksonville. For advertising inquiries, call 904.285.8831.

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ON THE COVER



Set on a secluded Intracoastal Waterway tributary, this 4 bedroom, 5 bath Queens Harbour pool home exudes classic Florida design. Built by Brad Negaard/GBN Construction in 2001, it is priced at \$1,350,000 and offered for sale by Clare Berry, Berry & Co. Real Estate.

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as told to
SHAUN RYAN

RICHARD HUGO

Richard Hugo is owner of Hugo's Interiors, located at 3139 Philips Highway North in Jacksonville. The business, started 100 years ago by his grandfather sells furniture but also offers custom upholstery, re-upholstery, custom window treatments and linens and bedding. It provides custom millwork, including cabinets, countertops and banquettes for amenity centers and restaurants. And it has interior decorators on staff.

Hugo's Interiors is celebrating its centennial this year. Why do you think it has been able to remain successful through a century of ups and downs and evolving markets?

Well, it's a family business and we keep all our marbles in the same basket, so to speak. And because we do so many different things – we're not just a furniture store ... we're able to kind of go between different things when the economy goes up and down.

The other main thing is that we're very, very service-oriented. People appreciate the service that we provide. When somebody buys something from the showroom or purchases something, we can deliver to an exact day and an exact time for the customer, because their time is more important than ours.

And when we re-upholster furniture, we can also re-style it to some extent, the details, because we don't recover furniture. We don't put fabric on top of fabric. We take it back to the frame and treat it like a new piece of upholstery.

We're able to do lots of things, because we build our own frames. We build upholstery here from the ground up. So, the same people that build new upholstery re-upholster the furniture. And the man who does the frames, he can also adjust frames and re-do frames when we re-upholster them for people.

Being a family business, we are very focused on our business, very focused on our clients. And tend to turn a customer into a client because of our service.

You have to have some real craftspeople.

Yes. We train them all. Most of them have been here over 25 years or longer. We train them, and we keep them. Hopefully, everybody's happy, everybody gets along, gets paid well and all that good stuff.

Tell me about the Hugo family and how the members have kept the tradition going.

My grandfather emigrated from the Austrian-Hungarian Empire after World War I, and he went through New York, of course, and he ended up in Jacksonville, because I believe his sister lived here.

So, he migrated to Jacksonville. Then, he happened to go to Plant



City, where my grandmother worked.

He happened to see her in the window sewing hats. Back in the 1920s, you know, they had all these fancy hats. And she knew how to sew. So he could upholster, he could sell and she could sew.

So, there's the marriage made in heaven, right?

They got married and ended up in Jacksonville.

Originally, we were located in Mrs. Cummer's Boat House for several months.

Then, they opened up a shop on Riverside Avenue.

They had three sons: George, Edward and Charles. All of them worked within the business. My father was the interior designer-decorator. He went to school in New York. And did projects all over the Southeast. The Breakers Hotel, several large hotels in South Florida in the '60s.

And then, he had four children. Three of them worked in the business, which was Edward, Renee and Richard – me. And they've all retired, other than me.

What is your greatest source of pride when it comes to Hugo's Interiors?

I think the legacy of the quality and the service we provide. We very much focus on the customer first and their needs.

We're customer-driven. And I think the people who come here, hopefully they have a good experience and appreciate what we do and come back many, many times.

We've done generational business for families in Jacksonville. We're on the third or fourth generation of families that live in Jacksonville.

Tell me a bit about yourself and your career. Do you live in Jacksonville?

I have for my whole life. I went to school, too, in New York for interior design.



I came back from New York and just started doing interior design and decorating for clients. And then we added on over the years more retail furniture.

I'm really here to be of service to whatever my customers want. I don't have a certain look that I do. It's really what the customer wants. The quality we've always had, but it's really more that they're looking for. That's the primary goal: to make sure they're happy.

Some people want to brand their design. They want a certain look. That's great. I appreciate all that. But I've never looked at this that way. I've looked at it as what the customers wants.

What do you like best about living on the First Coast?

It's the small-town feeling, I guess. You know, I've been here my whole life. So, I like North Florida because it is more open. There are more things to do. There are opportunities to get to the beach. The waterways and all that, where in South Florida it's a little too crowded for me.

And then, our clients are here, and they become good friends over the years.

How do you like to spend your free time?

I like to spend my time with my children. None of them are in the house anymore, but every weekend they've got something for me to do. So, it's really more of spending time with them.

I also have a second home in North Carolina. So, I've built up a clientele over the years in the western Carolinas. I go up there every five or six weeks, visit some clients and stay at my house for a couple of days and come back.

My wife will tell you, I like to work. Even if we're closed, I'm still here doing something. That's just me. I just like what I do.

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Photos by Jennifer Logue
The Jacksonville Home & Patio Show
features hundreds of exhibitors.

Home and Patio Show

HIGHLIGHTS NEW PRODUCTS

by JENNIFER LOGUE

The Jacksonville Home & Patio Show was held Sept. 30-Oct. 3, bringing hundreds of exhibitors to the Prime Osborn III Convention Center. From patio furniture and massage chairs to carpets, roofing and mattresses, the show featured a variety of exhibits and special promotions.

One of the more unique exhibitors featured at this year's show was Ponte Vedra Beach-based Ocean Sole, a social enterprise that helps clean the oceans and the environment by recycling flip-flops washed up on the beaches of Kenya into hand-crafted works of art. In addition to having a booth space at the home show, Ocean Sole's larger artworks could be found throughout the show, providing a colorful, whimsical touch to the weekend. For more information on Ocean Sole, go to oceansoleonline.com.

Another highlight of this year's Home & Patio Show was the presence of "swimspas" that combine a hot tub with an "endless" swimming pool that allows users to swim in place against a current. The show featured several swimspa exhibitors, with prices ranging up to \$40,000. Clearwater-based Spa Manufacturers Inc. – which sells factory-direct to consumers – displayed a 16-foot swimspa with two jets, waterfall, LED lights, hot tub seating for six and built-in bar with stools for \$17,995. The company also offers a basic swimspa model for \$10,000.

"Swimspas are popular because they have a heater, so you can swim constantly all year round," Swim Manufacturers' Sarah Porter said. "And because they're above ground, you don't need to deal with building codes."

For more information, go to spamanufacturers.com.



Premier Outdoor's Home Show exhibit included spas and outdoor kitchen displays



Jackie Smith and Erin Smith of Ponte Vedra Beach-based Ocean Sole display some of their unique art crafted in Kenya from recycled flip-flops.



Sarah Porter and Bobby Woltz of Spa Manufacturers Inc., which is celebrating its 40th anniversary.



This Premier Outdoor swimspa features built-in speakers.

HOME IS LIKE A SWISS ARMY KNIFE

by BY CLARE BERRY, BROKER,
BERRY & CO. REAL ESTATE

Everyone's lives are different since March of 2020. I remember it well because it was TPC week. THE PLAYERS tournament was cancelled. We volunteer committee chairs got the news late Thursday night after the first round of play. Cancelled. The next day, on Friday and only Friday, only I and one other volunteer would be allowed entry to the clubhouse, where we host Player Services, to assist the players and their families in exiting the tournament grounds that day. Altered access to each other and to services started lifestyle changes that affect home buyers and sellers today.

When I first meet a buyer, I've always asked certain questions – pool or no pool? What size garage? One story or two? Views? Gated community? What do they do in their “off time” and is being near those diversions important?

In the years before the pandemic, answering these questions gave parameters so I could help buyers find their dream

home. In those days, Home was most often a place to accommodate one's immediate family members, and it needed to be near the buyer's workplace and children's schools.

The pandemic altered connectivity with work and non-work activities. It followed that this would affect the requirements of home. I added to my questions: Do you need a home office, or more than one, and what are the requirements for office space? Will you be home-schooling your children? Will other generations be living with you, from time to time or permanently? What do you want in your outdoorspace? A multi-purpose cooking area? Under-roof or open air patio (or both)? Play area for your children? Does the outside of your home need to serve as your getaway space as well as where you go to work, so seclusion? Views? People who didn't go to the gym during the height of the pandemic fashioned their own workout space in their home. Some started their own vegetable gardens during the pandemic. Some people

just found themselves frustrated with the shortcomings of their homes and decided that their next home would accommodate the needs of today's lifestyle.

Recently a speaker (on a Zoom call) compared today's homes to Swiss Army knives – they do it all, and today's buyers are looking for that in their homes. Sellers should keep this in mind when presenting their homes. A Realtor who is trained as a home marketing specialist will help position spaces appropriately for incoming buyers. Home is now a multi-purpose tool, and it looks like that will stay with us as many of the changes of the pandemic world become permanent.

Clare Berry has been a Northeast Florida Realtor since 1985, opening her own brokerage, Berry & Co. Real Estate, in 1993. She and her firm were just named “Best of the Best” in 10 Real Estate categories by Ponte Vedra Recorder readers for the third year in a row.

Don't miss our next issue!

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

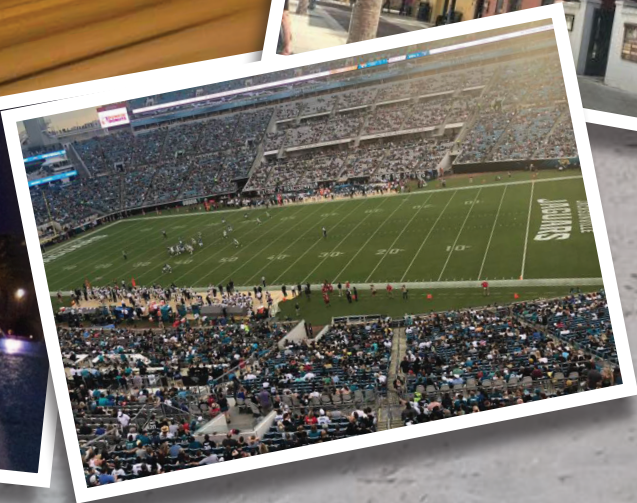
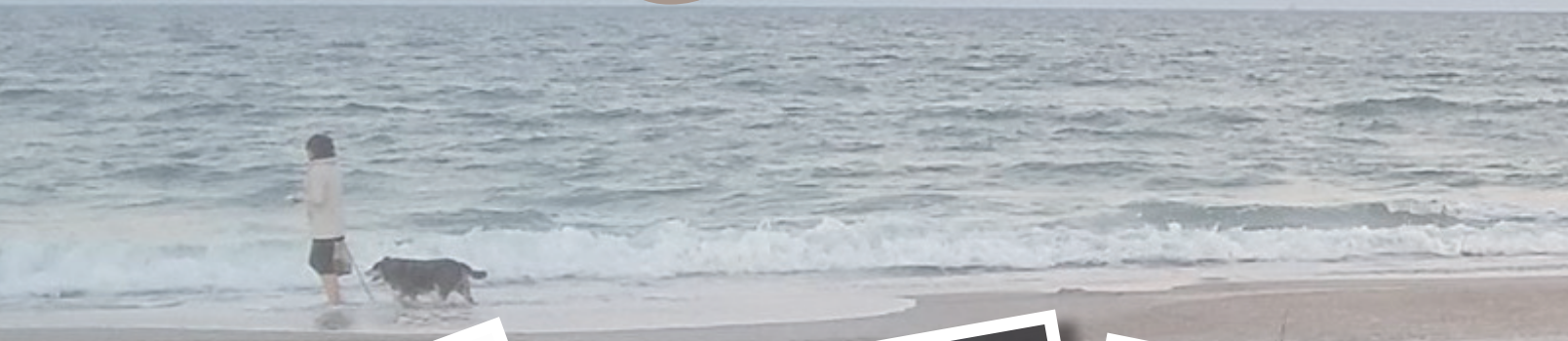
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Rosanne Hearn has been the owner of our team for the past four years and has extensive knowledge of the real estate process when listing or buying a home. She has also lived in North East Florida for over twenty years with her family and loves sharing her love for there with her clients.

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Jonathan Zisser, a partner at Zisser Family Law, has been practicing law for two decades and now represents the second generation of the Zisser family poised to carry the firm’s well-recognized name into the future.

Raised by parents and legal pioneers Elliot and Carolyn Zisser, Jonathan was instinctively drawn to law at an early age. His deep desire to protect the rights of others led him to apply his criminal law expertise to family law. True to form, Jonathan has also devoted volunteer time to Jacksonville Area Legal Aid for over a decade.

With the merger of his parents’ separate law practices in 2020, the firm now has two offices to serve clients — at the beaches and in downtown Jacksonville. The consolidation also allows the firm to draw on additional resources to counsel even better than before, whether with current clients or by meeting the needs of future clients.

“We’re at the forefront of any legal issues that affect families,” Zisser said. “Currently, we’re dealing with COVID 19 vaccination issues that have arisen over the last 18 months during the pandemic as those issues relate to co-parenting. We are navigating these new challenges with thoughtfulness and professionalism.”

Along with Jonathan Zisser, the firm’s current legal team includes Carolyn Zisser, Joseph Alvarez and Lynn Salvatore — along with Elliot Zisser and Katherine (Katie) Johnson, who are two of only 10 attorneys in Northeast Florida who have received board certification in marital and family law from The Florida Bar.

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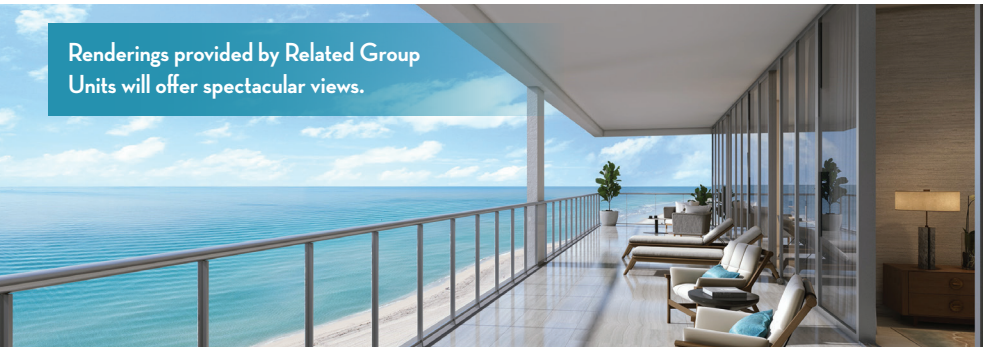
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Azure's cube-shaped structure is inspired by artist Piet Mondrian.

Renderings provided by Related Group
Units will offer spectacular views.



Sales are now underway on what may be one of the final, oceanfront condo developments of its size in Jacksonville Beach.

Azure – a nine-story luxury boutique community being developed by Related Group – will feature 26 residences with prices beginning at \$2.3 million. And while the sales gallery was slated to open at 1401 1st St. South in early October, representatives say that 50 percent of Azure's units are already sold nearly two years ahead of its anticipated June 2023 opening.

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day, Jacksonville's evolution into a true luxury destination has accelerated exponentially," said Related President Jon Paul Pérez. "The Related team has been raising the bar for residential living for over 40 years, and we couldn't be more excited to bring our unique development approach to booming Jacksonville Beach."

Featuring contemporary architecture by Arquitectonica, Azure will capitalize on its oceanfront views with a glass façade and cube-shaped structure inspired by artist Piet Mondrian. Similarly, the building's interiors will also reflect a fine-art motif, with museum-quality modern art gracing nearly every room. Pieces within Azure's collection, representatives say, will be hand-curated by Related's team of art experts.

"Azure is unlike anything else in this market, showcasing Related's legendary attention to detail and emphasis on best-in-class design," said Michael Hammon, senior vice president of Related. "From the expansive units to its resort-style amenities, Azure establishes a new standard of living in Jacksonville Beach. It's a project that will blow away expectations and will never be replicated."

Ranging from two-bedroom, 2,400-square-foot units to five-bedroom 6,500-square-foot residences, Azure's 26 units will feature floor-to-ceiling windows, private elevators and high-end finishings. Each chef's kitchen, for example, will come standard with Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances, bespoke quartz countertops and custom-designed Italian cabinetry.

The master suites, meanwhile, include spa-inspired bathrooms equipped with a double vanity and free-standing tub.



Master suites will include spa-inspired bathrooms equipped with a double vanity and free-standing tub.

WIRED FOR WELLNESS

Azure's amenities also include DARWIN, a "Home Wellness Intelligence Network" that uses proprietary algorithms and sensor technologies to monitor and calibrate air, water and light quality to enhance energy, sleep and overall wellness. Additional wellness-minded offerings include a fitness center, steam room, sauna, massage room and an oceanfront pool deck with poolside bar, fire pit and spaces for private social gatherings.

For more information or to arrange a tour of the new sales gallery, go to azurebeach.com.



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Photos provided by Hugo's Interiors
Furniture and décor from Hugo's Interiors
make for beautiful spaces.

by SHAUN RYAN

HUGO'S INTERIORS:

A Century of Style

FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS SPANS FOUR GENERATIONS

Hugo's Interiors is celebrating its centennial this year, and it's still owned and operated by the family who launched it in 1921.

The American-made business has built a reputation for offering North Florida's largest selection of fine furnishings and accessories. And the Hugo family and their more than 55 artisan craftspeople take pride in continuing the tradition of quality and style started by Albert Hugo 100 years ago.

Many think of Hugo's as a furniture store, but it's much more than that. In fact, the 18,000-square-foot furniture gallery is part of a 43,000-square-foot facility located at 3139 Philips Highway North in Jacksonville. Its clientele include homeowners and businesses.

Hugo's offers expertly tailored custom upholstery, re-upholstery, custom window treatments and linens and bedding. It provides custom millwork, including cabinets, countertops and banquettes for amenity centers and restaurants. Hugo's design center has interior decorators on staff.

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are carried out on the customer's schedule. Hugo's also offers furniture storage in its climate-controlled warehouse.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In the wake of World War I, Albert Hugo emigrated from the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. A German-trained decorator skilled at paper hanging, cabinet making, upholstery and other crafts, he arrived by train in Florida.

Visiting Plant City, he saw a young woman through a window sewing hats and introduced himself. The couple soon married and Albert and Euna Hugo set up shop in 1921 in the dock house of Arthur and Ninah Cummer's English Tudor Revival mansion on Riverside Avenue in Jacksonville. They divided up the responsibilities: Albert could upholster and sell, and Euna could sew.

Albert Hugo and Associates' reputation grew to include internationally known families such as that of Alfred I. duPont and his wife, Jessie Ball duPont. In fact, Hugo's Interiors continues to meet the duPonts' furnishings and fabric needs inside their 58-acre estate, Epping Forest, now home of Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club.

In the years after the Hugos launched their business, sons George, Edward and Charles also worked there.

The business moved to its current location in the 1940s.

HUGO'S INTERIORS TODAY

Richard Hugo, grandson of Albert and Euna Hugo, currently stands at the head of the business. He is trained in furniture styles, periods and the use of color and textiles. He and his wife have four children, Mathew, Jennie, John and Paul. Three of them now work in the business.

Asked to what he attributes the longtime success of Hugo's Interiors, Richard Hugo cited a legacy of quality and service.

"We're customer-driven," he said. "And I think the people who come here, hopefully they have a good experience and appreciate what we do and come back many, many times."

The Hugo family also gives back to the community with volunteer participation in The American Cancer Society, The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, The Rotary Club, Community Hospice and Palliative Care and other organizations.



Hugo's Interiors has a good selection of accessories for home and business.



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EMERALD TRAIL

construction underway in downtown Jacksonville

by ANTHONY RICHARDS

Construction of the first segment of the planned Emerald Trail in downtown Jacksonville began in September.

The project is named the LaVilla Link and once it is completed it will connect Brooklyn to LaVilla and the S-line Rail Trail.

It is expected to take roughly a year, but once it is finished it will mark the beginning of the proposed 30-mile Emerald Trail that was created through a partnership with the City of Jacksonville and the environmental nonprofit Groundwork Jacksonville.

The estimated construction cost is \$8.9 million.

"This has been a collective vision for almost a century and one of the primary goals for establishing a Groundwork Trust locally," Groundwork Jacksonville CEO Kay Ehas said. "I am so proud of our city, and of our Groundwork staff and Board of Directors and very thankful to our generous donors."

The 14-foot-wide concrete pedestrian/bicycle trail is designed for both active and passive recreation with abundant shade trees and native plants.

From Park and Stonewall streets in Brooklyn, the 1.3-mile LaVilla Link will cross over the Park Street Bridge and heads north along Lee Street before heading west at Church Street and meandering northward across Beaver Street until reaching the S-Line Rail Trail at Wilcox Street and State Street in the Railyard District.

The 30-mile Emerald Trail is a public-private partnership between the city and Groundwork that will eventually connect 14 historic urban neighborhoods to downtown, the St. Johns River, McCoy's Creek and Hogans Creek.

The massive project is scheduled to be entirely complete by 2029. Design of the next segment along Hogan Street from the St. Johns River to Florida State College at Jacksonville began in June.

"It has taken years of hard work and commitment from many in our community to bring us to this moment," Jacksonville Mayor

Lenny Curry said. "I am grateful to all who played a part, but especially to Groundwork Jacksonville, the Jacksonville City Council, and to the many private funders who continue to recognize the importance and benefits of a project like this and are investing in its success."

The LaVilla Link will honor the LaVilla neighborhood through wayfinding, storyboards and public art installations while connecting to the historic landmarks Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park and Florida C. Dwight Memorial Playground.

It will also feature signature points of interest that are being funded by private donors, including: The Park Street Bridge overlook funded by a challenge grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida; the Lee Street Pond boardwalk and overlook funded by the David C. Miller Fund; and the butterfly garden along West Church Street just east of Interstate 95 being funded by the Late Bloomers Garden Club.

The LaVilla Link of Emerald Trail was designed by Pond, a full-service architecture, engineering, planning and construction firm based in Atlanta, Ga. with offices in Jacksonville. Pond has designed and implemented more than 400 miles of greenway and multi-use trail projects throughout the south including work on the Atlanta BeltLine.

Astra Group LLC, is the general contractor and site development contractor for the project. They specialize in building public spaces, trails and parks and have been involved with several high-profile projects throughout the Southeast.

"Astra has been fortunate to build similar transformational projects in other major metropolitan areas, and we understand the impact such projects can have on the community," Astra Group President Andrew Lindsay said. "We couldn't be more excited to be a partner in this project, as we are a huge advocate of connecting communities through more active living in beautiful public spaces."



Contributed photos

TOP: Groundwork Jacksonville, Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry, members of City Council, donors and stakeholders gathered for the groundbreaking of the LaVilla Link, the first 1.3-mile segment of the planned 30-mile Emerald Trail.

ABOVE: Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry speaks during the groundbreaking ceremony in August.

irish sass

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CULHANE'S IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT OFFERS UNIQUE FARE

Culhane's Irish Pub & Restaurant is a modern sports pub that specializes in "Comfort Food with an Attitude." Their savory and authentic Irish specialties and excellent service brought them inclusion in "The Top 10% Worldwide Restaurants by TravelersChoice 2020."

The owners are four dynamic "sassy" sisters from Limerick, Ireland — Lynda, Michelle, Mary Jane and Áine — who spent their childhoods in Ireland working alongside their parents on the family farm, where they developed a genuine love for the land, organic quality food and hard work. The first restaurant in the Jacksonville Beach area off Atlantic Boulevard opened in 2005. The Southside location opened in 2018. The sisters have won awards for

"Best Fish 'N Chips" and "Best Sports Bar" in various media competitions. Today, there is added excitement surrounding their newly introduced "5 Sisters Spirit Vodka" — providing them another opportunity to achieve their American dream.

In 2010, when the economy was plummeting and businesses across America were being forced to close their doors, the sisters received a phone call that changed the fate of their original first location in Atlantic Beach. Restaurant talk about

Culhane's Irish Pub had reached producers of the program "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." Producers loved the restaurant's website, menu and story, prompting them to contact Michelle about the possibility of being featured on the popular show hosted by Guy Fieri.

"Before a spot on the show could be secured, production teams were sent to check out the pub in person," Mary Jane said. "They wanted to make sure everything was made from scratch and to guarantee that it was a legitimate, authentic place. A lot of Irish pubs are all about the bar, but we've always focused on our chefs and delicious

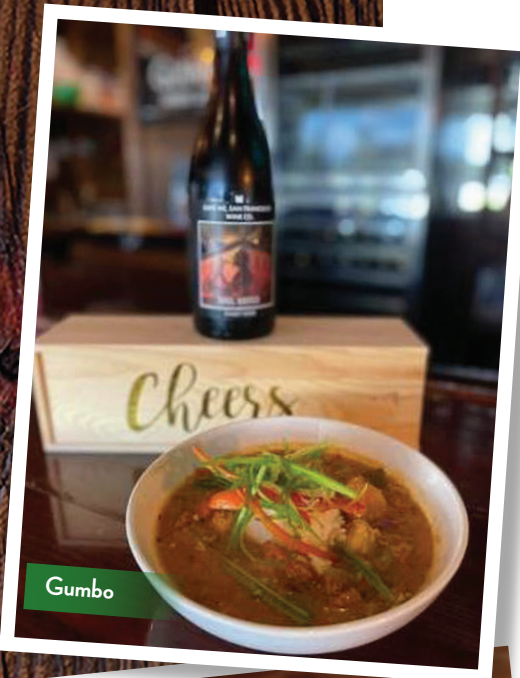
food; many of our recipes come straight from our mother Kitty's kitchen. That's what sets Culhane's apart."

The creators of "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" agreed.

"A week after learning we had landed a highly-coveted spot on the show, Fieri was in our kitchen," continued Mary Jane. "The show highlighted popular Irish comfort foods like the Guinness Beef Stew, Dingle Fish Pie and Blarney Lamb Sliders. The unique ambiance and close-knit community, too, were emphasized — a true Irish pub atmosphere."

Today, the Culhane's restaurant vibe hasn't changed. The sisters successfully opened a second and larger Southside restaurant in the center of Jacksonville's Tinseltown neighborhood. With a bustling, open main dining room featuring a raised stage for entertainment, as well as numerous TVs in the bar and dining areas for sports fans, patrons might enjoy Irish dancers charming their way into their hearts and occasionally the familiar sounds of bagpiper accompaniment. Each night there is something fun happening, such as trivia, bingo and fundraising events.

The sisters have never lost



Gumbo



Shepherd's Pie



Dingle Fish Pie



TABLE TALK

with LEIGH CORT



their high-spirited passion to serve the best Ireland-inspired dishes at affordable family-and-friend dining prices. They all believe in “family work ethics,” with many of their kitchen and service staff still at their side since opening years ago. The culinary team is rich with regional influences as new chefs, along with the old, bring their own specialties to Culhane’s patrons.

Working at Culhane’s since its opening, Chef Chad Spano enjoys the challenge of creating “hybrid” dishes by blending Irish, Asian and Southwest American foods while teaching other restaurant employees how to take traditional Irish dishes of meat and potatoes and create a new “wow” dish. This is when he feels he’s done his job well.

Brunch is a perfect time to order Chef Jason Gishler’s Brisket & Grits or Sesame Shrimp. His perception of “Food as Art” marries a broad brushstroke of local ingredients to create dishes that he’s enjoyed serving since 2005.

Beaches’ iconic Chef Kevin Reed has been part of the Culhane family for 15 years.

“I love working for the Culhane’s,” he said. “Everyone’s philosophy

is mine, too. Quality and timelessness. Service with a smile. And yes, we are having fun in the kitchen, too.”

New delicious dishes coming from the kitchen are Chef Ron Anderson’s Ultimate Patty Melt on rye with cheddar cheese, caramelized onions and special sauce (his secret) ... and Marinated Pan-Seared Crispy Cod.

Guests are craving Chef Marvin Barnes’ Louisiana Gumbo and Don Pittman’s Spicy Chicken and Shrimp over Pasta with the Sisters Vodka Sauce.

Pairing secret house recipes with plenty of Guinness, the staff and sisters know how to put guests in the best of spirits. They all possess “the gift of the gab” — an uncanny Irish knack for conversation and friendliness that makes everyone feel at home. When you meet the Culhane sisters, you’ll know why they bring “Irish Sass with 5-Star Class” to Northeast Florida!



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COASTAL WINE MARKET
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FOOD PAIRING EVENT

by JENNIFER LOGUE

Lobster ravioli, roasted lamb lollipops and grass-fed veal sausage-stuffed portobello mushrooms – all paired with Jacquart champagnes – were among the culinary delicacies enjoyed by guests at Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room’s recent “Bubbles & Food Pairing” event.

Held Sept. 20 at the popular Nocatee wine shop and tasting room, the special food-and-wine event attracted nearly 50 guests, who enjoyed a plated gourmet experience prepared by Coastal Wine’s new chef, James Wargo. Also on hand was Jacquart representative Benoit Petillon, who shared insights into each of the evening’s champagnes.

“It was a very interactive event,” said Steve Lourie, who owns Coastal Wine with his wife, Shaun. “Everything was housemade by Chef James and the whole staff really pulled it all together.”

The evening began with a reception featuring a gourmet charcuterie spread paired with Foucher Lebrun Sancerre. Then came the first course – housemade lobster ravioli with a champagne citrus beurre blanc paired with Jacquart Brut Rose. The main course featured the roasted lamb lollipops and potato pancake with cinnamon apple chutney – all paired with a 2013 Jacquart Blanc de Blanc.



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Photos courtesy of Coastal Wine Market
The evening began with a reception featuring a gourmet charcuterie spread.



Coastal Wine Market
Owners Steve and
Shaun Lourie



The focal point of Coastal Wine
Market's expanded space is a
custom-made crystal chandelier.



General Manager John Maiocco
pours champagne at the
"Bubbles & Food Pairing" event.

"It had been quite some time since we'd done a 'bubbles' tasting," Lourie noted. "People were asking us, 'When's the next event?'"

Adding to the ambience of the evening was Coastal Wine's newly expanded lounge space – the focal point of which is a striking, oversized crystal chandelier. Custom-designed for Coastal Wine by Oregon artist Jonquil LeMaster, the piece features nearly 2,000 crystals crafted to represent intertwining grapevines.

"Having the new space helped us welcome more people and really rounded out the experience," Lourie said. "It created a relaxed atmosphere with guests sitting underneath the chandelier. It really was just the perfect venue for this food-and-wine-tasting experience."

Based on the compliments received from the event, he added, Coastal Wine plans to host similar events on a quarterly basis. Details of upcoming food-and-wine-pairing evenings can be found on Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room's Facebook and Instagram pages, or by signing up for its email list at CoastalWineMarket.com.

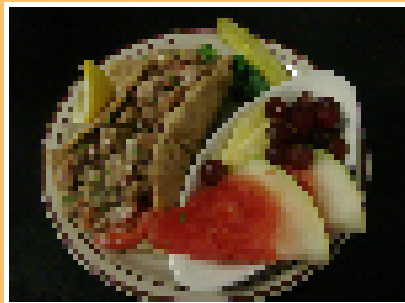
"We just love doing these kinds of events for the community, which has been so supportive of us," Lourie said. "Our goal is to keep bringing these kinds of experiences to them."



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The following are photos from the Inaugural PXG Women's Match Play Championship VIP Kickoff Reception event hosted by Bentley and Maserati Jacksonville on Aug. 17. It was a promotional event for the championship, which is scheduled to take place Oct. 26 to Nov. 4 with some of the best up and coming women's golfers playing at the World Golf Village. Members from throughout the community attended the VIP function in support for the event's focus of creating more opportunities for female golfers on and off the course.



Photos by Anthony Richards
Sam Geise, Jessica Porvasnik, and Katie
Markham.



Jennifer Grippa, Erika Nelson, and Angie Lobb.



Kim Collier, Keith Kessler, and Brooke Laskey



Brian Huddleston, Kaitlyn Durrance, and Thurman Morris.



Erin Smith and Erik Vanvliet.



Mindy Herrick and Harlie Valinho





Stacey Spears and Heather Rocs.



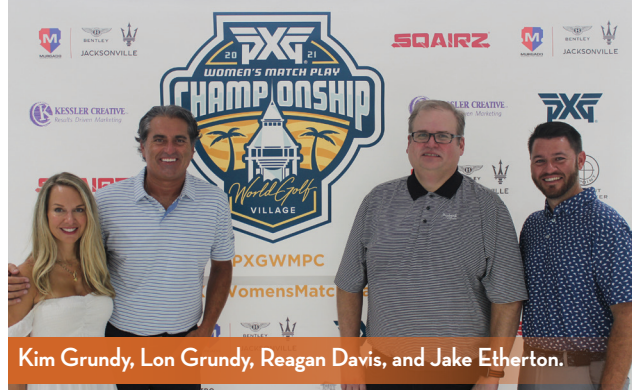
Mac Haskell and Mark Berman.



Kristen Knudsen and Sara Pomposo.



Carla and Steve Horne.



Kim Grundy, Lon Grundy, Reagan Davis, and Jake Etherton.



Ali Pressel and Donna Lueders.

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MORE THAN
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 MATCH PLAY
 CHAMPIONSHIP SEEKS
 MORE OPPORTUNITIES
 FOR GOLFERS,
 WOMEN

by ANTHONY RICHARDS

Inaugural events do not often have the ability to create an instant impact, but that is exactly what the PXG Women's Match Play Championship is hoping to accomplish.

That was the message presented during the media day for the two-week event scheduled to be played at World Golf Village Oct. 26 to Nov. 4.

"This is a women's initiative in a golf wrapper," said Mark Berman, managing partner with MediaShare Consulting Group. "Hopefully this will launch a whole new movement."

Berman stated that he is a "girl dad," which is one of the reasons the initiative means so much to him and why he wanted to do his part to make it happen.

He saw the limited number of avenues for female golfers to take to reach the LPGA Tour after their college careers end and wanted to do something to change that.

"This has been a two to three year project for me," Berman said.

Currently, female golfers have the option to play on four developmental tours en route to one day becoming a member of the LPGA Tour.

The four tours include the Women's All Pro Tour, the Symetra Tour, Ladies National



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Golf Association in Florida, the Cactus Tour based out of Arizona.

However, the number of tours available for women are far less than the men's side, which has about 30 "mini" tours for golfers to explore on their path to the PGA Tour.

"It has to start somewhere," Berman said. "We want to use this as a platform for women moving forward. It's all about creating opportunities."

The tournament is collaborating with non-profit Generation W to help showcase some of the best up and coming female golfers in the world.

Generation W founder Donna Orender, who knows a thing or two about the realm of big-time athletics, having been the former president of the WNBA and vice and senior vice president of the PGA, was on hand during the media day forum and spoke about what it means for the future.

"The philosophy came about from our work around women and the game," Orender said. "This feels like just one more extension of the value of women to the game (of golf) and the value of the game to and for women. All it takes to create real change is a passionate belief."

She saw that passion in Berman, which is what made the partnership between the two entities such a natural fit.

"We're not off to the side, we're vital and vibrant contributors (in the community) from the time we are young girls to the time we are grown women," Orender said. "That is in the precepts and concepts of what this whole tournament is about."

As part of the tournament festivities, Generation W will be hosting a Links to Leadership Summit on Friday, Oct. 29, beginning at 1 p.m.

The summit will feature an array of esteemed female speakers who have found success in multiple avenues.

"It will be energizing, informative and inspirational," Orender said.

PXG is the title sponsor of the event and Vice President of Brand Communications and Engagement Leela Brennan was on hand to make sure the message is clear.

"The idea of inclusivity is part of the core value at PXG and this is a wonderful opportunity to articulate that," Brennan said. "We don't make golf clubs for men, and we don't make golf clubs for women.... we make golf clubs for golfers."



Photos by Anthony Richards
Above: Managing partner and tournament founder Mark Berman speaks to a crowd of reporters during media day for the Inaugural PXG Women's Match Play Championship on Aug. 18 at the World Golf Village. Right: As a "girl dad," Mark Berman wanted to help create a tournament that is a women's initiative as much as it is a golf event. Facing page: WAPT Stage 2 points leader Jessica Porvasnik demonstrated her skills by hitting some balls on the driving as part of the media day lineup. She will compete in the PXG Women's Match Play Championship at the World Golf Village on Oct. 26 to Nov. 4.



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ANTICIPATION SURROUNDS CHEMO NOIR FALL GALA

by ANTHONY RICHARDS

The Chemo Noir Fall Gala returns Nov. 6 after a one-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, according to founder and chairman Katrin Casey, the year away has only made people even more excited to be a part of it.

The event is still weeks away, but she is already getting a feeling of “next level energy” surrounding this year’s gala.

“There’s just such an excitement around people just wanting to be back together and socializing,” Casey said.

The gala is a recognition in many ways of the work and donations put in by supporters

and volunteers throughout the year to make sure Chemo Noir’s mission of providing financial help to those fighting cancer.

Casey is expecting to have about 10 people that are battling cancer and have been recipients of Chemo Noir’s help attend the ceremony.

“It’s nice for people to be able to see what we’re doing all this for,” Casey said.

The night out for those cancer patients can also be a night to forget the problems they may be faced with daily and instead offer them an outlet to just enjoy life.

“I believe they’re grateful to see the type of events we are having to help spread the



Musician Barrett Thomas (from left), Chemo Noir founder Katrin Casey and Travis Martin, a Chemo Noir recipient and brain cancer survivor, at the 2019 gala.

word and fight,” Casey said.

This year’s event will have the theme of “Bow ties and boas,” and those who may not have a bow tie can purchase a specialized Chemo Noir bow tie on the website at www.chemonoir.com/gear.

“We were just sitting around brainstorming and tried to think of something we could do that was both different and fun,” Casey said.

Other changes will be additions to the night’s activities, which will now include a cork pull raffle and a photo booth that will accompany the already popular silent auction.



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The cork pull raffle will consist of drawing for a nice bottle of wine every 30 minutes.

“Raffles have always done good for us,” Casey said. “It will allow for even more people to be involved throughout the night.”

This will be the fourth gala and the third straight that has been held at 3 Palms Grille in Ponte Vedra Beach.

“They really host a great event for us each year,” Casey said.

The event will have a limited capacity of 250 people, but tickets will remain available until the day of the event if it has not been sold out.

Tickets for the gala are \$100 per person and can be purchased by going to www.chemonoir.com/events. Proceeds will benefit Chemo Noir and its mission.



Jason Runyan and founder Katrin Casey at the 2018 Chemo Noir Fall Gala.



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EARTH FARE'S RESURGENCE LEADS TO ROUND 2 IN COUNTY

by ANTHONY RICHARDS

Earth Fare is back in St. Johns County as they continued their comeback story following a tumultuous couple of years with a ribbon cutting ceremony and the opening of its new location at 120 Shops Blvd. in St. Johns Aug. 18.

The height of the tough times included Earth Fare filing for bankruptcy in February 2020 and having to close many of its locations, which included the one in St. Johns County that had only been open for six months.

"A group of local Earth Fare advocates got together along with one of our original founders and said, 'This company's roots are too deep and strong to just completely go away,'" said Laurie Aker, Earth Fare community relations coordinator and

spokesperson.

According to Aker, the re-invigorated Earth Fare had only planned to open eight locations, but support has led them to go well beyond the initial goal and the St. Johns location makes it 23 stores.

"As a business owner myself, it's always wonderful for me to see a success story like Earth Fare," St. Johns County Commissioner Christian Whitehurst said. "2020 was difficult for everybody in different ways, but especially for small business owners."

An example of the local support was on display as roughly 300 people lined up around the shopping center complex waiting for the ribbon cutting ceremony to take place and the doors to be open.

"Some folks started lining up as early as 3 a.m.," Aker said. "The community has been extremely excited, and we've had an overwhelming response."

Earth Fare was established in 1975 and was the first natural food store in Asheville, North Carolina.

The company strives to make sure all the products sold are free of artificial colors, flavors, and preservatives. That includes meats and seafood not having hormones or antibiotics and the baked goods being free of bleached and bromated flour.

"This community deserves to have healthy options, so we knew we had to come back," Aker said. "We like to say that we read the labels, so you (customers) don't have to."

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Photos by Anthony Richards
Customers look at the various organic options offered by Earth Fare.



Store team leader A.J. Lefler and County Commissioner Christian Whitehurst prepare to cut the ribbon for the new Earth Fare location located at 120 Shops Blvd. in St. Johns.



Roughly 300 people waited outside for the opportunity to be among the first through the doors of the new Earth Fare location.



A variety of meats, cheeses and other assortments are available in Earth Fare's deli.



Shoppers check out their grocery items.



The Earth Fare produce section.



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AGUILA WINS 2021 FIRST COAST

DANCING WITH THE

Stars

EVENT RAISES MORE THAN \$88K FOR BEACHES FINE ARTS SERIES

by ANTHONY RICHARDS



Photos by Justin Drain
The winners of the 2021 First Coast Dancing with the Stars were the pairing of star Dr. Rick Aguila and pro Megan Wallace Widrich.

Dr. Rick Aguila works with teeth for a living as a periodontist with Jacksonville Dental Specialists, but it was his feet that stole the show en route to being named the 2021 First Coast Dancing with the Stars champion.

The St. Johns County resident won the competition Sept. 18 alongside his professional dancing partner Megan Wallace Widrich of Dance Alday in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Aguila was one of nine local stars that were partnered with a dancing pro and took to the dance floor to perform a practiced routine.

First Runners-up were Jeanie Leapley of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty dancing with pro Jeremy Jose of Monarch Ballroom.

Local celebrity photographer and makeup artist Renee Parenteau and her dancing pro Sean Anthony of Monarch Ballroom were named second runners-up.

Parenteau has been providing formal photographs of the stars and pros pairing at the annual event for years, but this time she was on the



The participants and judges on stage following the competition.

dance floor and in the spotlight.

The event raised funds through "votes," with each star receiving a vote for every \$1 they raised.

More than \$88,000 was raised leading up to and during the event. The proceeds will support the free programs offered by the Beaches Fine Arts Series, which is entering its 49th season of bringing a wide range of music for free to the community.

Go to www.beachesfinearts.org to learn more about the various upcoming programs scheduled by the Beaches Fine Arts Series.

All nine stars performed on the night in front of an audience of about 300 people at WJCT Studio A in Jacksonville.

They were scored from one to 10 by a panel of three judges that included Donna Deegan, founder of the Donna Foundation, and professional dancers Norianne Wright and DeWitt Cooper III.

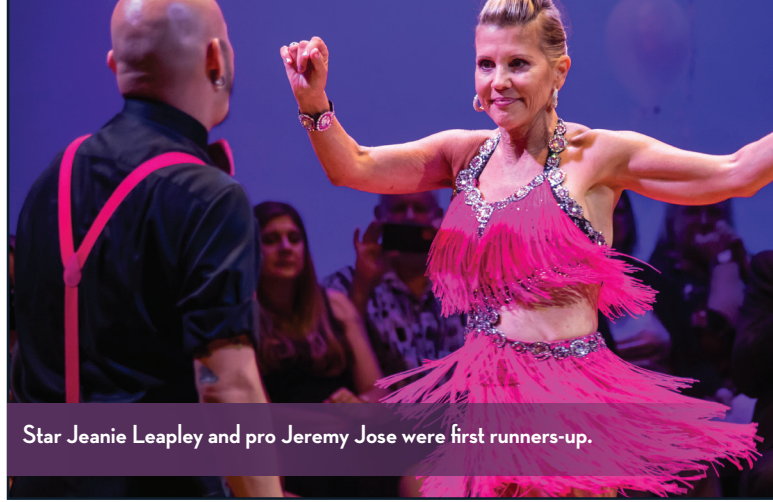
The judges' scores were coupled with the funds raised by each star to determine the winner of the competition. Emcee for the event was jazz singer Akia Uwanda.

The event was supported by numerous local businesses, including eight restaurants who provided a wonderful dinner spread for ticket holders.

The VIP party host was Restaurante Orsay, while the buffet restaurants included Seasons 52, Congaree and Penn, Prati Italia, True Food Kitchen, TacoLu, Pastiche Catering and Dawn to Dusk Catering.

Signature drinks and vodka were provided by Culhane's Irish Pub, and other liquor was donated by Southern Glazers Wine and Spirits.

Helping the stars and pros look the part on the dance floor was Tan Like a Celebrity and hair and makeup artist Carmen Lombana of Foiled Rotten Salon.



Star Jeanie Leapley and pro Jeremy Jose were first runners-up.



Judges included Norianne Wright, DeWitt Cooper III and Donna Deegan.

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FIRST COAST CULTURAL CENTER FEATURES LATINO ARTISTS

First Coast Cultural Center recently commemorated National Hispanic Heritage Month by featuring work by Latino artists.

According to Donna Guzzo, president and executive director at First Coast Cultural Center, the artists included Eloy Castroverde, a photographer from Cuba; Enrique Mora, a visual artist from Puerto Rico; and Marisela Quirós, a visual artist from Costa Rica.

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on Sept. 15 and ending on Oct. 15.

Guzzo expressed pride in her Hispanic heritage and support for many local and worldwide organizations and initiatives, as well as mentoring Latino children and adults in Northeast Florida and beyond.

“We celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success in art,” said Guzzo.

Here’s a look at these featured artists, who are members of the center and display their work there:

- Eloy Castroverde, a freelance nature and wildlife photographer based in Ponte Vedra Beach since 2005. Originally from Havana, Cuba, he emigrated to the United States at an early age. As a photographer, he explores remote places and enjoys the challenge of creating compelling images when he cannot control the subjects or the weather. Though he shoots extensively throughout Florida, his photography trips have taken him across the U.S., Canada, Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Ecuador, Brazil, Japan, Iceland, Slovenia, the Falkland Islands, the Galapagos Islands, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Castroverde will exhibit his work at the center from Nov. 15 to 19. The art display

is free and open to the public. On Nov. 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., he will speak on the topics of artistic and technical aspects of photography, equipment, style and more, along with a slide show and explanation of his work and a Q&A. Admission to the speaking engagement is \$15 as a requested donation to the nonprofit.

- Marisela Quirós is an internationally collected classical oil painter, portrait and still-life studio artist. Since childhood, her journey began in Costa Rica where she became renowned as an award-winning advertising art director. She later moved to the United States where her passion for classical realism flourished.

Quirós studied oil painting techniques of the old masters’ atelier-style at Zoll Studio in Baltimore, Maryland, and at workshops including The Florence Academy of Art and Grand Central in New York along with solo shows at the Embassy of Costa Rica in Washington, D.C. Quirós practices today as a commission artist in her studio at Ponte Vedra Beach and teaches the classical still-life painting tradition at First Coast Cultural Center.

- Latin American artist Enrique Mora is a self-taught painter. His use of vivid colors and voluptuous shapes has led to a unique interpretation of the female form. Growing up in the Caribbean, Mora was exposed to the lavish shades of a lush island surrounded by a vast deep blue sea. His Spanish legacy is a central influence along with his Puerto Rican heritage.

Mora lived in Miami for nearly a decade where his work was shown in “Galeria Mora” in Miami’s Design District throughout the 1990s. Currently, Mora lives near the Atlantic Ocean, which is a major influence in his work. He maintains a gallery in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico.

For further information about First Coast Cultural Center exhibits, programs, workshops, costs, dates and times, call Jill Titcomb at 904-280-0614, ext. 1206, or go to firstcoastculturalcenter.org.

The center is located at 3972 3rd St. South in Jacksonville Beach. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, with after-hour appointments available.



Enrique Mora’s work is often identified by his use of vivid colors.



Eloy A. Castroverde

Eloy Castroverde’s photography features sights from around the world.



Marisela Quirós is an internationally collected classical oil painter.

HILLARY WHITAKER GALLERY FEATURES FALL SEASON SHOW, WHICH OPENS OCT. 23

Hillary Whitaker Gallery will exhibit the work of nationally recognized painters Jennifer J.L. Jones, Erin Gregory and Page Jones Davis during the fall season show running from Oct. 23 through November.

Here's a look at the featured artists:

JENNIFER J.L. JONES

Jones has been with the gallery since 2004. She is an American artist



raised in rural Virginia and on the central east coast of Florida, receiving her bachelor of fine arts degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois.

Jones' mixed-media paintings are a meditation on the dichotomy of the existence of nature both as corporeal reality and intangible spirituality.

Employing multiple layers of abstraction and

combined mediums, including a refined glazing technique, Jones creates rich, organic patinas that evoke universal emotional and physical connecting points for the observer. Layers of paint create a palimpsest quality to the work, while the elegant, ever-shifting paintings combine a poetic, sensual grace with consistently bold execution.

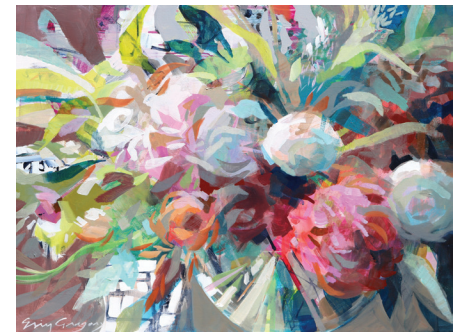
Jones' long-established career is highlighted by exhibitions in select national and international galleries, including a 2013 group exhibition in Paris, France, and numerous solo and group exhibitions across the United States.

Her highly sought paintings can be found in many private and corporate collections worldwide, such as the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Oprah Winfrey/Harpo Studios, Scana Energy and the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal.

Jones currently resides in Beaufort, South Carolina.

ERIN GREGORY

Erin Gregory's focus as an artist emphasizes contrast and variety within the composition of







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each painting. She vividly captures the light and color of her subjects in florals, landscapes and figures. She paints in acrylic and oil with close-up and distant bold colors and lively layers and washes.

Erin Fitzhugh Gregory, originally from the Mobile and Fairhope area of Alabama, has lived in her husband Tim's hometown of Columbus, Georgia, since 2002.

She has been fascinated by art as far back as she can remember. As a child, art was always the highlight of the school day. Upon graduating from Auburn University with a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting in 2000, and after her first solo show in 2001, she realized painting would be her full-time career.

Throughout that career, she has had numerous one-woman shows and participates in many group exhibitions. Gregory has received numerous awards for her art and has been featured on many blogs and in a variety of magazines. She is a highly sought-after artist with a vast following across the U.S.

PAGE JONES DAVIS

The art of Page Jones Davis includes works on canvas and paper. Her mixed-media art is heavily inspired from nature as well as the aesthetics of the modern marketplace found in places such as advertisements, apps and catalogs.

She uses her subjects of color and form to build compositions that

exude the connectivity and disparity between the subjects. The forms and colors "speak" to one another and fuel relationships due to their proximity, contrast and accordance. Her work is created with the intention of defining the visual space as a stage in which viewers are free to imagine their own stories.

Jones Davis was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and she resides in Inman, South Carolina, with her husband, where she works from her home studio nestled in the solitude of a hardwood forest. She earned her master of arts degree from Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia. She has pursued continuing education from Boter-Santalo in Barcelona, Spain; earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina, and studied painting at the University of Georgia in Cortona, Italy.

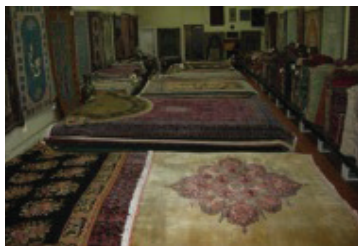
A piece of art by each artist will be raffled as a fundraiser to benefit Art with a Heart in Healthcare programs and services. Art residents create individualized art sessions that meet the needs of patients at their bedsides and in groups. The nonprofit has served tens of thousands of patients and their families in Northeast Florida at Wolfson Children's Hospital, Nemours Children's Specialty Clinic, St. Vincent's Medical Center and Mayo Clinic.

Raffle tickets will be available at the show for \$25 each. For more information, go to artwithaheart.info. The Facebook page can be found at facebook.com/artwithaheartinhealthcare/?hc_ref=SEARCH&fref=nf.

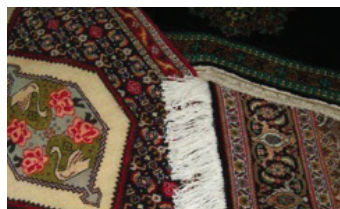
Hillary Whitaker Gallery is located at 240 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach. It is open from 11 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11:00 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 904-273-6065 or go to hwhitakergallery.com.



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DINNER AND A SPOOK

ALHAMBRA THEATRE HOSTS HALLOWEN-THEMED DOUBLE FEATURE

by ANTHONY RICHARDS



Alhambra Theatre and Dining in Jacksonville has been putting on shows for 54 years, but they continue to look for new productions and unique ways to keep audiences entertained.

The latest of which will be the productions of "Young Frankenstein The Musical" and "The Rocky Horror Show" that will be hitting the stage throughout October.

"It's fun because both shows are brand new at the Alhambra," Alhambra production manager Shain Stroff said. "Our audiences really want to see new material."

"Young Frankenstein The Musical" is based on the 1974 film directed by Mel Brooks. It is scheduled to begin Thursday, Sept. 30, and will run through Nov. 7, starting at 7:50 p.m. with additional 1 p.m. matinees on weekends.

"Mel Brooks shows are known to be very musical and funny," Stroff said. "Any Mel Brooks show is going to be really big."

"The Rocky Horror Show" will serve as a double feature for audiences craving a

taste of Halloween and will be performed Oct. 15-16, Oct. 22-23 and Oct. 28-30 with all shows beginning at 11 p.m.

It derives from the 1975 film, and the stage production will also include the fan-involved elements that made the film so iconic.

The interaction will be more than most musical, and Stroff had that in mind when he was auditioning and choosing a cast for the play.

"Everybody I've hired has been trained with improvisation," Stroff said. "You're going to have to roll with the punches."

Although both "Young Frankenstein The Musical" and "The Rocky Horror Show" will be shown on certain nights, they require separate ticket purchases to attend.

Tickets for "Young Frankenstein The Musical" are \$48 and will include the traditional three-course meal the Alhambra has become famous for, as well as complimentary parking.

According to Stroff, "The Rocky Horror Show" sold out within 48 hours of being

available to the public.

"There's been a high demand," Stroff said.

Two casts will be used for "Young Frankenstein" and the same will be in place for "The Rocky Horror Show."

However, 18 performers will make up the "Young Frankenstein" production, while 10 will be used for "The Rocky Horror Show," with several performing in both shows.

Preparing for a double feature is a unique and challenging venture, as they only had five days to learn each show's script and choreography.

Stroff and all those involved have embraced the challenges of producing and performing two shows in such a short period of time as a great opportunity.

"A lot of us have been pulling about 16-hour days (during rehearsals)," Stroff said.

Much of the talent was chosen from the local area, which Stroff believes is the way it should be.

"For me, as a production manager, it's very important to scout and use the talent locally," Stroff said.

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EVENT RAISES FUNDS TO HELP THOSE WITH INTELLECTUAL, DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFERENCES

The Angelwood Annual Celebration: Soaring Possibilities took place Aug. 21 at the Sawgrass Marriott. It was also streamed live via Facebook.

The event had a beach theme with casual attire, games inside and outside and a strolling dinner at four food stations. The program included a welcome from presenting sponsor Rachel DuBois and Robin Wahby of Wahby Financial Group, a live and silent auction and a standing ovation for the Angelwood Staff that were watching from Angelwood's six group homes.

Firehouse Subs was awarded Corporate Sponsor of the Year and Michelle Mollenhour was the Soaring Possibilities Award winner.

Funds raised from this event will help support children, adults and families living with intellectual and developmental differences in the greater Jacksonville area.

Since 1993, Jacksonville-based nonprofit Angelwood has been serving children, adults, seniors and families living with intellectual and developmental differences such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and spina bifida.

Over the years, Angelwood's services have developed in response to community needs. Angelwood provides support to more than 300 individuals and their families in residential group homes, supported employment, adult day training programs and holiday and summer day camps.

For more information, go to angelwoodjax.org.



Photos provided by Angelwood Annual Celebration co-chairs (from left): Scott and Kelly Gramling, Kevin Padgett and Rachel DuBois.



The Angelwood Annual Celebration: Soaring Possibilities took place Aug. 21 at the Sawgrass Marriott ballroom.

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