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PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

October 28, 2021
Volume 51, No. 104
75 cents

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PonteVedraRecorder.com



Pumpkins of all different sizes were available.

Photos by Susan Griffin

Many came out to visit Sykes Family Farms over the weekend.



INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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



Sand Castles

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Sports

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One of Us

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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. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



Visit our new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

ADOPT A PET

Henry

Hi, I'm Henry! I'm a 7-year-old male terrier mix. I found myself at the shelter when my family's living situation changed. I am a big ole' ball of lovin', and if you like love and affection — I mean who doesn't — then I am the dog for you. I am good with kids and other dogs, but cats ... not so much! If you are interested in meeting me, please contact the pet center to schedule an appointment for a meet and greet.



Alexis

Hi, I'm Alexis! I am a 8-year-old female domestic short hair mix with a sweet disposition. I like under-the-chin rubs and to cuddle right up next to you! If you make me part of your family, you will see that I am loyal and loving. Please stop by the pet center to meet me!



St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center 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 off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. 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, call the **St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

BRIEFS

Red Bull Night Riders returning to Jacksonville Beach

Red Bull Night Riders, one of the premier surfing contests on the entire East Coast, is an annual tradition in Jacksonville Beach. Every year pro surfers compete against each other in the darkness of night to see who can pull off the best big air trick.

Typically held in front of thousands of surf fans, last year saw the event go forward without a crowd for the first time. But this Nov. 6, spectators are welcome back on the beach to enjoy the stars and the surf, along with the big air and big wipeouts that make Red Bull Night Riders fun to watch.

The surfers will be judged on their best trick of their heat, with the winner taking home the entire prize purse of \$5,000. Participants this year include defending champ and Jacksonville native Cody Thompson, who won last year's event at the Mayport Poles.

Competitors also include pros Bronson Meydi, Ian Crane, Robbie McCormick, Evan Geiselman and Parker Coffin.

The event will start at 6 p.m. on the north side of the Jacksonville Beach pier.

Pork butt orders being taken for fundraiser

Following the success of his pork butt fundraiser in 2020, Mike Sobiecki is hosting another one this November. Sobiecki is a member of the advisory board of Make-A-Wish Northern Florida, which will be the beneficiary of the event.

The deadline to order a 7-9 lb. Boston butt is Nov. 5. The cost is \$75 each.

To reserve a pork butt, email pork-4wishes@gmail.com with the following information: name, phone number, email address, number of pork butts purchasing and estimated pick-up time. Payment may be made by cash, check or Venmo at the time of pick-up.

The order includes one bottle of Killer Hog BBQ Sauce.

Pick-up will be between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Nov. 13 at 1244 Fish Hook Way, Ponte Vedra Beach.

For further information, call Sobiecki at 904-337-8374.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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Quartet No. 12 in F major
"American" Antonin Dvorak

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The link plans World's First Flip Flop Gallery with Ocean Sole

Tickets are now available for the link's upcoming evening event and fundraiser, "World's First Flip Flop Gallery with Ocean Sole." The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 13.

There will be speakers, food, drinks and best of all, Ocean Sole Africa's flip-flop sculptures, which are handmade by artisans in Kenya.

Attendees will experience the African savanna and the depths of the sea like never before. Ocean Sole Africa is showcasing life-sized animal sculptures made entirely from recycled flip-flops collected off the beaches and waterways in Kenya.

This incredible exhibition shows how something that was once trash can be transformed into a masterpiece.

Those attending may take a self-guided tour of the link's Flip Flop Gallery and discover more about the animals and how sustainability and jobs can be created out of waste.

Ticket proceeds will go toward environmental and sustainable efforts valued by the Sapna Foundation and Ocean Sole Africa. The goal is to raise \$50,000.

Tickets are \$100 for an individual, \$200 for a family. Go to mysapna.org/flipflogallery.

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Stunning Riverfront Estate
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OBITUARIES

Maria Radoslovich Cox



Maria Radoslovich Cox

Maria Radoslovich Cox, age 86, of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL passed away Sunday October 24, 2021 at her home in Ponte Vedra Beach. The cause of her death was progressive pulmonary disease.

Maria's career as an interior designer spanned two decades and included collaborations with such design firms as Harrison & Abramovitz; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and ISD Inc. in New York, San Francisco and Boston. A Cornell University Fine Arts graduate, Maria was an Associate member of the American Institute of Architects, an Affiliate of the American Federation of the Arts, and she actively served on multiple boards and committees throughout her life including serving as a Trustee Emeritus at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Jacksonville. Her passion for design and the arts led her outdoors to the landscape. In 1995 she earned two degrees from the New York Botanical Garden in Commercial Horticulture and Landscape design. Her gardens were a great source of joy and inspiration to Maria and to all who experienced them.

Maria and her late husband Don resided in New York City and on Hilton Head Island before residing in Ponte Vedra Beach. She was preceded in death by her parents, the late architects Kate (nee Hall) Radoslovich and Mike Radoslovich, FAIA and her sister, Claire Clark. She is survived by nieces, nephews, cousins and other family members.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, October 28th at Palms Presbyterian Church, 3410 Third Street South, Jacksonville, Beach, FL 904-246-6427.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution in Maria's memory to MOCA JAX: <https://give.unf.edu/MOCA> or to the Cornell Annual Fund for the Johnson Art Museum: <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1717/giving/interior.aspx?sid=1717&gid=2&pgid=403&cid=1031&dids=52>

Please visit the online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com



Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
3600 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Phone: 904.249.1100 Fax: 904.241.7554

DEATH NOTICES

Betty Lou Clotworthy

Betty Lou Clotworthy, 93, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Oct. 20, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Maria Radoslovich Cox

Maria Radoslovich Cox, 86, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Oct. 24, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Ethel Mae Kennedy

Ethel Mae Kennedy, 92, of Jacksonville, died Oct. 21, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, www.quinn-shalz.com, (904) 249-1100

Edward Norman Rebis

Edward Norman Rebis, 85, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Oct. 19, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Adam Suchecki

Adam Suchecki, 96, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Oct. 21, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com (904) 249-1100

Austin Patrick Webb

Austin Patrick Webb, 29, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died Oct. 18, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

K9s For Warriors receives Back the Blue Award from Attorney General Moody

Nonprofit provides station dog to Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

K9s For Warriors, the nation's largest provider of trained service dogs to military veterans, received Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody's Back the Blue Award on Thursday, Oct. 7, for its dedication to the state's first responders.

In celebration, K9s For Warriors donated a station dog to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) to mitigate the stress and anxiety commonly found in dispatch operators, first responders and police officers.

The Back the Blue Award honors law enforcement officers, citizens and organizations that have taken extraordinary steps to forge positive relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

The campaign recognized K9s For Warriors for its station dog program, which reallocates trained service dogs that either completed their time paired with a veteran or are identified as having a temperament better suited for a station dog environment.

"The brave men and women of Florida law enforcement often find themselves in extremely stressful and dangerous situations," said Moody. "I am so thankful for the work being done by K9s For Warriors to help connect law enforcement heroes with K9s to help them heal and cope with some of the invisible wounds inflicted while protecting Floridians. I look forward to watching the station dog program grow and help even more members of our law enforcement community."

Founded in 2011, K9s For Warriors has rescued more than 1,300 dogs across the country and paired nearly 700 veterans with trained service dogs to mitigate symptoms of post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injuries and military sexual trauma. The nonprofit's station dog program provides homes for trained dogs that will no longer be paired with veterans by placing them with police and fire departments.

JSO's adoption of Buster, a yellow Labrador retriever, marks the eighth station dog donated by K9s For Warriors and the seventh in Florida.



Contributed photos

First responders and station dogs attend the recent K9s For Warriors ceremony.



Contributed photos

Speakers at the recent K9s For Warriors ceremony were, from left, Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody, K9s For Warriors Chief of Staff and General Counsel Patty Dodson and K9s For Warriors CEO Rory Diamond.

"We are dedicated to supporting our nation's heroes, and while our focus is on helping military veterans overcome mental trauma, we started the station dog program to extend that support to the heroes who continue to serve our communities," said Rory Diamond, CEO of K9s For Warriors. "We are honored to be recognized by Attorney General Moody, and we are excited to partner with JSO in bringing Buster to their department as a way to help relieve the pressure our first responders face every day."

After completing the K9s For Warriors puppy raiser training program, K9 trainers designated Buster as better suited for station dog duty. The nonprofit worked directly with JSO to evaluate the station environment and identify personnel who would be responsible for Buster's care. The station dog received preliminary training to recognize signs of anxiety, and he will spend time in JSO's dispatch center to recognize signals of stress and intervene.

"We are continually looking for innovative resources to support our members who help others every day," said Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams. "While dogs and their special bond with humans are not new to any of us, bringing them into our workplace to help our employees is a positive and exciting new approach. I am looking forward to expanding our team through this partnership with K9s For Warriors that will be life changing for every member of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office."

In addition to JSO, K9s For Warriors has partnered with first responder departments across Florida to provide station dogs, including the Atlantic Beach Police Department, Jacksonville Beach Police Department, Neptune Beach Police Department, Clay County Sheriff's Office, Daytona Beach Shores Public Safety Department and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

To learn more about K9s For Warriors or to support the nonprofit's programs, go to www.k9sforwarriors.org.

Having fun times in the fall

The following photos are from the fall fun days at Sykes Family Farms in Elkton. The fun on the farm continues through Oct. 30 with the hours of operation being 6-10 p.m. Oct. 29 and 10 a.m to 10 p.m. Oct. 30.

There are plenty of activities for children, including a nine-acre corn maze, cow milking, hayrides and a play area.

Sykes Family Farms has been offering St. Johns County residents an opportunity to have some unique fall fun since 2010.



John Sykes, Kendell Hardwick and Sheriff Rob Hardwick.



Children play in a corn pool.

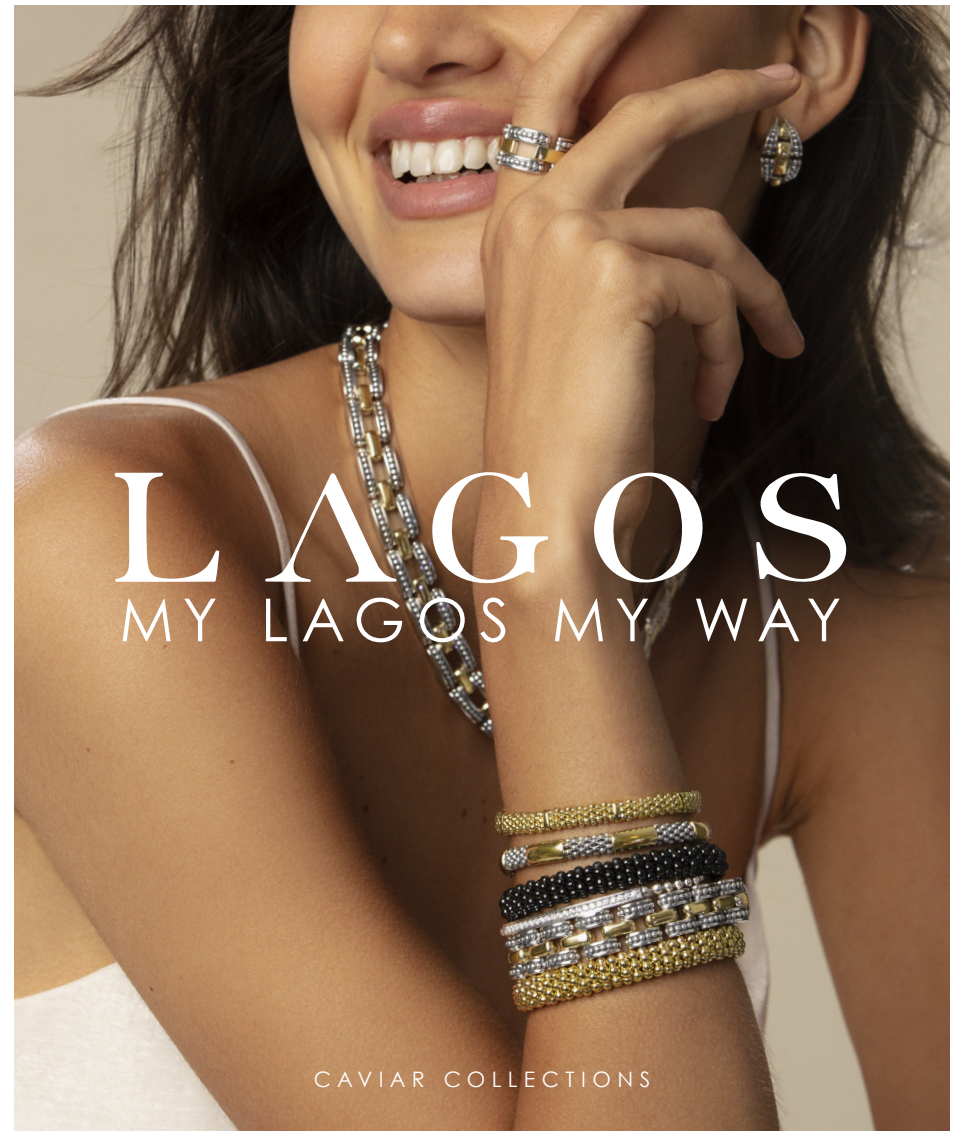


Cow milking skills are demonstrated.



Instructions for the corn maze.

Photos by Susan Griffin



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Carla Defuria is a health coach and registered dietitian at Flagler Health+ who brings her unique skillset to the area to help people with their health journey. Recently, she told us a little about herself and her career.

Carla Defuria

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell us about your work as a health coach and registered dietitian with Flagler Health+. What's involved in your work? How do people avail themselves of your services?

My role as a registered dietitian and health coach is multifaceted. I receive referrals from Flagler Health+ physicians for nutrition consultations, and I also work in community health improvement providing free workshops and offering other health-coaching services.

I work with clients one-on-one or in small groups to help them improve their health. I also offer educational seminars and cooking demonstrations to the community.

People find me through their providers, by word of mouth and other social media outlets, or by simply walking through the Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee.

What do you like best about your career?

I really enjoy working with people and helping them gain the knowledge and confidence needed to create sustainable lifestyle changes.

Because you are an expert in this field, you probably have insights that would benefit readers. Maybe there are things that people in general have never considered about maintaining their health or diet. Do you have any advice you'd like to share?

One of the biggest eye openers for people is learning how much added sugar there is in the food they eat. The new nutrition labels break down how many grams of added sugar there is per serving, so if you aren't already, read your labels. Another insight I like to share is that preparation and planning are the keys to success. If you are looking to improve your nutrition, exercise or other healthy lifestyle habits, start by making a plan for yourself or come see me and I can help you get started.

Can you tell me a little about your background? How did you get to where you are today?

I had my own personal struggle with weight in the past, and that is one of the reasons why I wanted to get into this field. I actually started my career in corporate accounting and finance and received my MBA from UNF. I soon realized I was more passionate about health and wellness and went back to school to get my degree in nutrition and dietetics and became a registered dietitian.

My preferred area to focus on as a RD and, where much of my experience is, is in community health and wellness. I also am a certified personal trainer and have taught fitness classes for many years.

How long have you lived in this area?

I have lived in the Jacksonville area since 2009 and reside in Jacksonville Beach.

What do you like best about living here?

I am originally from New Jersey, so the best thing about living here is not having winter!

How do you like to spend your free time?

I like to cook and experiment with new recipes. I also enjoy spending time with friends, going to the beach, working out and training for local races, like the Gate River Run.



Beaches Coalition discusses dune project prior to Nov. 1 start

By Anthony Richards

St. Johns County Coastal Manager Damon Douglas was the guest speaker at the Oct. 25 Beaches Coalition meeting and talked about the dune enhancement project scheduled to begin Nov. 1.

“Whether you’re a beach goer or not, this is going to effect all of us in some way, whether that be with traffic or beach closures,” said Vicki Corlazzoli, with the Coalition.

The FEMA dune project includes 8.9 miles of coastline in Ponte Vedra, 1.7 miles in South Ponte Vedra and 0.7 of a mile in Crescent Beach.

Although the sand, hauled from a mine in Keystone Heights, is different than that from the ocean, Douglas expressed that it is still quality sand approved by DOT.

According to Douglas, the contractor will spread out the trucks hauling sand to limit the amount of increased traffic.

“We’re cognizant of people’s views,” Douglas said.

Part of the route will include trucks travelling over Palm Valley Bridge and staging at Cornerstone Park prior to being sent to the beach.

Ponte Vedra Boulevard and Mickler Road will be used to transfer the sand to

the beach.

Sand will be placed between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday with about 30 trucks attempting four trips a day.

“We do not take it lightly, having to close Mickler’s,” Douglas said. “Work areas will consist of about 1,000 to 2,000 feet of beach at a time, which will be closed to the public during the project.”

He reiterated that Mickler’s Landing will be partially opened Saturdays and Sundays with limited parking available.

Additional info pertaining to the FEMA dune project can be found at www.sjcfll.us/coastalprojects/FEMAdunes.aspx.

Questions can be directed to coastalprojects@sjcfl.us or by calling 904-209-0260.

Separate from the FEMA dune project is a Ponte Vedra Beach renourishment project, which will extend from the Duval County line to Guana River State Park.

“We’ve got the permits and are moving forward with the process of finding funding,” Douglas said.

One of the next steps is also to have the Army Corps of Engineers conduct a feasibility study, which Douglas said could recommend a five-year beach restoration project.



Photo by Anthony Richards
St. Johns County Coastal Manager Damon Douglas was the guest speaker at the Oct. 25 Beaches Coalition meeting.

Florida Theatre president to speak at Newcomers Alumnae luncheon

Numa Saisselin, president of The Florida Theatre Performing Arts Center, will be the guest speaker at the Nov. 3 Newcomers Alumnae luncheon, which will be held at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Parkway, Ponte Vedra Beach.

The Florida Theatre is a 1,900-seat theater in downtown Jacksonville that first opened its doors on April 8, 1927. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

The Florida Theatre Performing Arts Center Inc. is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1987 to manage the historic theater.

The cost to attend this luncheon is \$23. Reservations must be made by contacting bartshar@comcast.net as soon as possible in order to reserve a seat. The deadline to sign up is Oct. 29.

Newcomers Alumnae is a social group comprised of women who live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville Beach, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville and St. Augustine.

For further information, contact brookemeister@msn.com.



Don't risk it

Simple steps to reduce your risk of breast cancer

At Baptist Health, we understand how busy you are. But taking a few minutes each day to care for yourself can pay off. Here are some tips that could help to reduce your risk of breast cancer.

Get moving

Maintain a healthy weight.

Avoid alcohol

Alcohol increases the risk of breast cancer. If you do drink, limit yourself to one alcoholic drink per day.

Make that mammogram appointment

If you are 40 or older, schedule your annual mammogram. You may need to get screened earlier if you have a family history of breast cancer or other risk factors.

Monitor for changes in your breasts

If you notice a lump or other change in your breasts, talk to your doctor.

Baptist Health has seven screening locations, including one at Baptist Medical Center Beaches. To schedule your mammogram, please call **904.202.2222** or visit baptistjax.com/3Dmammo.

If you would like to make a gift to support breast cancer patients at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, call **904.202.2919** or visit endcancerjax.com/donation.



Performers may require COVID tests at local venues

By Shaun Ryan

Local concertgoers might want to check venue COVID restrictions a few days before setting out to hear their favorite artists. This is especially important for fans who have chosen not to be vaccinated against the coronavirus.

Some performers are requiring proof of a negative COVID test within 72 hours or proof of vaccination before ticket holders are admitted to their shows.

Neither the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall nor the St. Augustine Amphitheater are requiring masks, negative tests nor vaccinations for entry, though they are following health and safety guidelines required by individual artists for specific shows.

Thus far, few artists are setting conditions related to COVID. There are, however, three exceptions so far at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall:

- “An Evening with Bruce Hornsby” on Nov. 17
- “An Evening with John Pizzarelli Trio” on Feb. 22
- “Graham Nash: An Intimate Evening of Songs and Stories” on March 9 and 13. In addition, the performer asks that all patrons wear a mask.

Because there is typically a 24- to 48-hour turnaround for results from a PCR test, concertgoers won't want to wait too close to show dates to get tested. Fortunately, however, many sites offer rapid

testing.

One such site is run by Telescope Health at 540 Atlantic Blvd. in Neptune Beach. However, the site is only open weekdays, so it's still important to plan ahead for weekend concerts.

According to Dr. Matthew Thompson, who founded Telescope Health as a telemedicine company three years ago along with Dr. Matthew Rill, the test site sees people not only from Jacksonville, but also St. Johns, Ponte Vedra and elsewhere.

He said the volume of people seeking tests has declined from about 500 per day to about 70 currently. Greater numbers getting vaccinated may account for the drop, but mutations remain a cause for concern.

“There are certainly new variants that are coming out, and that can still put those who are vaccinated at risk,” Thompson said. “Thankfully, the majority of people that I'm treating now are vaccinated and have much less severe symptoms.”

He said Telescope Health, which opened its first testing site at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center in March 2020, has seen an increase in positive cases following concerts.

“We do see spikes in cases after large events where people are huddled together,” he said.

To check the status of testing restrictions at local venues, concertgoers can go to pvconcerthall.com or theamp.com and look up show details.

County OKs rezoning of A1A property

By Shaun Ryan

By a vote of 4-0, the St. Johns County Commission on Oct. 19 approved a request to rezone 4.3 acres of land in Ponte Vedra Beach, allowing a mixed-use development that would include a 120-room hotel and commercial or office uses.

Commissioner Paul Waldron was absent.

Sleiman Enterprises requested the change from single family residential to planned unit development. Plans call for two buildings to be constructed onsite. The land sits west of State Road A1A about 200 feet south of the Duval County line.

Sleiman also requested nine waivers, later reduced to seven, where its plans did not meet the county's restrictions.

Objections raised by the public involved an expected increase in traffic and noise from the site.

At its Sept. 13 meeting, the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board had recommended the commission deny the rezoning request.

Waivers requested by Sleiman included construction of more than 10,000 square feet of building per acre, construction of a building longer than 120 feet (the hotel is expected to be 270 feet long), a reduction of the rear setback, addition of fill to the property, installation of an 80-square-foot sign, construction of a three-story building and installation of a flat roof.

Michael Herzberg, vice president of development for Sleiman Enterprises, predicted that the project would generate \$614,660 in impact fees and \$514,699 in tax revenue for the county. It would generate \$209,007 for the school district.

See the future the way I see it.



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Belen Foundation to host anniversary 5K Nov. 6

By Anthony Richards



The Estrellita de Belen Foundation will celebrate its first anniversary with the Hearts with Running Legs Anniversary 5K run/walk at Jacksonville Beach beginning at 9 a.m. Nov. 6.

The nonprofit organization was founded by Belen Blanton to raise money to help fight for children dealing with congenital heart disease in her birth country of Venezuela.

“Our vision is to live in a world where every child has a mighty heart,” Blanton said. “We work with parents, caregivers and local volunteers to meet the immediate needs of our little heart warriors.”

The charity run/walk will be 3.1 miles and will start at the 16th Street public beach access point, and the goal of the event is to raise \$10,000.

Blanton was born with a congenital heart defect known as tricuspid atresia, which has led to her having to live with Eisenmenger Syndrome, which according to the Mayo Clinic, can cause blood to circulate abnormally in a person’s heart and lungs.

She moved to the United States 34 years ago but has continued to stay in touch with

what is going on in Venezuela.

Although Blanton understood the struggles she has endured in her life due to being born with a congenital heart defect, she was not aware of the magnitude of the situation in her native land until she spoke with Dr. Ivan Machado Hernandez, who is a doctor and professor of cardiology at a university in Venezuela.

According to Blanton, Venezuela has more than 4,000 children born annually that suffer from congenital heart defects. Eighty percent of them end up requiring surgery prior to their first birthday.

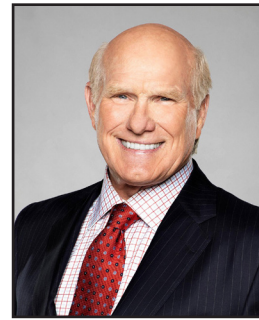
However, about 2,000 children are on a waiting list for surgery, but many die while awaiting the care they need.

“I now dedicate my life to fight for the children with congenital heart defects in my country of Venezuela,” Blanton said. “Our foundation provides the resources to aid families through appointment scheduling, medical supplies and nutritional supplements.”

A registration fee will be required for each participant. Entry into the event as well as a T-shirt is \$25, while general admission is \$10.

Anybody wanting to take part can register by going to fundacionestrellitadabelen.org/events. Donations toward the cause can also be made online.

Terry Bradshaw speech rescheduled to Jan. 20



Terry Bradshaw

The date has been changed for the presentation by four-time Super Bowl champion and broadcaster Terry Bradshaw in The Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital’s Florida Forum Speaker Series.

Bradshaw was originally scheduled to speak on Oct. 26. The new date is Jan. 20.

The series will also feature Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., a retired Marine officer, astronaut and former NASA administrator, on Nov. 17; and singer, songwriter and actor Tim McGraw on Feb. 16.

The series will take place at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

Subscriptions for the Forum events start at \$225 each for general seating; \$300 for preferred seating; \$850 for two reserved Bronze seating tickets; \$2,125 for two reserved Silver seating tickets and \$4,250 for two reserved Gold seating tickets.

The purchase of a Silver or Gold ticket package includes invitations to the private reception honoring the speakers after the lecture. Patrons under the age of 30 may purchase Young Subscriber tickets for \$150 each.

The Florida Forum raises awareness and funds for Wolfson Children’s Hospital of Jacksonville, supporting its mission to provide the highest quality of advanced pediatric health care regardless of ability to pay.

The series is made possible by long-time partners and generous sponsors Wells Fargo, Florida Blue and Landstar.

The moderators are Capt. Mark T. Gould, MD, USN (retired), Jeff Lage-man and Jennifer Candelino.

Since 1992, The Florida Forum has hosted renowned speakers from around the world. In addition to enriching Jacksonville’s intellectual and cultural life, the Florida Forum has contributed more than \$9.2 million to Wolfson Children’s Hospital of Jacksonville.

To purchase tickets or for additional information, go to www.thefloridaforum.com, call 904-202-2886, or email womensboard@bmcjax.com.

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The Canonical Coronation of Our Lady of La Leche

October 28, 2021



Recorder

Welcome to Sand Castles - The Fall Issue



Janet Westling
Contributing Editor

Welcome to our fall issue and our 8th anniversary of Sand Castles, a luxury, lifestyle and seasonal publication.

Our fall weather has finally arrived, and we look forward to welcoming our Georgia neighbors to Jacksonville and our beaches.

Since 1915, the Florida/Georgia game, sometimes referred to as the biggest outdoor party, has been played and since 1933 every year Jacksonville is proud to host another successful event for our city. Many fans arrive early to this destination game, and our hotels and resorts are filled to capacity. Georgia is our #1 feeder state for real estate, and while we may be rivals on the field, off the field Georgians enjoy our restaurants, beautiful beaches and lifestyle!

Our Market Watch, provided by David Johnson with Ameris Bank, delves into the current market that has been one of the strongest we have experienced. All indicators point to a continuing healthy market, and in this issue some of our top real estate agents share their stories about their distinctive properties currently for sale.

In this issue, food columnist Alice Hickox offers some great recipes for celebrating the Florida/Georgia game. Sports columnist Brian Sexton gives some great insight in our NFL Jaguars with his analysis, "What's right with the Jaguars?" This will be worth reading!

Our First Coast is a wonderful place to live. We have been blessed with St. Augustine and the historical site of Nombre de Dios, where the first parish mass took place. On Oct. 10, 2021, John Clegg and his family attended the Canonical Coronation for Our Lady of La Leche. John shares the story of that day and the history of the shrine.

Vicky's Helping Hands, founded in 1994 by Sawgrass

resident Vicky Brock, provides a much-needed service in our community. This concierge business offers a list of services from home watch to pet care and more and in doing so is changing lives and helping others. Vicky recently expanded her business with her daughter-in-law Jessica Waugaman, and this dynamic duo will continue to provide services to their clients that are in demand now more than ever!

A special feature in this issue is "Fins Up" from team Mom Kim Dean about the award-winning Ponte Vedra High School cheer program. According to Coach Mel, "These dedicated and hardworking student athletes give it their all on and off the sidelines. They give back to their community and are role models for their younger cheer sisters."

Jennifer Sexton, Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway, writes about a recent trip not far from the first coast to Palmetto Bluff, one of the low country's best kept secrets!

I write about the "Art of the Caravan" and why this weekly ritual of touring new homes on the market is one of the most important aspects of real estate that is now back!

Our home is our castle and at the beaches, it is our castle in the sand. From palm trees to sand dunes, golf courses to resort living, Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra Beach and the Beaches communities offer the most desirable living in Northeast Florida!

Janet Westling, REALTOR, GRI, CIPS
Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices
Florida Network realty
Sand Castles Creator and Contributing Editor
www.janetwestling.com



MARKET WATCH

October mortgage market update

By David Johnson

In this Sand Castles mortgage market update, I discuss four topics: second and investment home mortgage availability improvement, rising interest rates and their causes, increased conforming loan limits and the general state of the Ponte Vedra Beach housing market.

Second and investment home mortgage restrictions eased: It has been confirmed by the two government sponsored entities (GSE), Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, that second home and investment property lender restrictions have temporarily been lifted. Previously, lenders such as Ameris Bank were restricted to 7% of their portfolio consisting of second home and investment properties. You can imagine the negative impact this had on interest rates and guidelines. Earlier this year, when the new administration instituted the restrictions, it became more

expensive and challenging for buyers to qualify for a second home or investment property. Although the lift is temporary, it offers respite for sellers and buyers.

Rumblings of rising rates: Recently, fears of Fed tapering along with Federal Reserve Board sentiment leaning towards increasing rates sooner than 2023 caused mortgage interest rates to rise. Subsequently, Freddie Mac reports the 30-year fixed rate mortgage surpassed 3% on October 14. This is the highest we have seen since April of this year.

Freddie Mac went on to report the causes of the increase, unlike in April, is due to inflationary pressure building due to the ongoing pandemic and tightening monetary policy, stating, "we expect rates to continue a modest upswing. Historically speaking, rates are still low, but many

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Market Watch

Continued from 12

potential homebuyers are staying on the sidelines due to high home price growth. Rising mortgage rates combined with growing home prices make affordability more challenging for potential buyers.”*

As a reminder, your particular interest rate is based on your situation. Credit score, loan to value, loan type (purchase, refinance), residence (primary, second or investment home) and loan amount can have an impact on the interest rate.

Conforming mortgage limit increase: Each November, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), an entity of the federal government, issues conforming mortgage limit increases. The FHFA ensures that Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks operate in a safe and sound manner so that they serve as a reliable source of liquidity and funding for housing finance and community investment.** Industry experts expect the FHFA to increase the conforming mortgage limit from \$548,250 to \$625,000.

Once implemented, this is a very encouraging development for the Ponte Vedra Beach market because home prices are relatively high compared to the rest of Northeast Florida. More homes in Ponte Vedra Beach will soon qualify for conforming mortgages compared to portfolio jumbo mortgages. Conforming mortgages offer competitive interest rates and lower down payments compared to jumbo mortgages. Local Realtor Katie Johnson of RE/MAX Specialists Ponte Vedra offers this assessment of conforming mortgage limit increases: “Affordability is a hot topic, and anything that helps our market become more affordable without reducing seller sales prices is a plus. It benefits buyers and sellers.”

Ponte Vedra Beach housing forecast: Two additional components continue to benefit the Ponte Vedra Beach housing market: local population growth and continued migration from the Midwest and Northeast. I mentioned the Northeast and Rustbelt mass migration in a previous Sand Castles article and can report it continues well into 2021. These two factors, along with local and state business-friendly political leadership, the absence

of a state income tax, beautiful weather, beaches, great schools and relatively affordable housing continue to offer beacons of hope to people throughout the nation. They also serve as a reminder of how blessed we are to call Ponte Vedra Beach home, and how excited we are to continue welcoming fellow citizens into our community.

David Johnson
Mortgage Banker
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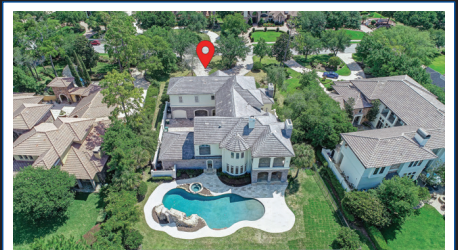


OLD PONTE VEDRA BEACH

537 Lake Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 Who wants a little slice of heaven on a Peninsula in Old Ponte Vedra Beach located with/in a short stroll to the famed Ponte Vedra beaches? Affectionately called "Island Road" by the locals, this location cannot be beat! This lot boasts just over 112 feet of lake frontage & is build ready w/ a bulkhead & well already in place! You will be centrally located to A-rated St. Johns County schools, shopping, dining & nestled between The Lodge and Club at Ponte Vedra and the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club! Offered for \$2,850,000.



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4460 Glen Kernan Pkwy. E., Jacksonville, FL 32224
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NEW CONSTRUCTION ACROSS FROM THE OCEAN

78 27th Avenue S., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
 2,958 SF, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms. Brand new construction in desirable South Jax Beach to be built. Enjoy amazing ocean views and cool breezes from the 2nd and 3rd floor balconies and walk to the beach access just steps away. Coastal designed 3 story home with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, study and elevator for easy access. Offered for \$1,975,000.



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14402 Marina San Pablo Pl, #701, Jacksonville, FL 32224
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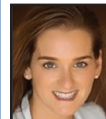


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 904-626-2888

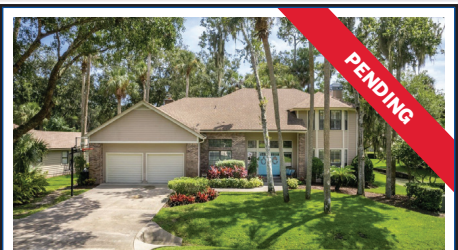


RIVERFRONT HOME

5571 Dianthus St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
 Over \$150,000 in upgrades in this Southern Design on 1.68 acre Riverfront lot. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, executive study with built-ins. New Dock and Boat house in 2019 w/electric, water & electric lifts. 3,765 SF. Offered for \$1,200,000.



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3057 Cypress Creek Dr. N., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 This beautiful Cypress Creek home is in the heart of Sawgrass Players Club & walking distance to 3 Palms Restaurant, The Yards Golf Club, pickleball (coming soon), tennis, parks, basketball courts, pool and last but not least, the Majestic TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse. ~ Love where you live NEFL ~ Offered for \$929,000.



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PRIME PALM VALLEY LOCATION!

4630 Palm Valley Rd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 Excellent opportunity to make this picturesque property, in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach, your very own. Within minutes to the beach, beach clubs, TPC, shopping and dining, you can't beat the location! 1.5 miles to new PGA Offices, .5 mile to Elementary & Middle Schools. Situated on over an acre lot. Offered for \$925,000.



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530 Quail Pointe Ln., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 1,480 SF, 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms. Location! Location! Incredible Quail Pointe II condo in desirable Sawgrass Country Club is walking distance to the beach, tennis, fitness & golf club house! Two bedrooms, 2 baths & open concept living to kitchen space. Updated throughout. Offered for \$550,000



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BEAUTIFUL SAN MARCO BUNGALOW!

2565 Pineridge Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32207
 Tastefully appointed San Marco Bungalow. This 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath charmer features many beautiful upgrades yet maintains many of its original features. You're sure to love the refinished hardwood floors, the gorgeous owner's bathroom addition in 2017 with a barn door entrance, Walk-In Shower, towel warmer, and a standalone tub. Updated and renovated Kitchen. Offered for \$479,000



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ENJOY THE VIEW IN NOCATEE!

595 Orchard Pass, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
 Nestled within this 55+ active community, the owners of this gorgeous end unit spend 95% of their time on the large screened in balcony enjoying the cool breezes and watching the abundant Florida bird species that call the area home ~ Love where you live NEFL ~ Offered for \$385,000.



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Photos provided by Gwinn Volen

Contemporary oceanfront condo offers a Ponte Vedra Beach home away from home

By Gwinn Volen

Located in sought-after Ponte Vedra Beach along the Atlantic Ocean coastline with incredible ocean views is this dreamy second floor condominium, just a short walk or bike ride to The Lodge & Club. No expense was spared when this lavish oceanfront condominium was taken to the studs in 2019, going through a complete transformation, including new a/c and complete ductwork, all new windows, and of course stunning interior finishes.

Why should you buy this home? Location! Location! Location!

If you love the beach, you will love this condominium! It's set in an unparalleled location with amazing renovations to create a contemporary, clean design throughout, with glorious sunrise views. Raised ceilings in the hallways create a roomy home feel, while the high-end finishes boast luxury. The bright and open kitchen flows into the living space, perfect for cocktails and entertaining. Never lose touch with your guests with a view straight through to the open lanai and sliding doors, showcasing the coveted ocean views.

While the winter months may be short in Ponte Vedra Beach, they will definitely be cozy in front of the living room oil fireplace. Do you enjoy cooking? Then the chef's kitchen will become your favorite spot with a built-in Miele coffee machine, sleek and stylish quartz island with Verona oven and range and all top-of-the-line appliances.

Space will never be a problem in this 2,504 square foot condo featuring 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths. Watch ocean sunrises from the master suite, complete with a luxury bath including wonder-

fully stylish tilework and Toto Washlet electronic toilet. Looking to enjoy your morning coffee on the beach? Take the spiral stairs down from the lanai to the cool sandy shore just steps away!

Ocean Manor II offers low dues of just \$1,910 per quarter. The new owner will enjoy two garage parking spots, a large storage room and, of course, beach access. Truly a rare opportunity in Ponte Vedra Beach.

This property is listed by Gwinn Volen of Keller Williams Luxury International in Ponte Vedra Beach.



Photos provided by Michael Paull

South Beach Village home boasts West Indies flair

By Michael Paull

Looking to walk to the beach from your home? Then look no further! South Beach Village is an intimate neighborhood just steps from the ocean in one of Jacksonville Beach's most highly sought-after communities. Nestled East of A1A, these homes have a West Indies/Coastal flair designed with excellent craftsmanship by award-winning architect Cronk Duch Architecture.

This coastal beauty at 2844 Abaco Lane boasts 3,468 square feet of living space with 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths plus a

private detached garage apartment – perfect for guests, teenagers and/or privacy. This home has been beautifully updated, with stylish interior finishes and freshly painted interior and exterior.

The light and bright first floor includes travertine floors throughout, gourmet kitchen with center island and gas cooktop, solid surface counters, cozy gas fireplace in the family room, volume 12' ceilings, guest bedroom or office with full bath and an expansive wraparound veranda to take in the lovely sea breezes.

Upstairs are two additional spacious

guest bedrooms, a full guest bath and owner's suite with separate sitting area and en-suite bath including a jetted garden tub, double vanity, glass walk-in shower and a sizable walk-in closet perfect for the fashion enthusiast. With eastern views from the second floor veranda, you are sure to enjoy morning sunrises and the smells of the ocean air while enjoying a morning cup of Joe.

It doesn't end there! You have a private detached garage apartment suitable for an in-law suite, teen space, art studio or an office. The possibilities are endless.

Space includes a living area, an efficiency kitchen with refrigerator, full bath, washer and dryer connection, closet, French doors to exterior balcony and new woodlike luxury vinyl plank flooring.

Enjoy low maintenance living by the ocean in this lovely, paver-lined street complete with a community-only playground and walking distance to the best shops, restaurants and the beach!

This home is offered at \$1,249,900 and listed by Michael Paull of RE/MAX Unlimited in Ponte Vedra.

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

What's Right with the Jaguars?

By Brian Sexton

“What’s right with the Jaguars?” Guessing you haven’t asked or been asked that this fall. More likely it’s the opposite: “What’s wrong with the Jaguars?”

The list is longer than you’d like, but much shorter than it was last spring. Don’t let the record fool you; they’re not good enough to challenge yet, but they’re better than they were.

Let’s be honest, this edition of the Jaguars was going to struggle this season. A rookie head coach and a rookie quarterback have a lot to learn, and with a roster that won only a single game last season,

that learning curve was going to be steep. Urban Meyer’s credentials and Trevor Lawrence’s track record fooled even these eyes, which have seen nearly 600 NFL games in almost 30 seasons. I forgot how hard it is for guys who have coached and played on Sundays for years to win – let alone two men new to the professional game.

That said, there is real progress being made and all you have to look at is the line of scrimmage. You don’t win in professional football – you can’t win in the NFL – if your offense can’t control the line of scrimmage with the running game. And if your defense can’t shut it down,

you’re in a world of trouble.

The Jaguars didn’t get off to a good start running the ball against the Texans and Broncos. They either fell too far behind or simply lost patience, which happens to the most veteran of coaches.

But James Robinson is so patient and has great vision, which you saw against the Cardinals and in Cincinnati – the kind of awareness of what’s going on around him that allows him to find the soft spot in the defense and make a big play. When he gets going, he’s a hammer that just keeps loosening the other team up. Carlos Hyde, then, is an excellent second punch of power to Robinson’s patience. When the Jaguars were trying to get past the Cardinals, his 18-yard run into the teeth of the defense was a great blend of power to get through the line and then speed to set up a game-tying touchdown.

The Jaguars’ 4.9 yard per carry average, which is the best measure of a team’s ability to run the football, was fifth best in the NFL after Week Four. They’re running the ball and that keeps a defense honest, which gives Lawrence time in the pocket when he drops back to throw.

That’s a good sign – a very good sign of what’s possible.

Dramatic improvement on the other side of the ball is a much bigger story for this team. From the mid-point of the 2019 season in Cincinnati when All Pro defensive tackle Marcell Dareus was injured, until the end of 2020, a span of 24 games, the Jaguars couldn’t stop the run. They allowed their opponents run for an average of 157 yards per game, by far the worst in the NFL.

Worse than that was their yard-per-carry average of 4.7 yards every time they touched it! You don’t need to be a math major to figure out teams won’t risk throwing when they don’t have to. Seven teams ran for more than 200 yards in that stretch, while the Jaguars held only three to fewer than 100. It was a desperate situation for a defense that was literally powerless.

Enter new defensive coordinator Joe Cullen, who brought with him from Balti-



Photo provided by Brian Sexton

more a three-man defensive front featuring four linebackers, which is widely considered a good scheme to stop the run.

Through four games that 157 yards allowed had been winnowed down to only 106 and that yards per carry average stat that means so much to an offense... down to just 3.5, which puts this defense squarely in the top five among in football. They’re getting teams off the field and giving it back to the offense. Already, that has resulted in closer games in the fourth quarter, which is helpful when you have a franchise quarterback waiting on the sidelines.

Lawrence is a generational talent who should, in time, lift the Jaguars like Patrick Mahomes has the Chiefs, Joe Burrow the Bengals and Justin Herbert the Chargers. But you won’t see this team transform from pretender to contender until it can establish the run and keep the other team from running.

They’re not winning games yet. But they’re winning a few key battles that should set them up for a few wins before this season is through.



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Photos provided by Cici Anderson

Waterfront paradise awaits at Marina San Pablo and Aphora at Marina San Pablo

By Cici Anderson

With a highly desirable location along the banks of Northern Florida's lush Intracoastal landscape, Marina San Pablo offers natural wonders just waiting to be discovered. An elegant high-rise condominium with 56 residences and 25 coach homes, Marina San Pablo offers maintenance-free living – whether you select this incredible two-story coach home or this 3-bedroom condo.

This is the lock-and-leave lifestyle that everyone dreams of – from the gated entrance, exquisitely landscaped grounds and private marina to the luxurious open floor plans with designer finishes. And the views cannot be surpassed, with panoramic vistas of the marina and Intracoastal Waterway. At every turn, Marina San Pablo is a destination where natural wonders never cease to amaze. There's even a community fishing pier where the fish are jumping as the dolphins and manatee pass by.

The Yacht Club houses the fitness center, a beautiful gathering room, a catering kitchen with sitting area, bar and TV. Outside is the sparkling pool, hot tub, grilling area, marina and walking

promenade. Optional 50-door boat slips are right in your back yard for all your water sports: boating, jet skiing, kayaking or paddle boarding. This is the easy lifestyle you have been dreaming about and searching for.

Marina San Pablo is located off of San Pablo Road just south of J. Turner Butler Blvd. It is only a short drive to the many beautiful beaches in Ponte Vedra Beach and Jacksonville Beach and close to the St. Johns Town Center, the legendary TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course and practically next door to the world-renowned Mayo Clinic.

Boasting tranquil marina views, the two-story coach home has the primary suite on the first level. This 2,841 square-foot 4 bedroom 3 1/2 bath two-story coach home is offered fully furnished for \$1,450,000. Also available is a 3 bedroom 3.5 bath condo with an office offered for \$964,000. Both of these residences also include a full golf membership to the nearby Marsh Landing Country Club if so desired.

These properties are represented by MLCC Realty and listed by Cici Anderson and Jenna Fisher.



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- 101 Royal Lagoon Court
- 176 Twelve Oaks Lane
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- 422 Osprey Pt.
- 107 Whitefish...
- 8125 Seven Mile Drive
- 128 Natu...
- 411 Spanish Creek Drive
- 611 Ponte Vedra...
- 297 Marsh Cove Drive
- 112 South B...
- 192 Lamplight...
- 3273 Horn Court
- 68 Village V...
- 539 Le Master Drive
- 24760 Harbour View
- 4129 Duval Drive
- 5098 Commissi...
- 242 Sanctuary Estates Lane
- 125-101 Cuello Court
- 1039 Ponte Vedra B
- 607 Miramar Court
- 1105 Ru...
- 543 Lake Road
- 8055 Whisper Lake...
- 7718 Wildwood Way
- 1787 Azalea Street
- 15 Sea Moss Lane
- 201 ...
- 164 Woodlands Creek
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The art of the caravan is back

By Janet Westling

With the pandemic and many states in lockdown, the days of holding an open house for Realtors in your market to view the current inventory seemed to be a thing of the past. But for many Realtors, the caravan is one of the most important three-hour windows of the week.

In the luxury market, hosting a broker's open house plays a big role in an overall marketing plan to showcase unique properties for a specific buyer. Knowledge is power, and when agents tour properties during a broker's open house, it gives the buyer's agent an opportunity to see firsthand a property that they can share with their sphere. Touring a variety of homes helps agents gain a pulse on the market, hones their skills as an agent and connect with fellow agents in the communities where they sell.

"Margaritas on the Marsh," a broker's open house at 55 Quail Lane, Jacksonville Beach, was held Sept. 30 from 4 to 7 p.m. and hosted Realtors who specialize in the luxury market. Agents from several firms had the opportunity to tour this three-story coastal contemporary with wraparound verandas and stunning views of the marsh. The "margarita man margaritas" were sponsored by Prosperity Bank and the food was catered by "Taste" caterer Theresa Pratt.



Photos provided by Janet Westling

Karen Sheltz



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Build your waterfront dream home at Queens Harbour



Photo provided by Lisa Barton

By Lisa Barton

Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners

Have you always dreamed of building your dream home on the water? This beautiful lot for sale in Queens Harbour Yacht & Country Club is situated directly on the Intracoastal Waterway – a stunning location for a very private estate or family compound. This amazing parcel of pristine land is one of the last available vacant waterfront properties available in our area.

With 4.25 acres, you'll have ample room to build a luxurious estate home with incredible natural water views in every direction. Do you have a floorplan in mind? You can bring your own plans and the builder of your choice (with no building time constraints). Or, if you don't have a builder or project planned, Brandon Construction, a premier Ponte Vedra Beach waterfront builder, has a new floorplan available for a large single-family home and full guest house.

This location on the Intracoastal Waterway really can't be beat! The property has deep water access and space for two floating docks. Beautiful views can be found right outside your door.

This property is located in Queens Harbour, a gated neighborhood known for its freshwater yacht basin with a 76-slip marina offering Intracoastal Waterway access. The Queens Harbour Yacht & Country Club has wonderful amenities, including a beautiful lowcountry clubhouse, lighted tennis courts, swimming pool, clubhouse dining, complimentary use of private meeting and dining rooms with full-service catering and event planning, and exclusive social and fun-filled family events.

Call the Lisa Barton Team to learn more about this spectacular lot – and start building your dream home! 0 Shipwatch Drive is offered by the Lisa Barton Team, Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners
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Photos provided by Katie Hughes

Enjoy ocean breezes, spectacular sunsets in Quail Pointe II condo

By Katie Hughes

Location! Location! Location! This stunning Quail Pointe II condo in desirable Sawgrass Country Club is walking distance to the beach, tennis, fitness and golf clubhouse. This unit features 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and an open concept living-to-kitchen space with vaulted ceilings and stunning golf-to-water views. It has been updated throughout with tile flooring, smooth ceilings, new kitchen with shaker light gray cabinetry, quartz countertops and stainless steel appliances plus elegantly updated bathrooms. Relax in the grand family room and nestle next to a warm fire this winter.

This one-level end unit provides natu-

ral light and stunning views of the Sawgrass 2nd hole on the East Course. Enjoy the sounds of the ocean from the front of the condo. From the large, screened lanai in the back, feel the breezes while being awed by gorgeous sunsets and views of a quiet pond.

The condo comes with a golf cart-ready storage shed so that your cart is covered and out of the elements. Taking daily walks on the beach is easy, as the beach is only a short walk across Ponte Vedra Blvd.! 530 Quail Pointe Lane is offered by Katie Hughes, Johnson RE/MAX Specialists.

See more **Photos** on **Page 26**



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Fins up!

PVHS cheerleaders display discipline, athletic prowess

By Kim Dean

Cheerleaders are athletes! They're also role models, enhance team spirit and promote positivity with integrity and fun, both on and off the sidelines.

Three years ago, the Ponte Veda High School cheerleading program went from a sideline team to a competitive Varsity Cheerleading program that is now among the top-ranked in the state and nationally. And while most sports at PVHS are a one-season sport, this program is a year-round sport beginning with spring tryouts.

During tryouts, the athlete has a chance to show their skills and individuality. Tryouts consist of three days of clinics, where participants learn several cheers and a dance to perform during the tryout evaluation. They are evaluated on stunting skills, attitude, quick learning and the ability to work with others.

Tumbling is also expected to be performed, with the average skill levels on the Varsity team being standing tuck, running layout and running full. These three days are high paced and high energy, giv-

ing the potential athlete an idea of how the program is run and what practices will be like.

Once teams are announced in late spring, the girls get right to work on a rigorous schedule that doesn't stop until the following spring. Summer conditioning, three-day out-of-town UCA cheer camp and team bonding begins. As school starts, so do mandatory sideline/competition practices consisting of several two-hour weekly training sessions, conditioning, tumbling, stunt work, and so much more.

Then there's that long eight-hour weekend practice of choreography and routine skills for the upcoming competition season, with team members learning a choreographed competitive routine involving stunts, dance, cheer and tumbling — all to a fast-paced choreographed music soundtrack.

This year's PVHS Varsity Cheer team consists of 17 athletes. Thirteen are bases and back-spots, who spend hours perfect-



Photos provided by Jennifer White

Rare lot on Lake Road in Old Ponte Vedra

By Jennifer White

With its impressive homes and proximity to the beach and several private beach clubs, Old Ponte Vedra is a highly desirable and exclusive enclave in Ponte Vedra Beach. Let's drill down a little more to 537 Lake Road – an amazing lot and a little slice of heaven on a peninsula in Old Ponte Vedra located just a short stroll to the beach!

Affectionately called "Island Road" by the locals, this location cannot be beat. Cross over the bridge to Lake Road onto a peaceful cul-de-sac with no through traffic to take in sweeping lagoon views and feel the easterly breeze! This lot boasts just over 112 feet of lake frontage and is build ready with a bulkhead and irrigation well already in place! You will be centrally located to A-rated St. Johns County schools, shopping, dining and nestled between The Lodge and Club at Ponte Vedra and the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club. There is also an opportunity to have the first right to purchase the home (independent price) located next door

(535) upon completion of the owner's new home in 2022. This lot was originally purchased to be combined with 535 to build a larger home. Seller has proper documentation from the county, with approvals to combine the two lots and is willing to share with accepted offer on the lot.

Ponte Vedra Beach, located in Northeast Florida, is a seaside haven known for its pristine beaches, Intracoastal Waterway and famous resorts with championship golf. Ponte Vedra is home to the PGA Tour, the ATP, The Player's Championship Golf Tournament, several famed private beach clubs/resorts and is within close proximity to the renowned Mayo Clinic and downtown Jacksonville, home of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Represented by Jennifer White and RE/MAX Specialists PV, this lot is offered at \$2,850,000. Please do not walk the lot without a confirmed appointment. To make an appointment or for more information, call 904-446-0495 or email jenniferwhitesellspvb@yahoo.com.



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The veranda house on the marsh

Photos provided by Janet Westling



By Janet Westling

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty

How do you describe a home that has a dock, with tidal access to the Intracoastal, sensational outdoor entertaining with a large pool, al fresco dining, beautifully designed, inside, and out and in the heart of Jacksonville Beach, Florida?

It is simple. Step inside 55 Quail Lane and experience a redesigned coastal traditional home that is move-in ready. The veranda house sits on nearly 4 acres on the marsh, with incredible views for entertaining guests who can wander the

three levels and take in the sunsets on the Intracoastal.

When you arrive, you enter on the main floor of three levels. The foyer opens to the office or “zoom room” on the left. Continue to the two-story great room with a wall of windows that fills the living space with light and spectacular views.

The open concept living space flows into the kitchen. The dining room, located right off the great room and kitchen, features a tray ceiling, stunning designer furniture with private views of the pool and marsh. This home comes with a nearby personal chef. Taste Catering

owner Theresa Pratt lives right across the street and is renowned for her amazing cuisine and presentation.

Having a chef nearby is just one of the perks to this stunning home. The location is the other! The Beaches Baptist Hospital is just a few blocks away, and you are within walking distance to Seabreeze Elementary School. The South Beach Parkway that connects Jacksonville Beach to JTB and Jacksonville is nearby, as are South Beach Park and Sunshine playground, a wonderful community park. Just minutes to the beach, the endless outdoor living at 55 Quail Lane in a private setting offers amazing tidal access

to the estuary to the intracoastal. This house has function, flow and style!

Jacksonville Beach, a community on the Atlantic Ocean is convenient to Jacksonville, Florida, close to the Mayo Clinic hospital and the University of North Florida. Experience the best of beach living in this home located just minutes to the beach, golf, tennis and fitness center, and enjoy vacation living yearround!

Listed by Janet Westling and represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, this home is offered for \$1,199,000.



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Marina San Pablo penthouse condo provides panoramic views



By Michelle Mousin

Exceptional and rarely available, this west-end 9th floor penthouse has undergone a complete renovation. Enter through double doors and stand in the impressive foyer – you will feel this is something special.

Soaring ceilings highlight this contemporary yet transitional creation. The kitchen, dining and living areas open to true panoramic views of the Intracoastal

looking southwest. The sunsets are spectacular!

Culinary enthusiasts will delight in the kitchen equipped with a Thermador six-burner gas range, paneled Sub Zero, built-in wine chiller, European cabinetry with built-in coffee bar, two Fisher Paykel dishwashers, endless storage and Quartz counters with refrigerated drawers and bar area. The walk-in pantry is adjacent to a tucked away private office with a view. Marble floors open to the



Photos provided by Michelle Mousin

dining and living areas, with a gas linear fireplace and access to 545 square feet of balcony. This residence was made for entertaining!

The master is its own private sanctuary, with a sitting area and a 300 square-foot outdoor terrace to take in the southern view down the waterway. The master bath is an elegant spa experience, with a chandelier, steam shower, heated floors, soaking tub and double vanity. Custom cabinets house all essentials beautifully. The his-and-hers walk-in closet was designed with generous custom cabinetry, built-ins and hanging space.

On the north side of the residence are

the guest rooms with full designer baths. The office is situated between the guest rooms, with a view of the waterway to the north that will make work time much more pleasant.

A 50-foot boat slip (#46) is also included with this residence, as does access to Marina San Pablo's clubhouse amenities, resort-style pool, fitness room and gathering area. And the location can't be beat: Enjoy living just minutes from the Jacksonville beaches, Mayo Clinic and more.

This property is represented by Michelle Mousin of Engel & Volkers Real Estate and offered at \$2,350,000.



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RECIPE SPOTLIGHT

Fall in love with simple food



Alice Hickox
Lettuce Do Dinner

By Alice Hickox

It's finally fall and time for apple cider donuts, cooler weather and of course the notorious PSL (pumpkin spice latte, in case you didn't know). For this season, I am going to share a few delicious – I mean seriously delicious – fall comfort recipes that have nothing to do with pumpkin. I figure there are enough pumpkin products and drinks out there to satisfy the pumpkin lovers, so I'm changing directions and featuring a fun recipe with a savory twist using apple cider and another that features a less recognized seasonal fruit that many never think of as a fall fruit, and that is grapes; yes, grapes!

Did you know that grapes are at their peak in early fall?

Better yet, have you ever cooked with grapes? It sounds crazy, but it's actually a delicious game changer! Trust me. Obviously, you can buy grapes any time of the year; and in case you're wondering where all those grapes go, wine is the most popular form of grape consumption, according to the USDA and my own unscientific observations of friends and family.

This first recipe is where heaven meets healthy – chicken with roasted grapes, garlic and rosemary; finished off with a simple sage butter.

Sounds fancy, and it is – but so easy! The smell of this chicken roasting with all of this deliciousness will have your whole house smelling like a restaurant. Don't be surprised if your neighbors come knocking because they can probably smell it, too! The other thing to love about this recipe is that it's super simple to make with minimal ingredients, and the presentation when it's done is as pleasing to the eye as it is to your palette.

Recipe Spotlight continues on Page 25



Photos provided by Alice Hickox

CHICKEN WITH ROASTED GRAPES, GARLIC AND ROSEMARY WITH BROWN SAGE BUTTER

(Serves 4)

- 1 4-lb whole chicken, cut into 8 pieces
- 4 tsp kosher or sea salt
- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 medium bunch red seedless grapes (about 2 cups), divided into small clusters
- 1 large garlic head, separated and cloves peeled (15-20 cloves)
- 1 (1/2-oz.) bunch fresh rosemary
- 1 bunch fresh sage (about 5-7 leaves)
- 1/2 stick kerrygold butter
- 1/2 tsp fresh ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Season chicken pieces with salt. Use more salt if 4 tsp is not enough to evenly coat chicken. Heat 2 Tbsp oil in a large ovenproof or cast-iron skillet over high. Add chicken pieces, skin side down and cook, undisturbed, until skin is browned and crisp, about 7-10 min. Remove from heat and transfer chicken to a plate.

Add grape clusters, garlic cloves and rosemary to skillet, stirring and scraping up any brown bits. Return chicken to skillet, skin sides up, nestling between grape clusters.

2. Roast in preheated oven, uncovered, until a meat thermometer inserted in chicken breast registers 155 degrees F, 22 to 25 minutes. Let chicken rest for 10 minutes. Just before serving, drizzle with sage butter.

Brown Sage Butter:

3. While the chicken is roasting, gently melt butter in a small saucepan on the stove. Tear sage leaves into about three pieces each. When butter is fully melted, turn up the heat until it starts to bubble and watch it closely until it begins to slightly brown. This is what you want. Be careful to turn off heat as soon as butter browns. Drop the sage leaves into the sizzling butter. They will frizzle up and create the most delicious sage butter to finish the chicken.

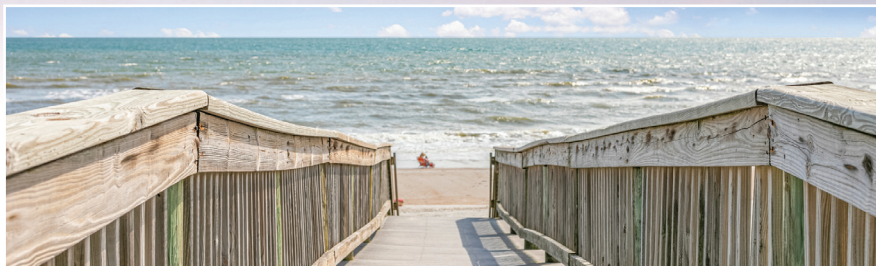
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Recipe Spotlight

Continued from 24

Next up are melty cheeses with apple cider and how they come together in a delicious fondue. I love how the whole fondue concept is coming back. Cheese lovers will enjoy dipping into this creamy, quick-to-fix fondue cheese dip that has just a hint of apple. Serve with apple slices, pear wedges and crusty French bread cubes and sweet bell pepper slices. It's the perfect way to enjoy a cozy fall evening with family and friends – or surprise your game day guests. Be prepared to share the recipe, because they will be asking!

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Alice Hickox
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CIDER CHEESE FONDUE

Yields: 2 2/3 cups

- ¾ cup apple cider
- 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar
- 1 cup shredded Swiss or Fontina cheese (fontina is milder and nuttier)
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- Cubed French bread chunks, apple and pear slices, tri-color bell pepper strips

DIRECTIONS:

1. In large saucepan, bring cider to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Toss the shredded cheeses with cornstarch and pepper, stir into cider. Cook and stir until cheese is melted, 2-3 minutes.
2. Transfer to a small fondue pot or 1 ½-qt slow cooker; keep warm. Serve with bread cubes, apple and pear slices, tri-color bell pepper strips.

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More photos of Quail Pointe II condo

Continued from 19

Photos provided by Katie Hughes



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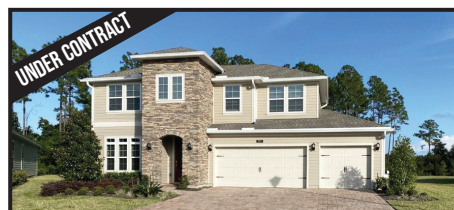


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Welcome home to Artisan Lakes, a 55+ community in Nocatee. This 3700SF home boasts wood floors, a soaring two story entry/foyer, a large, well-appointed kitchen with oversized walkin pantry, a massive loft with bedroom/bath, a first floor office or flex space all on a deep preserve lot. Built in 2018 with oversized garage with room for a golf cart.
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904-687-8000

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Beautifully renovated 3BR/2BA home on cul-de-sac with 2-car garage. Brand new roof in 2021. Very nice! Excellent location. This is a must see!
Offered for \$524,900.

Call Wally Sears
(904) 610-9771

Longtime Sawgrass resident expands business and welcomes daughter-in-law

Vicky's Helping Hands founder Vicky Brock welcomes daughter-in-law Jessica Waugaman as new CEO

Photo provided by Vicky Brock



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Vicky Brock is known for her trusting and caring nature. She truly enjoys helping others and making a difference. She started her business when she moved to Sawgrass in 1994. She was always helping others and decided to make it her primary business, providing such services as running errands, watching homes, caring for pets and providing elder care.

“When I started my business, I began helping residents in Cypress Village, Vicars Landing and Sawgrass,” Brock explained. “Families like the Walchles hired me to help with a range of services.”

Word of mouth recommendations from satisfied customers like the Walchles and many others have helped the business grow until it became apparent Brock needed another set of “helping hands.” On the advice of her son, Kevin, Brock decided to expand the business.

Vicky's continues on Page 30




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Luxury Second Home & Resort Market

The luxury market for primary and vacation homes continues its surge as high net-wealth individuals seek beautiful destinations to invest in. Work-from-anywhere concepts will continue to drive the luxury secondary and resort market as the Pandemic influenced pent-up demand for travel and connectedness with friends and family. Hot off the recent Mansion Global Real Estate Luxury Conference in October 2021, experts have seen unprecedented investment in luxury real estate second or third homes. What they see continuing into 2022, is luxury lifestyle investments where the value of 2nd and 3rd citizenships are sought after. The 'global real estate portfolio' affords high net wealth clients the ability to travel to these destinations without the restrictions of 2020, according to Domenic Volik, Head of Private Clients, Henley & Partners. This is where concierge services can benefit high networth individuals and others seeking lifestyle investments...



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For information contact Maria Wilkes, MBA, Realtor
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Vicky's

Continued from 28

“I can’t think of a better person than Jessica to work with as my partner and the CEO managing our business.” Brock said. “I am excited for the future of Vicky’s Helping Hands. She has many amazing talents and will grow this business; I just know it.”

After serving the nonprofit community for almost 20 years, including fundraising and event planning for Ascension St. Vincent’s and North Florida School of Special Education, Waugaman knew that her next move needed to have heart.

“Knowing that I am making a difference and helping people, truly makes this a great fit for me,” she said. “I want to be a part of something that gives me passion and purpose and Vicky’s Helping Hands is just that!”

While its mission is to provide services to allow clients more freedom and more time to spend doing what matters most to them, the real result, Brock said, is more time with family and friends, more time with hobbies and interests, lower stress and a higher quality of life.

“During this uncertain time, clients are comforted with an extra set of hands,” Brock said. “We are a customizable concierge business and can help with almost anything. If not, we likely have someone to refer you to.”

For more information on Vicky’s Helping Hands, call 904-502-9092, email vickyshelpinghands@gmail.com or visit www.vickyshelpinghands.com. The company is also on Facebook and Instagram.



Did You Know?

- When you are out of town and away from your home for long periods of time regular visits to your property can prevent or lessen property damage.
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- Providing ongoing upkeep and home maintenance saves you money in the long run.
- Having someone be your liaison between, vendors, contractors, associations, and virtually anyone that you authorize them to will bring peace of mind and keep things moving when you cannot be there to supervise.



Photo provided by Vicky Brock

“Vicky has worked with our family in many ways for 23 years. She has helped my family, my mother and other family members. Vicky has always been so genuine in all she has done for us, no matter the task, she truly cares for others. I am excited that she is continuing her business, bringing on family to help grow her vision of helping people. I highly recommend Vicky’s Helping Hands for all of your needs!”

— Marie Walchle

Business Profile

When buying a mattress, experience is the best teacher.

When it comes to purchasing a mattress, you can count on Richard’s Mattress and Wicker to know that a good night’s sleep is just the beginning. Take advantage of his more than four decades in the industry to ensure that you have a positive mattress experience. It starts with a selection of the finest mattresses available from great names such as Sealy, Serta, Golden Mattress and Consolidated Bedding. You can count on notable savings when you purchase your



mattress from a locally owned location with low overhead and not a corporate big box store that deals in numbers and bottom lines.

Richard has spent most of his life in the furnishing’s profession, starting with a degree in Industrial Technology and six years of teaching woodworking and furniture making at the secondary and college level. He knows what he is selling!

“I won’t sell you something you don’t need just to make money. A good latex mattress will last easily 20 years and it’s NOT true that you have to replace your mattress every eight years – if that were true, why would the corporate stores offer 15-20 year warranties? Think about it!”

In addition to state-of-the-art mattresses, Richard is proud to provide a comprehensive selection of wicker and rattan furniture, also at reasonable prices, with a wide range of fabric samples from which to choose.



Best of all, Richard takes pride in offering fine products and services to the local community. “When you buy from a local business, that money will be invested back

into the community. I live and work in this community – and have for 38 years. I see my customers on a daily basis, so I go out of my way to treat them like neighbors. They deal directly with me, so I make an effort to keep my prices competitive with corporate box stores. I think that is why I’ve been in business for so long.”

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Photos provided by Jennifer Sexton

Palmetto Bluff a Lowcountry treasure

By Jennifer Sexton

Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

I recently had the opportunity to enjoy a weekend away at one of the Lowcountry's best-kept secrets, Palmetto Bluff. I spent a few days at the stunning Montage Resort Palmetto Bluff, located just 30 minutes north of Savannah, tucked beneath the centuries-old live oaks and nestled along the scenic May River. The history dates back thousands of years, and the developer has created a diverse real estate offering while protecting the rich ecological diversity that makes the bluff so inviting and magical.

The resort is a Montage property and encompasses two villages, where you will find extensive nature preserves, kayaking, horseback riding, tennis, swimming pools, fitness, a relaxing spa, a Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course, scenic yacht cruises and



Palmetto continues on Page 32

Exceptional

and rarely available this West end 9th floor 3BR/3.5BA, 3,498sf Penthouse has undergone complete renovation. Enter through double doors and standing in the impressive foyer, you feel this is something special. Soaring ceilings envelope this contemporary yet transitional creation. Kitchen, Dining and living open to true panoramic views of the Intracoastal looking SW. The sunsets are spectacular. Culinary enthusiasts will delight in the custom, high-end kitchen. This residence was made for entertaining.

A 50' boat slip is included with this residence. All this within the gates of Marina San Pablo. Clubhouse amenities include: resort style pool, fitness room and gathering area.

This location can't be beat, minutes from the Jacksonville beaches, MAYO Clinic and Jacksonville Intl. Airport & private Craig Airfield.



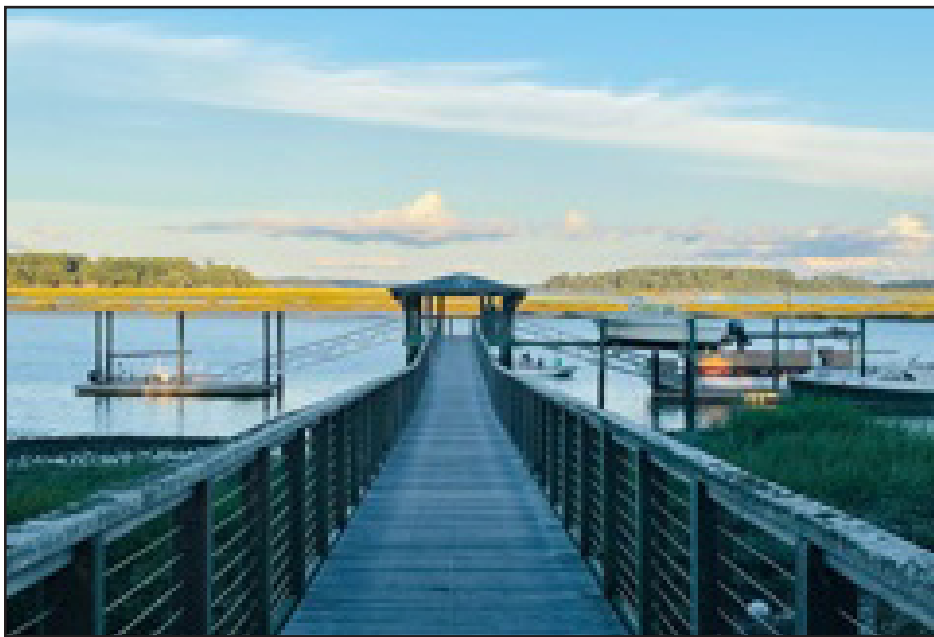
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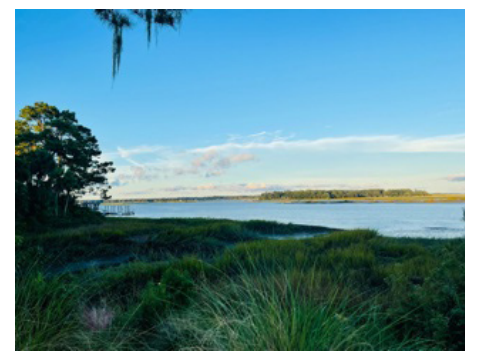


Palmetto

Continued from 31

eight Southern-inspired dining options. While we toiled around this beautiful setting on the preferred method of transportation – bicycling – nothing was more than a short walk away and the friendly staff was always on hand for a quick cart ride to your desired destination.

My Saturday afternoon was spent lounging by the pool, followed by a visit to the spa where facials, body treatments and massage therapies are all designed to heal and revive using the rejuvenating properties of the Lowcountry nature. That evening, we had a breathtaking sunset cruise where dolphins surfaced and swam next to our boat as we watched the sky light up with all the magnificent colors as the sun set across the seagrass waters. We docked the boat upstream and enjoyed a Lowcountry feast under the stars while a one-man band crooned “Carolina in My Mind” near our gas lanterned lit outdoor venue. Sunday was spent golfing 18 magnificent holes with an array of wildlife along the course. Black squirrels, deer, an alligator on the banks and flocks of marshland birds made the morning one of my most memorable outings – even if the



Photos provided by Jennifer Sexton

phasis on outdoor living, with expansive porches and the classic historical feel of some of the South’s coastal living design. The community will ultimately have approximately 3,000 homes, but is currently only one quarter of the way through and the developers are in no rush to move too quickly. Things slow down in the South, and one appreciates the patience when it comes to completing the final design of this neighborhood.

I spent hours exploring the cobblestone paths and winding roadways as I weaved in and out of some of the most charming Southern cottages, homes and mansions. Each one seemed better than the last, as I imagined what Joanna Gaines might think of this place. Justin and Hailey Bieber celebrated a splashy and celebrity filled event at the Montage Palmetto Bluff Hotel back in 2019. The area has been discovered and yet it still remains a hidden gem.

Loving real estate as I do, I of course stopped into the real estate office, located in the middle of the square and next to the local post office. Jeff and I exchanged business cards. I told him I would be back, and I would be singing the praises of this enchanting place and referring my clients and associates to him. So friends, if you have any interest in learning more, please reach out to me directly. I will share more information with you and put you in touch with a knowledgeable agent of this magical place called Palmetto Bluff, tucked along the Southern coast of South Carolina. For more information, call 904-463-3326 or visit www.JenniferSexton.net.



score did not reflect that.

The residences at this master planned community are categorized as “Town” or “Country” and reflect living in a walk-or-bicycle to nearby amenities, or a more private, natural setting just a short drive to either of the two villages. Lots range in size from a quarter of an acre to 20-30 acre parcels. The architecture has an em-

2021

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A historic day in St. Augustine

The Canonical Coronation of Our Lady of La Leche



Photos provided by John Clegg

By John Clegg

In the early 1600s, Spanish settlers brought with them to the New World a special devotion to Our Lady of La Leche. Four hundred years later, the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine has kept this devotion alive through countless people of faith. And Pope Francis recently recognized the importance and sanctity of this devotion by granting a Canonical Coronation for Our Lady of La Leche, which took place on Sunday, Oct. 10 at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine.

The historical site of the first parish Mass in the New World, Nombre de Dios (affectionately known as "the Sacred Acre") traces its origins to the founding of the city of St. Augustine, America's oldest continuously occupied city of European origin. This event is commemorated today by a 250-foot cross that stands on the original landing site in St. Augustine.

On Sept. 8, 1565, on the Feast Day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pedro Menendez came ashore and proclaimed the site for Spain and the church. The first Spanish settlers and soldiers brought a great love and devotion to Our

Lady and in 1577, they established on the mission grounds the first sanctuary in her name. They built a chapel and dedicated it to Nuestra Senora de La Leche y Buen Parto – Our Lady of the Milk and Happy Delivery. They placed a statue of the nursing mother in the chapel. This devotion spread rapidly among the converted indigenous Indian tribes. The concept that God sent His Son to be born of a Virgin and live among them was a powerful image in helping newly converted souls to understand God's love and the Incarnation.

So, for more than 400 years, the Shrine's mission has been the evangelization through the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pilgrims have come to the Sacred Acre year after year, as they seek her intercession to bless their marriages, to receive the gift of children, for safe and healthy deliveries, etc. Many return, bringing their "La Leche babies" back to offer thanksgiving to God and His Blessed Mother. And the site becomes increasingly popular each year, with thousands coming from all over the United States and even abroad.

As the first Marian Shrine in the nation, it is perhaps no surprise that Our Lady of La Leche is making history yet again.

However, this beautiful event on Oct. 10 did offer an opportunity for modern-day Catholics and people of Faith to become part of the celebrations. Cardinal Carlos Osoro Sierra, a cardinal and archbishop of Madrid, traveled from Spain as the representative (Papal Legate) of Pope Francis to place the crown on

the infant Jesus and His Mother during the ceremony. The visible crowning of Our Lady helps Catholics and pilgrims to understand the vital and nurturing role she played in bringing Christ, the Redeemer, into the world. Bishop Estevez, the Bishop of the Diocese in St. Augustine, gave the cardinal a warm welcome. Bishop Estevez ascribes this great devotion with the care and gentleness of Mary's maternal appeal: "Since Mary is so tender, parents wanting a child are very attracted to Our Lady of La Leche..."

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, there is another interesting fact about the Sacred Acre. When Pedro Menendez arrived in 1565 with the 800 Spanish settlers, after they had their Mass of Thanksgiving, Menendez laid out a meal to which he invited as guests the native Seloy tribe, who occupied the site. From

our knowledge of what the Spaniards had on board their five ships, we can surmise that it was cocido, a stew made from salted pork and garbanzo beans, laced with garlic seasoning and accompanied by hard sea biscuits and red wine. If the Seloy contributed to the meal from their own food stores, then the menu could have included turkey, venison, gopher tortoise, mullet, drum, sea catfish, maize (corn), beans and squash.

This was the first community act of religion and Thanksgiving in the first permanent European settlement in North America. The Thanksgiving at St. Augustine was celebrated more than half a century (56 years) before the Puritan Pilgrim Thanksgiving at Plymouth Plantation (Massachusetts), but ironically, this first Thanksgiving is largely unknown by Americans and it did not become the origin of a national annual tradition.

The reason is clear. During the 18th century, British forces won out over those of Spain and France for mastery over the continent. Thus, British observances, such as the annual reenactment of the Pilgrims' harvest festival in 1621, became a national practice.

PVHS Cheer

Continued from 20

ing holding up, lifting and throwing in the air their own body weight in the form of their four flyers. Always keeping their eyes on those four girls, they are also adjusting hand grips, feet placement and body stance. At the same time, the flyers are perfecting staying tight and balancing on one foot (or sometimes no feet) in the air while twisting, spinning and flipping, only to have the faith and trust of being caught over and over by their bases.

The PV Cheer program competes in two different but equally intense competitions: States through FHSAA – Florida High School Athletic Association – and UCA Nationals in Orlando. A typical competitive cheer routine is 3 minutes long, packed with non-stop movement consisting of jumps, stunts, pyramids, tumbling, a cheer and dance. It’s meticulously scored on every movement, stability and landing, as well as the athletes’ performance of maintaining a high-energy and peppy personality. Whatever happens in those 3 minutes, that’s it. There is no redo.

The athletes on average spend 10-plus hours a week in training sessions, tumble classes, workouts and sideline cheer just to get the opportunity to perform in that 3-minute routine in the spring with the hopes of moving on and being crowned the champion.

The PVHS cheer program has won 2nd & 3rd place in the state in their division for three years, received a bid



to UCA Nationals the first year the program became a competitive team and placed 17th in the nation at UCA.

Leading the way to their success is the cheer program head coach Melanie Hardin. Coach Mel is a former level 10 gymnast, all-star competitive cheerleader and East Carolina College cheerleader. She has more than 22 years’ experience coaching tumbling, all-star teams and high school cheer.

“The decision to venture into the PVHS Cheer world had a lot to do with the commitment from the athletes and families, the drive of the athletes to push themselves, and support from the parents, the school, and the community,” she said. “Over the past four years, together we have worked so hard to bring PV Cheer to what it is today. I have the absolute best cheer parents, who truly share the vision of the program and love seeing their athletes having a great time.”

The award-winning PVHS cheer program consists of dedicated and hardworking student athletes who give it their all on and off the mat/sidelines. They give back to their community, thrive on being role models for their younger cheer sisters and carry on the high standards of

the program their peers left behind. Their friendships, hard work, and days competing will forever be a cheerful memory of that time when they were once a Shark athlete.

Photos provided by Kim Dean



A party atmosphere

The following photos are from the Inaugural PXG Women’s Match Play Championship Charity Pro-am pairings party Oct. 24. The event was held at Murray Bros. Caddyshack Restaurant at World Golf Village in St. Augustine and offered guests the opportunity to interact with some of the best up-and-coming women’s pro golfers in the world. The charity pro-am event raised more than \$50,000 for the ink! education foundation, which helps students in St. Johns County.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Tournament producer Mark Berman is joined by Murgado Automotive Group representatives T.J. Samhuri, Katlin Bertram, Nicole Samhuri, Caryn Assi, Danny Assi and Rachel Rigdon.



Sculptures made by Ocean Sole out of recycled flipflops welcomed guests as they walked into the event.



Murray Bros. Caddyshack owners Andy Murray and Mac Haskell hosted the event.



The event included a live and silent auction.

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Underwood's of Ponte Vedra hosts Erica Courtney event

By Anthony Richards

Some of the most famous female celebrities have worn Erica Courtney's jewelry designs over the years, and she made a visit to the Ponte Vedra Beach Underwood Jewelers location as part of a meet-and-greet event Oct. 21.

Coming to Ponte Vedra Beach has become an annual event in recent years brought about by the partnership she shares with Underwood Jewelers and its owner Clayton Bromberg.

The Ponte Vedra Beach location is the only Underwood Jewelers to showcase Courtney's designs as part of its selection.

Julia Roberts, Jessica Alba and Sandra

Bullock are some of the celebrities who have worn Courtney's jewelry designs during red carpet premieres.

According to Courtney's website, her jewelry collection includes fine and rare gemstones that are sourced around the world with the goal of creating a delicate, feminine style.

Courtney is known for her Drop Dead Gorgeous collection of jewelry which includes a variety of rings, necklaces, earrings and bracelets to choose from.

Underwood Jewelers was founded in 1928 and is a member of the American Gem Society, which is a jewelry trade organization dedicated to consumer protection.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Erica Courtney, Clayton Bromberg and Christy Bromberg.



Stephanie Ebers and Laura Kisse.



Bruce Whitman, Kelly Roberts-Whitman, Scott Mackenzie, Erica Courtney and Jerry Cruz.



Shoppers browse the selection on display at Underwood Jewelers' Ponte Vedra Beach location.



The Erica Courtney collection is exclusive to the Ponte Vedra Beach location.

In the Arts



Send your arts news to
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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Lightner Museum plans open house

Visitors will see new exhibits, renovated garden

Lightner Museum invites St. Augustine residents and museum members to a community open house for a first look at two new exhibitions, “Picturing a Nation: American Art from the Lightner Museum” and “Tom Schifanella: Faces of the Alcazar.” The open house will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 28.

“Picturing a Nation: American Art from the Lightner Museum” is a major reinstallation of American paintings and sculpture from the Lightner Museum’s permanent collection.

From America’s great vistas and natural wonders to intimate scenes of St. Augustine, “Picturing a Nation” presents a vibrant vision of the country on a local and national scale through late 19th- and early 20th-century American art.

The exhibition, which will be on display from Oct. 29 to Sept. 30 is supported by a grant from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

“Tom Schifanella: Faces of the Alcazar” presents a compelling insight into

the lives of working-class employees at Henry Flagler’s Alcazar Hotel.

Through large-format photographic prints, the exhibition documents the fragmentary clippings from early 20th-century motion picture magazines pasted to the walls of the Alcazar staff quarters a century ago by the immigrant staff who lived and worked at the hotel.

The crumbling remnants remain a haunting visual record of the dreams and aspirations of the forgotten individuals who served the wealthy visitors wintering in St. Augustine at the dawn of the 20th century. “Faces of the Alcazar,” which will be on display from Oct. 29 through March 7, is supported by a grant from the Dr. JoAnn Crisp-Ellert Fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

In addition to exploring the museum’s new exhibitions, guests will be able to shop the museum’s updated and expanded Museum Store, and preview the newly renovated Radzinski Family Garden.

The Lightner Museum Community



“Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 1918,” by William Clusmann is painted in oil on canvas.

Open House is a free event. Guests should enter through the museum’s main entrance.

The Lightner Museum is located at 75 King St., St. Augustine.

Photos provided by The Lightner Museum



“Tom Schifanella, Faces of the Alcazar”

First Coast Cultural Center winter art camps and classes announced with Holiday Shoppes event to be held Nov. 11

First Coast Cultural Center is launching its winter season with new programs to support the nonprofit, including youth and adult classes.

The organization’s annual fundraiser, Holiday Shoppes Preview and Cocktail Reception, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 11 at Marsh Landing County Club. It will feature art, apparel, jewelry, hand-made crafts and collectibles and more.

During the event, a private preview of vendor’s merchandise, along with prosecco, hors d’oeuvres and networking, will be featured. Tickets are \$55 and will benefit educational programs at the center. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Callie Johnson, community connections manager at 904-280-0614, ext. 1202 or email cjohnson@firstcoast-culturalcenter.org.

In addition to the Jacksonville Beach location at 3972 3rd St. South, the Cultural Center will now serve more

residents and visitors at Care Connect+, located inside the Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee, 351 Town Center Plaza, Suite 205 in Nocatee. Winter art camps, classes and programs will be offered weekly to provide children-friendly interests.

The following activities will be held at the Care Connect+ location.

Students in kindergarten through grade five will be offered winter camp sessions and a field trip from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 20, 23 and 24. Young people will learn about snow, make snow, eat snow and take part in other snow art creations, such as producing a fun, winter wardrobe. The camp will conclude with a Winter Wardrobe Walk fashion show and party.

New Year’s 1920s Style classes will comprise further winter camp activities, to be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 27, 30 and 31. These classes for students in kindergarten through grade five will

include a field trip. They will also include daily themed activities and movement for young people, such as making musical instruments and party accoutrements and learning a period dance. Participants will also learn about Art Deco, food and music, while creating individualized art. There will also be a final Ball Drop and New Year’s party.

The winter camp schedule will wrap up Jan. 3, with New Year’s Around the World Camp. This camp for students in kindergarten through grade five will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It will include themed activities and movement for young people. Children will create their own passports and learn about travel in Africa, South America and Asia, and the new year celebrations in each country.

Each on-site day will include theatrical instruction with professional acting coach Sheri Lahris.

Lahris will instruct one hour Movement

in Theatre classes, which are designed to nurture, educate and guide students through a myriad of innovative programs.

Lahris began her career by teaching child actors on the sets of Disney, MGM and Universal Studios. She worked on location and sound stages for TV sitcoms and feature films. Her approach is hands-on and customized for students of all ages.

For further information and to register for camps, classes and events, go to firstcoastculturalcenter.org. Membership is not required to participate in the winter camps classes. Discounts are available for current First Coast Cultural Center family members.

For information about programs, workshops, costs, dates and times, call Jill Titcomb at 904-280-0614, ext. 1206.

Center hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, with after-hour appointments available.



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Jail Break 5K set for Saturday

INK! (Investing in Kids) and Old Town Trolley Tours of St. Augustine will add festive activities and updates during this year's 6th Annual Jail Break 5K run and walk fundraiser.

Race day registration and packet pick-up begins at 6:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, with the race starting at 8 a.m.

The race begins at The Old Jail Museum, 167 San Marco Blvd., St. Augustine. Among several new features, a race warm-up session featuring Matt Migut of Amp Hardcore Gym will be held at the Old Jail at 7:30 a.m.

Family-friendly entertainment includes adult and children "jail breakers" who plan their escape from the 130-year-old historic venue and run through picturesque, historic areas. Scenic ocean, river and Intracoastal Waterway views are featured in the run on the Francis and Mary Usina "Vilano" Bridge, and wrap up at Vilano Beach Pavilion, 20 Vilano Road.

The event is a 5K USA Track & Field (USATF) Certified Course.

New this year will be live bands alongside the race route with The Grapes of Roth, featuring Elizabeth Roth and her local style of classic rock and contemporary music, and Skin & Bonz, featuring Tommy Bledsoe and company with bluegrass and modern folk music. There

will be entertainment and activities for runners and attendees.

All runners will be rounded up as "prisoners" as they begin the race and will be transported back to the Old Jail from Vilano Beach by shuttle as needed.

Runners are encouraged to dress in festive Halloween attire. A costume contest sponsored by Ghosts and Gravestones will include \$1,000 in cash prizes and will be judged along the race route. Commemorative, distinctive T-shirts and this year's unique finisher medals will be provided for all race participants.

Online race registration is open until noon Friday, Oct. 29, and the cost is \$40 per participant. Register in person at the pre-race packet pick-up from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 29 at the Old Town Trolley Tours Welcome Center, 1305 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd.

Day-of-race entries are due by 7:30 a.m. Oct. 30, and the cost is \$45 per participant.

Free race parking is available at Old Town Trolley locations including 167 San Marco Ave., 1305 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd. and 1700 Ponce De Leon Blvd. in St. Augustine. Paid parking is available at the Historic Downtown Parking Facility, adjacent to the Visitor Information Center, 1 Cordova St.

For information and to sign up, go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/SaintAugustine/EscapeFromStAugustine>. Registration check payments are payable to INK! (Investing in Kids) at 1 Christopher St., St. Augustine, FL 32084.

Overall male and female finishers and the top three runners will be in the following age groups: 9 and under, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74 and 75 and older. Water stations will be located at the race start, and at one mile, two miles and at the finish line.

Proceeds from the race will be donated to benefit the innovative programs and classroom resources at INK!, which promotes academic success for all St. Johns County public school students and teachers.

In the event of inclement weather, emergency or a natural disaster, INK!



The logo for the 6th Annual Jail Break 5K.

reserves the right to cancel or postpone the race. In the event of cancellation or postponement, there will be no refunds.

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Halloween Events Calendar



Zoo's Spooktacular runs through Halloween

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' 34th annual Spooktacular, presented by Aquafina, runs from 6 to 10 p.m. through Oct. 31.

A digital ghost hunting app and second scare zone are new this year.

Children and adults are encouraged to wear costumes — masks allowed for kids only. There will be themed specialty food and beverages, music, games, live entertainment, themed photo backdrops, character sightings and candy stations for trick-or-treat.

Tickets are available online only and are \$15 for members and \$25 for the public. Admission is free for children age 2 and younger.

Tickets will sell out due to limited capacity, so guests are encouraged to buy in advance. Admission includes free parking and the Wildlife Carousel for those age 12 and younger. For tickets and further information, go to JacksonvilleZoo.org/Spooktacular.

Kids' Halloween Party at the link

For the Kids' Halloween Party at the link, there will be trick or treat, a family scavenger hunt, a spooky story time, a costume contest and more. The free event will begin at 6 p.m. Oct. 28 at the link, 425 Town Plaza Ave, Ponte Vedra Beach. For information, call 904-299-3671.

Church plans fall fest and trunk or treat

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church is planning its fall fest and trunk or treat from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 30. Admission is free. The church is located at 76 S. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra. The phone number is 904-280-5141.

Pumpkin patch open until Oct. 31

The annual large pumpkin patch on the grounds of Lord of Life Lutheran Church features a huge assortment of pumpkins and fresh-baked pumpkin pies and other goods. The weekend will include hayrides and face paintings. A picture station has been set up in the field for selfies or family photos.

Hours are 1-5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 28 and 29; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31. Free entry, cost varies by pumpkin.

The church is located at 276 Roscoe Blvd. North, Ponte Vedra Beach.

'Monster Mash' set for Friday night

The St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department will present "Monster Mash" from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29, at the Ketterlinus gym, 60 Orange St., St. Augustine.

The event for children ages 6 through 12 will feature a haunted house, live music, food, drinks and candy.

Registration is required. Contact jwadley@sjcfl.us for more information.

Trunk or treat planned at One Church Jax Beach

One Church Jax Beach, 324 N. 5th St., Jacksonville Beach, will have trunk or treat from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31.

There will be hot dogs, games, candy and more. Trunk or treat for the children will be held in the parking lot. The event is free.

For more information, call 904-249-2314 or email office@onechurchjaxbeach.com.

Beaver Toyota Spooktacular is Friday

Beaver Toyota, 2995 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine, will host a free night of spooky fun from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29.

There will be music, a photobooth, a haunted house, pumpkin decorating, themed decorated vehicles, goody bags for the first 300 kids, a costume contest with prizes and food trucks, including Sals Cochina, hot dog truck, Slushi truck, Gyro box and more.

For information, call 904-797-8800 or email jenielleh@beavertoyota.com.

Harvest fest is set for Sunday

Bridge of Life Church will hold its Harvest Festival from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31. There will be free games, food, candy, a trunk or treat, a dunk tank and more.

The church is located at 96 Masters Drive, St. Augustine. The phone number is 904-414-3490. The email address is info@mybridgeoflife.com.

Family-friendly Halloween stories to be told

The Tale Tellers St. Augustine will be telling

interactive Halloween stories from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, at 70 Turin Terrace, St. Augustine.

Admission is \$5 per person, \$10 per family. For information, call 949-295-7634 or email debteller136@gmail.com.

Aquarium presents 'Halloween Under the Sea'

The St. Augustine Aquarium's "Halloween Under the Sea" event will feature cookie decorating, trick-or-treating, mermaids, underwater pumpkin carving and a haunted nature trail.

Hours are 6-9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31, at the aquarium, 2045 S.R.16, St. Augustine.

Call 904-429-9777 for reservations.

Kids can make Dia De Los Muertos and Halloween crafts

Kids of all ages are welcome to come into the Anastasia Island Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library to create some Dia de Los Muertos crafts and Halloween-themed crafts to take home for decoration. The event will be held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29.

The library branch is located at 124 Sea Grove Main St., St. Augustine Beach.

Halloween story time, costume parade at library

Little ones and their families are invited to the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library for a special Halloween story time and a costume parade from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 28.

The event is free, but parents are asked to RSVP for each child and adult attending the program. Email lcalvert@sjcfl.us.

Fall festival planned at St. Johns church

Swiss Cove Christian Church will hold its fall festival from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31. The event will include a hayride, trunk-or-treat, dunk tank, free food, family photos and more. The church is located at 1965 State Road 13, Saint Johns.

IKEA plans Halloween scavenger "haunt," treat bag giveaway

IKEA Jacksonville will host a Frightfully Fun Scavenger Haunt on Oct. 29-31. Parents and children are invited to explore the store, guided by a map. Seven stuffed creatures are lurking throughout the IKEA showroom. Find all seven, mark them on the map, then turn the map in at the store's Bistro for a treat. The event will be held during regular store hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

Also, on Sunday, Oct. 31, families can get a jump start on their trick-or-treating plans with a visit to IKEA Jacksonville. Stop by the store between noon and 4 p.m. for IKEA's Frightfully Fun Halloween Treat Bag Giveaway. Costumes are encouraged. One treat bag per child age 16 or younger while supplies last. No purchase necessary.

To register for each event, go to IKEA-USA.com/Jacksonville and select the "Local in-store events & activities" page.

IKEA Jacksonville is located at 7801 Gate Parkway, Jacksonville.




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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2021

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Urgent care clinic for pets opens in St. Johns

UrgentVet, an urgent care clinic for pets, is expanding its presence in Florida with the opening of a clinic in St. Johns. The new clinic is located at 855 County Road 210 West.

The clinic's location in the new Beachwalk Retail Center offers convenient access for residents of fast-growing neighborhoods in the area, including Beachwalk, Beacon Lake and the entire Nocatee community.

"All of Northeast Florida, but especially St. Johns, is experiencing a population boom with more and more people moving to the area each day," said Dr. Jim Dobies, UrgentVet founder. "When we saw what was happening in St. Johns and recognized not only how quickly the area was growing, but how passionate people

here are about their pets, we knew it was the perfect spot for our next clinic."

The new clinic is UrgentVet's 12th nationally and the ninth to open in Florida.

Pet parents can use the clinic's website to check their pets in, and text, call or use the clinic's intercom to alert staff once they arrive. If they prefer, pet parents can remain in their cars or be escorted by a member of the UrgentVet staff directly to exam rooms.

UrgentVet fills the widening care gap that exists between traditional daytime veterinary practices and specialized 24-hour emergency hospitals, providing affordable after-hours relief on weeknights, weekends and holidays year-round.

UrgentVet will be open from 3 to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8

p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and noon to 8 p.m. on holidays.

The vision behind the UrgentVet practice model is to provide dogs and cats with trusted after-hours acute care just like an urgent care for humans. Pet parents in the area should continue to take pets to their primary care veterinarian for wellness care and routine visits, but UrgentVet offers a trusting and compassionate option after hours.

UrgentVet clinics routinely treat vomiting, diarrhea, lacerations, wounds and skin and ear problems among many other presenting complaints.

No appointments are necessary, and those who check in online can request that the clinic send a text message when it's time to come in.

All of UrgentVet's veterinarians and support staff are "fear-free certified professionals," which means they're skilled in caring for both the pet's physical and emotional well-being.

All dog and cat exam rooms have dimmable lighting for anxious animals and relaxing music to soothe the pets, and each staff member wears sprayable pheromones for a calming effect.

The clinic itself is 2,450 square feet with a total of six exam rooms — two for large dogs, three for small dogs and one exclusively for cats — in addition to a separate comfort room.

Other features include an in-house diagnostic lab, digital X-ray machine, ultrasound and cloud-based medical record-

UrgentVet continues on **Page 42**

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Womens Food Alliance welcomes Christina Parrish Stone



Christina Parrish Stone

The Womens Food Alliance has welcomed its newest member, Christina Parrish Stone, executive director of the St. Johns Cultural Council.

After a 20-year career as an attorney specializing in commercial real estate and historic preservation, Parrish Stone and her family moved to St. Augustine.

She received the 2019 Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville's highest honor, the Helen Lane Founders Award, which recognized her as the individual "dedicated to ensuring that arts and culture are woven into the everyday fabric of the community."

Her career awards and accolades are numerous. She is a 2018 Jacksonville "Woman of Influence" award winner, was chair of the City of Jacksonville's Art in Public Places Committee, founder of Jacksonville Porch Fest, former vice president of the Jacksonville Historical Society and a graduate of Leadership Jacksonville.

The knowledge she possesses about St. Augustine, its art history, dining and hospitality venues, museums, cultural agencies and artistic grants are a significant portion of her mission to market the destination to visitors interested in the cultural scene of St. Johns County.

The Womens Food Alliance cultivates and advances networking, education and collaboration for women in the culinary and hospitality industry in Northeast Florida.



Contributed photo

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors work with area nonprofits to benefit the community. The Ambassadors recently teamed up with Fostering Connections.

Chamber Ambassadors teams with Fostering Connections

Recently two dynamic local community groups worked together toward a better community. One is a nonprofit begun by Aubrie Simpson-Gotham called Fostering Connections. The other is the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors.

The Ambassadors are the volunteer arm of the Chamber. Its members often serve as the public face of the Chamber at community events such as ribbon-cuttings, Chamber events and networking groups.

Each year at least four local Chamber nonprofits are targeted for help by the Ambassadors. The most recent beneficiary is Fostering Connections. Simpson-Gotham conceived of the nonprofit when she was training in the education field.

She noticed that those in the foster care

system often required additional materials and attention to function at their best. With that in mind she eventually founded her group to try and create a central place where those in the foster system could find the services and physical goods they need.

Simpson-Gotham has expanded her reach to several North Florida counties.

To help Fostering Connections, the Ambassadors gathered items ranging from gift cards and money to diapers and kitchen essentials, including foods.

To find out how you can help Fostering Connections, go to fosteringconnections-stjohns.org. To learn more about the Ambassadors, contact Lauren Clark with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce at 904-829-5681.

UrgentVet

Continued from 41

keeping software. The large dog rooms contain state-of-the-art lift tables, which also double as a non-slip scale, that lower to the floor for easy access for dogs that may be too heavy to pick up.

After a pet's visit, UrgentVet delivers lab work and X-rays with a referral letter

to the pet's veterinarian within 24 hours so that they can be informed and schedule a follow-up visit at their location.

"We're excited to meet our new neighbors and become actively involved within the St. Johns community," Dobies said. "We believe we can be a real asset to what is already a special place to live."

For more information, go to UrgentVet.com.

Winter Break Camps




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firstcoastculturalcenter.org

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- Jax Beach bundle - \$225
- WEEK 3 (1/3 - 1/5): *New Year's Around the World!*
- Care Connect+ bundle - \$150
- Jax Beach bundle - \$135





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New model home opens at Settler's Landing

Toll Brothers recently announced the opening of a fully-decorated model home at its Settler's Landing community in Ponte Vedra.

The Caspian Coastal model home is located at 56 Settler's Landing. Showcasing the latest in interior design trends and an innovative attention to detail, the two-story 2,899-plus-square-foot home features four bedrooms, three baths and a two-car garage.

"Settler's Landing offers award-winning single-family homes in the heart of Nocatee," said Steve Merten, division president of Toll Brothers in North Florida. "We invite prospective buyers to tour our stunning new model home and envision the possibilities of living in one of the final remaining home sites in this incredible community."

Settler's Landing features award-winning Classic, Craftsman, Carolina and Coastal home designs with flexible floor

plan options, including privacy for home offices and multi-generational living.

Smart home features include keyless front entry lock, WiFi thermostat and WiFi garage control. In addition, buyers can choose from an array of options to personalize their home at the Toll Brothers Design Studio.

For more information, call 844-871-7466.



Photo provided by Toll Brothers

The kitchen of the Toll Brothers model home at Settler's Landing is shown. The model home is now open to the public.

Sports



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Making a big splash

Girls swim team re-writes Ponte Vedra record books

By Anthony Richards

Records have been re-written this season by the Ponte Vedra High girls swim team, and the playoffs have yet to begun.

Eight of the 11 school records that stood on the girls' side heading into the year have since been broken.

It is by far the most records head coach Junior Temotio has witnessed in his three years at the helm.

Junior Annie Wohlgemuth has set four new school records individually in the 100-yard backstroke and 100 butterfly, as well as part a team in the 200 medley relay and 200 free relay.

She wound up breaking her own record that she set earlier in the season in both those individual categories, including bettering her time by almost four seconds from 58.16 to 54.85 in the 100 backstroke.

According to Temotio, Wohlgemuth is a verbal commit to Florida State University.

Many of the records have been overtaken by underclassmen that have made a name for themselves immediately despite their young age.

The difference this year compared to previously is that Temotio has seen an increased dedication and discipline in the way the team is training.

That dedication includes starting practice every day at 6:30 a.m. at Planet Swim, located just down from Ponte Vedra High School on Davis Park Road.

"When you go to the meets and see your results, that's when you understand why you're getting up early all the time,"



Sharks' head coach Junior Temotio believes the girls' relay teams can challenge near the top at state.

sophomore Annabelle MacAdams said. "It makes it all worth it."

MacAdams is part of that talented group of youngsters and is the new record holder in the 100-yard breaststroke, 200 individual medley and 200 medley relay.

It is her first year swimming with the Sharks, but she has been swimming competitively for years prior to joining the team.

The breaststroke is one of her best events, but she can't really explain why other than it has always been a natural fit.

"It just feels different for me than other strokes," MacAdams said. "Since I've been swimming, I've just always really enjoyed it."

Others who are just beginning to discover their talent are freshmen Penny Zarczynski and

Mary Agnes Smith, who did not take long to leave their mark on the program as record holders in the 50-yard free and 200 free, respectively.

"They have really stood out," Temotio said. "On the girls' side we have two or three freshmen that we are going to be taking to state this year. I believe we're going to be among the top five in the relays at state."

According to MacAdams, qualifying for states was a goal she was aiming for at the start of the season.

"I don't really know how it's going to feel, but I know it's going to be a lot of fun," MacAdams said.

The only records that remain heading into the postseason for the girls' squad is Holly Cox's 100 free set last year, Haley Harris' 500 free from 2017 and the 400 free relay also set that year.

Of the two record-breaking relay teams, Wohlgemuth, MacAdams and Cox won the 200 medley relay and Wohlgemuth, Zarczynski, Cox and Liv Copland set a new mark in the 200 free.

Cox is a leader on the team and a captain alongside Hannah Outcalt. Cox is one of the few on the team that have success competing at state's which is experience Temotio will look to rely on.



Photos courtesy of Kelly Straub

Ponte Vedra's Annabelle MacAdams is the school record holder in the 100-yard breaststroke.

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Week 10

FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Ponte Vedra, Nease set to wrap up district slate

By Anthony Richards

After a week off both Ponte Vedra and Nease return to the gridiron this Friday with district contests against Fletcher and Fleming Island, respectively.

It will be the final district games of the regular season.

The biggest question heading into the week is how will both teams look coming out of the bye week?

The Sharks (3-5, 1-3) host the Senators on senior night and are looking to get their second district win of the season.

According to senior Luke Pirris, the focus for the Sharks is all about winning their final two games of the regular season and finishing 5-5, which will give them the best shot at still making the

playoffs if things fall their way.

However, for them to keep their postseason hopes alive, they must finish the season strong, and it starts at home this week against the Senators, who are undefeated in district play at 4-0 and 5-3 overall.

The Sharks have had their share of injuries this season and the bye week allowed several players the opportunity to heal up from the bumps and bruises they've amassed during the first eight games.

In the eyes of Nease, the bye week was all about finding their form, especially offensively, that they had during their four-game winning streak.

The playmakers are still there, but the



Photo by Anthony Richards

Layne Swafford (No. 41) of Ponte Vedra celebrates a safety against Bartram Trail. The Sharks will face Fletcher on senior night at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29.

execution has just been lacking in recent weeks.

All eyes will be on the Panthers when they touch the ball for the first time on the road against Fleming Island on Friday night.

If the offense once again taps into their potential, the sky is the limit for the Panthers come the postseason.

This week will be big for the Panthers in setting the tone and reestablishing their

identity for the weeks ahead.

After a sluggish start to the season, the Golden Eagles have righted the ship and will enter the contest on a four-game winning streak.

The offense has begun to come along during that time, and they are on pace offensively with Nease in district play with 96 points in four games.

The Sharks play at 7 p.m. while the Panthers kick off at 7:30 p.m.



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Photos by Anthony Richards

Luke Pirris was named the Ponte Vedra High October Scholar Athlete of the Month. He plans to attend the United States Naval Academy on a football scholarship after graduation.

Tackling good grades

Ponte Vedra senior Pirris excels on and off field

By Anthony Richards

Luke Pirris has added to his senior year by being named Ponte Vedra High's October Scholar Athlete of the Month.

"It's a huge honor, especially at PV, where there are so many smart kids," Pirris said. "It really pushes you to grow in the classroom."

Pirris plays football and basketball and has a 4.22 weighted GPA.

He has committed to play football on scholarship at the United States Naval Academy.

The Naval Academy is known for being a prestigious academic institution, which is something Pirris is looking forward to experiencing firsthand.

"It's obviously a lot different at Navy since there is the military aspect to it, so there's a lot more to think about compared to other schools, but I'm excited for everything that will come from it," Pirris said. "I believe it will really set me up for the future."

Pirris was told of his accomplishment by head football coach Steve Price during a practice, when Price congratulated him and Nate Bunkosky who was the athlete of the week.

"I'm glad that both Nate and I were able to get something together, since we both had a pretty good against Bartram (Trail)," Pirris said.

Although Pirris has always strived to do well in the classroom as well as on the field, he has earned many more trophies over the years for his athletic prowess, so to receive an award that ties in both is something very special to him.

"I've always excelled in the classroom and taken education very seriously," Pirris said. "It's more important than football to be honest, and it is the reason I'm able to go to Navy."

Pirris' strong suits are math and science. This year he is taking AP Calculus, as well as anatomy and physiology.

Although he's not sure what his future holds, he thinks he may be interested in

possibly pursuing a career in the medical field.

"It's (math and science) has always just clicked for me," Pirris said. "I never really liked writing essays or anything like that."

Pirris is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society.

There's no doubt that his schedule, especially during the fall and winter months keeps him busy at almost all times.

"Playing football and then going straight into basketball season after that, there's just no break where I can focus strictly on school," Pirris said. "I always have to be on top of my work and never get behind, which will serve me well in the long run."

He has enjoyed his senior year up to this point and is looking forward to even bigger things in the months to come.

Not only has Pirris been the key cog he was expected to be on defense for the Sharks football team heading into the year, but he has also developed into an asset in the receiving game on offense.

"I worked at tight end some during the summer, and then some injuries occurred, and I have stepped into the role of wide receiver," Pirris said. "I just want to win ballgames, and I'm willing to do whatever the team needs."



Ponte Vedra senior Luke Pirris (No. 9) holds the American flag and waits to lead his teammates onto the field earlier in the season.

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1. RPM gauge
5. Have a brawl
8. *Neutral" capital
12. Paella pot
13. Mend, healthwise
14. Deadly snake of southeastern Asia
15. Multicolored horse
16. Estimator's phrase (2 words)
17. "The Addams Family" manservant
18. *Northernmost European capital
20. One of British Isles
21. EUR, pl.
22. Ensign, for short
23. Pieces of glass, e.g.
26. Vacuum cleaner alternative
30. "___ the land of the free..."
31. Oxygenate, as in lawn
34. Insane, in Spain
35. Just harvested, e.g.
37. A in IPA
38. Church song
39. Tiny amount
40. Military marksman
42. Fake tooth
43. Devoid of liquid
45. Jet setters' vessels
47. Address abbreviation
48. Sports stadium
50. Japan's highest mountain
52. *Capital that hosts Nobel Prizes
56. Sophia ____, Italian actress
57. Genesis twin
58. Curved molding
59. Tequila source
60. Non-permanent office worker
61. Like dental surgery
62. *Capital on a fjord
63. Possesses
64. Big top

DOWN

1. Unit of pressure named after Torricelli
2. Post sun-bathing relief

3. Wallace & Gromit modeling material
4. Desire
5. Aussie gas station
6. Desert wanderer's hope
7. Alexander Alexandrovich ____, Russian poet
8. *Also the capital of European Union
9. James ____ Jones
10. Paddy grain
11. To the ____ degree
13. Like voice after a pep rally
14. "A Fish Called Wanda" actor Kevin
19. Judea, alt. sp.
22. Mama sheep
23. *Bulgarian capital and actress Vergara's given name
24. Long-necked bird
25. Rocky ridge
26. Pas
27. Hunt illegally

28. Audience's approval
29. Frolics
32. "Atlas Shrugged" author Ayn
33. Cassius Clay
36. *Balkan capital and 1984 Olympics location
38. Practical joke
40. Canine command
41. Eyeball washing vessel
44. Offer two cents
46. Collusion
48. Away from harbor (2 words)
49. Drifts
50. *London was famous for these pea soup particulars
51. Russian mountain chain
52. Comedian Rogan
53. Shrek, e.g.
54. Not fatty
55. Patty ____
56. ____ Tzu

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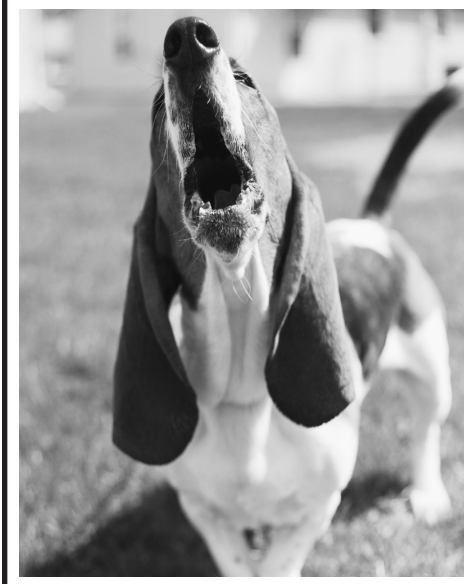
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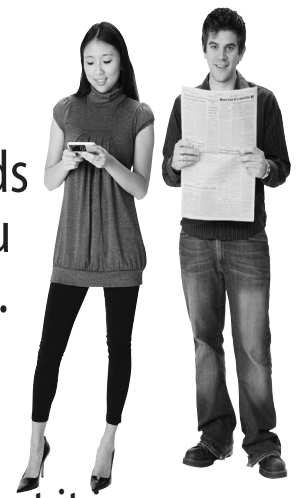


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