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PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

February 3, 2022
Volume 53, No. 14
75 cents

PonteVedraRecorder.com

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

Sharks fend off Panthers in soccer tilt



Photo by Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Sharks hosted the Nease Panthers in a girls soccer district semifinal matchup Jan. 28. It was a battle all night between the rivals, and the Sharks wound up defeating the Panthers 2-1 to advance to the district final. It was the second victory for the Sharks over the Panthers this season.



INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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



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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 news@pontevedrarecorder.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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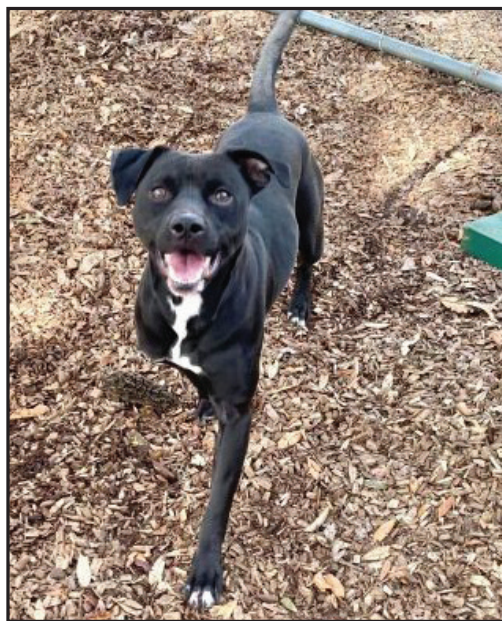
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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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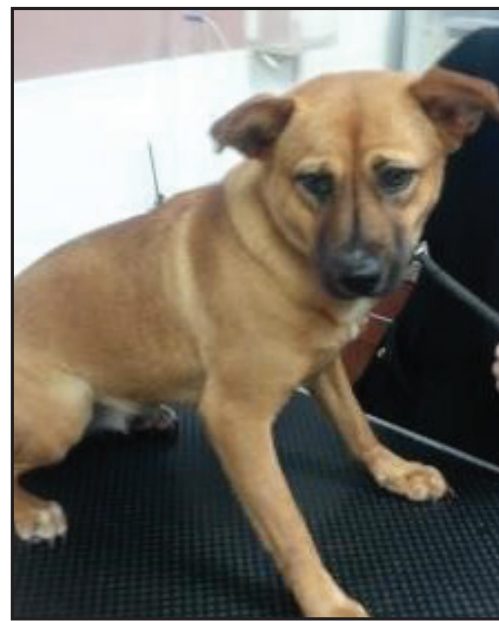
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Sweet Pea

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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

SMA Healthcare relocates services

SMA Healthcare has announced that it is moving its services to a new location in St. Johns County, effective Monday, Feb. 7. The address of the new location is 1880 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine.

SMA Healthcare was formerly located at the Health and Human Services Building in St. Augustine. SMA will continue to offer its same services at the new location, including the Florida Assertive Community Treatment team and its other outpatient services.

The St. Augustine Drop-In Center, formerly located on State Road 16, will operate as a mobile drop-in center until further notice.

For more information on the services that SMA offers in St. Johns County, go to smahealthcare.org/services-st-johns-county.

Ponte Vedra Democratic Club to meet

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club to meet will meet at 6 p.m. Feb. 15 for Chat & Chew and 6:30 p.m. for the



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Briefs

Continued from 2

meeting at Christ Episcopal Church, Room 106, 400 San Juan Road, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Join us to hear members and attorneys Rhona DiCamillo and John Miller debate “End the Filibuster, pro and con.”

Author will speak at Sisters in Crime meeting

The Northeast Florida Chapter of

Sisters in Crime will present Kaye D. Schmitz, a multi-published, multi-award-winning novelist, who will present “Research Like Crazy — Write Calmly” at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, in the FOL meeting room of the Ponte Vedra Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

For further information, contact Audrey O’Neil at 904-945-5150 or email floridasistersincrime@gmail.com.

Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime supports authors, readers, publishers, agents, booksellers and librarians bound

by their affection for the mystery genre and their support of women (and men) who write mysteries, thrillers and crime books.

Flotilla 14-7 celebrates new officers

At their Change of Watch Dinner and ceremonies held at World Golf Hall of Fame Ballroom on Dec. 8, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7 celebrated its new slate of elected and staff officers for 2022.

The event was hosted by outgoing elected officers Flotilla Commander


Carmen Gautille and Vice Flotilla Commander Sean P. Flynn.

After dinner the flotilla presented a plaque to thank Gautille for his service over the last two years, especially considering the challenges posed by the times. The flotilla presented achievement awards to members in attendance.

New and returning officers were welcomed by BMC Osvaldo Negron, the Coast Guard guest speaker at this event. Negron is the commander of the Navigation Aid to Navigation Station, USCG Sector Jacksonville.


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OBITUARIES

Ann Parker Smedberg



Ann Parker Smedberg

Ann Parker Smedberg passed away at Vicar's Landing in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida on January 15th, 2022 at the age of 88, surrounded by family. Born in Maysville, KY

on April 24, 1933, she was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Harold N. Parker. She graduated from William and Mary College with a degree in Education in 1955.

While teaching second grade in Arlington, Virginia she met the love of her life, Lt. William "Bill" Renwick Smedberg IV. They married in 1957 and Ann began her adventure as a Navy wife. Bill's naval career took them to Coronado, CA; Long Beach, CA; Newport, RI; Gaeta, Italy; Mons, Belgium; Norfolk, VA; Mayport, FL and multiple tours at the Pentagon and in the Washington D.C. area. She moved her family 13 times in 21 years. Ann was the ultimate Navy wife, volunteering in every port, running the wives' clubs, hosting galas and working at Navy Relief. Bill retired from the Navy as an Admiral in 1982 after 31 years of service, and they settled in Alexandria, Virginia where Bill worked for 13 years as a defense contractor. They re-retired in 1995

to Ponte Vedra Beach to enjoy the Florida weather, golf and beaches with family and friends. "Mimi", as she was known in Ponte Vedra, took joy in participating in countless rounds of golf with her husband, running the Altar Guild at Christ Church and cheering on her grandchildren at their many sports and activities over the years. She was a friend to all and will be dearly missed.

She is preceded in death by her parents and her husband of 51 years. She leaves her daughter Susan Smedberg Hibble; son William Renwick Smedberg V and his wife Joanie; her grandchildren Annie Hibble Janoski (Jordan), James Parker Hibble (Meredith), Allison Smedberg, and Erica Smedberg Smith (Michael); her brother Harold N Parker Jr. (Judy); and many nieces and nephews and their families.

Ann will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery alongside her beloved Bill at a date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ann's name to the Scholarship Fund at Vicar's Landing or to Christ Episcopal Church, both in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.

Please visit her Tribute online at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by



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Phone: 904.249.1100 Fax: 904.241.7554

Harry Oulundsen



Harry Oulundsen

Harry Oulundsen, 71, passed away on January 20, 2022, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Connecticut, he lived many places before settling in Ponte Vedra Beach,

Florida in 1989.

Harry spent his formative years in Connecticut. He attended prep school at Cardinal Cushing Academy in West Newbury, Massachusetts. After high school, he attended Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts and went on to obtain an MBA from Suffolk University in Boston. For most of his career, he worked in the Candy and Tobacco industry. He eventually retired as Vice President of Specialty Sales for Swisher International of Jacksonville, Florida.

Harry was a devout Catholic. During the pandemic, he took particular joy in teaching CCD to his grandchildren. He loved spending time with his family at the Cabana Club on Ponte Vedra Beach. He was an avid golfer and devoted New York football Giants fan. Harry could always be counted on to offer commentary on any sport.

He leaves behind his loving wife Ellen; his two devoted daughters and sons-in-

law, Meg and Adam Hammer and Bridget and Adam Caron. He leaves behind his five beautiful grandchildren, Stella, Olivia, Adam, Finn and Camille, all of Ponte Vedra Beach. He also leaves behind his brother George Oulundsen and his wife Elaine of Nashua, New Hampshire; several nieces and nephews and a great many friends. It's been said that everyone who met Harry loved him. His passing will leave a giant void in the lives of all those who knew and loved him.

The funeral for Harry Oulundsen will be held Monday, February 7, 2022, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 545 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. There will be a visitation to greet the family at 10:00. Mass will be at 11:00 and there will be a reception after mass at the church cultural center. There will be food, drinks, and lots of stories and laughter to celebrate the legend we call Harry O.

In lieu of flowers please donate to one of these charities or a charity of your choice: <https://www.communityhospice.com/>; <https://www.championsforh-opegolf.com/>; <https://tcjayfund.org/>

Please visit his Tribute online at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by



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DEATH NOTICES

Eileen Linda Cella

Eileen Linda Cella, 98, of St. Johns, Florida, died Jan. 23, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com (904) 249-1100

Eugene Patrick Dagg

Eugene Patrick Dagg, 92, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Jan. 20, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com 904-249-1100

Michael Deeney

Michael Deeney, 61, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Jan. 26, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Nita Ervin

Nita Ervin, 91, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died Jan. 20, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

DEATH NOTICES continue on Page 7

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Gurpreet Misra co-founded the link with her husband, Raghu. Though it has been open less than a year, this unique facility has quickly become a focal point for professionals and families in the Nocatee area. Something is always happening there, which keeps Gurpreet Misra and the rest of the link's team busy.

Gurpreet Misra

As told to Shaun Ryan

Tell us a little bit about yourself. Where are you from originally? What is your background?

I am originally from India. Did my high school education from the beautiful city called Calcutta. Came to Canada for my undergraduate and graduate education.

My education is in psychology and urban planning.

You have been an important part of the development of the link from the start. Can you tell us a little about those early days when you and your husband were first talking about the link? Has it turned out to be all you thought it would be?

Raghu is a dreamer, innovator and visionary. He has a natural talent for what is needed in an industry or society and is very passionate about finding solutions.

I agreed with his vision of creating a space that will meet the demands of the community at two levels. One, to have a co-working space which grows into an innovation hub with an exchange of ideas, and secondly, a space that can have elements of entertainment, personal growth, a fitness program and a learning center.

This idea resonated with me. I could clearly see the benefits of it in a community like Nocatee. Proximity, and mix of uses under one roof, is a powerful concept that saves time and money. Now we are enjoying that vision with more than 300 members, remarkable partners who are our instructors, mainstays and office occupants, and of course our younger friends (children) who are involved in so many fun and learning activities.

Tell us about your responsibilities. What is a typical day like for you?

I am the co-founder and programming director. I have been lucky because the link as a concept is so attractive to so many that we get requests on a daily basis for conducting classes at the link.

I am always looking for programs that would benefit our members. We have many classes and activities that are running at the link: fitness, wellness, education, entertainment, etc., etc. My typical day is to make sure programming has all the elements to go with Raghu's vision, as he always wanted to offer variety for family needs under one roof.

We are very fortunate to be working with many instructors to provide top quality programs to the families.

The link is always a source of interesting events. Can you tell us a little about some things that are coming soon?

We have recently launched Coding and Esports, which is gaining a lot of attention.

We also are launching a series of talks that will highlight the changes that every industry is going to adapt to due to new technologies. We are calling this Future in ... (blank) Series. The blank will be filled with the upcoming industry or sector that will be covered during the talk. A few examples are: Smart Building, Blockchain, Education, Metaverse, etc.

We have launched our Spring Break camps and will be rolling out Summer Break camps soon. We are constantly adding programming to our app. We are adding more dance and fitness. We have already launched a Comedy Series. We are adding music lessons, expanding yoga



programs and also adding culinary lessons.

From the stand-alone events we are excited to bring a Daddy Daughter Dance for celebrating Valentine's in February and a Mardi Gras Festival in March.

You must be very proud of this excellent asset that you and Mr. Misra have brought to the community. What are some of the things you are most proud of?

I am most proud of the team and the facility that we work in. This building is beautiful and spacious and is able to have different activities running parallel with the least disruption.

I cannot be more happy with the people I work with. They make every effort to make this facility a "happy center" for all. Seeing children busy with activities in a studio, a meeting going on in one conference room, co-work upstairs, members working casually in the lobby

with a cup of coffee, all happening at the same time. Where else would you find this?

What do you like most about living in this community?

Nocatee, like the link, is a unique concept. This master-planned community has been successful in providing something for everybody who lives here. Great place to raise kids, excellent schools, all the Facebook groups that are excellent platforms to connect, the greenways, parks, restaurants.

How do you like to spend your free time?

I would like to visit pre-historic sites in India and other parts of the world. I love to do yoga or any other physical activity. Of course, love to spend time with my family doing anything and everything.

DEATH NOTICES

Continued from 4

Keith E. Ingle

Keith E. Ingle, 89, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died Jan. 23, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com 904-249-1100

June Bowden King

June Bowden King, 98, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Jan. 26, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com 904-249-1100

Geraldine Mary Lesperance

Geraldine Mary Lesperance, 88, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Jan. 29, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. 904-249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Diane Lynn Massaglia

Diane Lynn Massaglia, 46, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died Jan. 24, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Andrew Matuszak

Andrew Matuszak, 73, of Jackson-

ville, Florida, died Jan. 25, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Gayle Gielow McInerney

Gayle Gielow McInerney, 84, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died Jan. 24, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com (904) 249-1100

Marc Joseph Robins

Marc Joseph Robins, 40, of Jacksonville Beach, died Jan. 24, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com 904-249-1100

Mary Alice Sanders

Mary Alice Sanders, 83, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Jan. 27, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Cheryl Schmidt

Cheryl Schmidt, 62, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Jan. 22, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

THE PLAYERS to hold “Cooking with Champions” event

By Anthony Richards

THE PLAYERS has teamed up with Duval County Public Schools to hold a “Cooking with Champions” event designed to educate students about the culinary arts field and test their cooking skills.

Several schools will take part in the competition, which is scheduled for Feb. 8 at Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology in Jacksonville.

Students will get the opportunity to work side by side and will be judged by TPC Sawgrass senior executive chef Azhar Mohammad and PGA Tour Global Home chef director Eric Butcher.

“We can give an exposure to a student like nowhere else in this area,” Mohammad said. “We need to get these students familiar with what it’s like in the culinary field.”

The recipe chosen for students to cook will be a dish featuring scallops and served with butternut squash risotto.

“Risotto is something every student needs to know,” Mohammad said.

He compared cooking risotto to that of cooking pasta.

According to Mohammad, when deciding on a recipe many factors were considered, including finding a dish that challenges the students’ skill sets, while also being a dish popular with many.

“By giving them a dish that is very technical, it will allow us to see their knife skills, how they sear and their temperature control,” Mohammad said.

Creating a popular dish is especially important because the winning group of students will then prepare the dish to be served to patrons during this year’s championship in March.

“I’m excited to see the culinary talent,” Butcher said.

Publix will present each team with a \$100 gift card to go toward the purchase of supplies to prepare for the competition. The business will also provide the necessary materials used during the event.

Florida State College of Jacksonville will offer a \$500 scholarship to the winners with the option for them continuing their culinary experience at the school once they graduate high school.

Students were selected to compete in the competition after advancing through each school’s respective semifinal stage.

Five teams will compete and be represented by students from Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology, Mandarin High School, First Coast High School and two teams will be from Sandalwood High School.



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Budweiser Clydesdales to visit area Winn-Dixie stores

Select Winn-Dixie stores in North Florida will host the famous Budweiser Clydesdales through Sunday, Feb. 6, for customers and fans.

Two Clydesdales from the renowned Budweiser team will trot to five stores, making stops in Ponte Vedra Beach, Jacksonville, Neptune Beach and Middleburg. Customers will have the opportunity to spin a prize wheel to win Southeastern Grocers products and branded merchandise while they interact with the Budweiser Clydesdales.

When they're not traveling, the steeds are stabled in Missouri.

Here's the schedule for readers who want to meet

these famed horses:

- Winn-Dixie, 8560 Argyle Forest Blvd., Jacksonville. 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3.
- Winn-Dixie, 1209 Atlantic Blvd., Neptune Beach. 5-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4.
- Winn-Dixie, 2720 Blanding Blvd., Middleburg. 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5.
- Winn-Dixie, 290 Solana Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6.

In an effort to provide a safe experience for all attendees, Winn-Dixie encourages customers to practice social distancing and wear masks when distancing is not possible.



Contributed photo

Two of the famous Budweiser Clydesdales will visit Winn-Dixie stores in Ponte Vedra and other areas through Sunday, Feb. 6.

County bans release of balloons, sky lanterns

By Shaun Ryan

St. Johns County Commissioners voted unanimously at its Jan. 18 meeting to prohibit the outdoor release of balloons and sky lanterns within the county.

In doing so, the board amended an ordinance that had been drawn up in 1988 to prohibit littering and the abandonment of cars on public rights of way within unincorporated areas of the county.

The ban applies to all balloons, regardless of whether they are made from rubber, latex, polychloroprene, nylon fabric

or mylar.

Any release, even if unintentional, could mean a fine of up to \$500.

The county's ordinance is stricter than Florida statute, which only bans the release of 10 or more balloons.

Wildlife advocates have long opposed the release of balloons because they inevitably come down and are mistaken by animals for food. When an animal ingests a balloon, it can damage the digestive system, leading to starvation and death.

In addition, animals sometimes become entangled in the strings tied to the bal-

loons.

According to the county's amendment, experts rate balloons as the single most deadly marine debris to sea birds and the third most deadly to sea turtles and marine mammals.

In addition to posing a risk to wildlife, mylar balloons have been known to cause power outages when caught on power lines, and balloons of any type may endanger aircraft.

Sky lanterns are similar to small hot-air balloons, typically a bag with a flame that heats the air inside it, allowing it to float

into the air. One danger associated with sky lanterns is that, if they land on combustible materials, they can start a fire.

The National Association of State Fire Marshals has advocated for a nationwide ban on their release. In fact, Florida is one of 30 states to ban sky lanterns.

In addition, balloons and sky lanterns return to earth as litter.

The ordinance spells out two exceptions to its ban: balloons released on behalf of a government agency for scientific or meteorological purposes and balloons released indoors.



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Link planning events for February

Comedy Series

The link at Nocatee Town Center will present its monthly adults-only Comedy Show on Feb 18 hosted by @Freed-2Laugh Productions. Doors open at 8 p.m. The show starts at 8:30 p.m. Seats are first come, first serve.

General admission tickets are \$25 and include two complimentary drinks. Attendees can upgrade to reserve one of 30 VIP Lounge seats in the front rows for \$5 more. There will be tip jar for the bartender and comedians.

Spike Yoder will be the headliner. Patrick Carson will be featured, and Mike Freed will emcee.

Daddy Daughter Dance

Calling all dads! The link is planning a Daddy Daughter Dance from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 19.

Here's a chance to make some special memories with the little ones. Attendees will want to take selfies at the photo station, enjoy sweets and treats and dance the night away on the dance floor as the DJ plays great tunes.

Tickets are \$50 for daddy and daughter and can be purchased via Eventbrite at [eventbrite.com/e/daddy-daughter-dance-tickets-233925356037](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/daddy-daughter-dance-tickets-233925356037). Free admission for second child.

Kids' Night Out = Parents' Night Out

These events are for children ages 4 to 12. They are open to the public. Cost is \$50 per child. Register at thelink.zone/getactive



• Valentine's Day comes early when the children enjoy pizza and drinks, as well as fun art activities and a movie from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Feb. 11. Food and art supplies will be

provided.

Note: If your child has a gluten or dairy intolerance or allergy, mention it at registration so that other arrangements can be made.

Children check in at 5:30 p.m., when they can grab pizza and drinks and claim a spot in front of the video wall. Small groups will break out for story time, playing, arts and crafts or other activities. Games will be played in the mat room.

Parents pick up the children at 9:30 p.m.

• Discover your inner superhero between 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. Feb. 25. There will be fun art activities and a movie. Pizza, drinks and art supplies will be provided. This is a great opportunity to wear that favorite superhero outfit.

Note: If your child has a gluten or dairy intolerance or allergy, mention it at registration so that other arrangements can be made.

Children check in at 5:30 p.m., when they can grab pizza and drinks and claim a spot in front of the video wall. Small groups will break out for story time, playing, arts and crafts or other activities. Games will be played in the mat room.

Parents pick up the children at 9:30 p.m.

The link is located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra Beach.

DONNA events this weekend

This weekend, Feb. 4-6, thousands of runners, walkers and spectators will join Donna Deegan for the 15th anniversary of the DONNA Marathon Weekend.

The event supports The DONNA Foundation, which provides assistance and support to families living with breast cancer, funds groundbreaking breast cancer research and celebrates survivorship.

The weekend begins at 8 a.m. Friday, Feb. 4, with the Social Shakeout Run (a three-mile run/walk) at Southern Grounds, 200 1st St., Neptune Beach.

The DONNA Health & Wellness Expo will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds, 510 Fairground Place.

The DONNA 110 Ultra Marathon will begin at 7:30 a.m. Saturday at the Seawalk Pavilion, 75 1st St. N., Jacksonville Beach.

The DONNA 5K and DONNA Anniversary 15K Relay presented by FIS will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. The DONNA Family Fun Run at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday.

On Sunday, Feb. 6, the DONNA Marathon, DONNA Half Marathon presented by Genentech and the DONNA Booby Trap Challenge will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Seawalk Pavilion.

The Post-Race Party will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at the Seawalk Pavilion.

To register for any of the events, go to breastcancermarathon.com. Participation costs vary.

For further information, a spectator's guide or a route map, go to breastcancermarathon.com/spectator-info.



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EPISCOPAL
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County Commission hears residents' concerns about growth

By Shaun Ryan

During a public listening session on Tuesday, Jan. 25, the St. Johns County Commissioners had an opportunity to hear from residents regarding the abundant growth currently under way. And one theme appeared to dominate: many want the ongoing development checked.

The county auditorium was filled to capacity, with nearly every seat taken. And when it came time for public comment, so many queued up to have their three minutes at the mic that the workshop lasted for four hours.

Speakers cited a host of impacts wrought by the accelerated pace of new development, particularly its effect on infrastructure, the environment, the school system and traffic flow.

“One of the things that we’re hearing here today is a lot of different concerns from a lot of different folks,” said Katherine Sanborn of Ponte Vedra Beach. “I think it’s safe to say that many if not the majority, perhaps the vast majority, of folks in St. Johns County, residents, don’t want to see a lot more development.”

Her comment drew applause from the assembly.

“It seems to me that we have almost uncontrollable growth right now, and because it’s happened so rapidly, it may be

a good idea to be able to address some of these varied concerns, to have a pause,” she continued.

Other residents of the Ponte Vedra area also weighed in.

Anna Logan of Nocatee showed photos of ground water turning a wooded area near her home into a swamp. Brian Anderson, also of Nocatee, pointed out that traffic has significantly increased on Palm Valley Road and that area sidewalks were not adequate. Glen Landers of Ponte Vedra asked that the county take the impacts of climate change and sea level rise into consideration as it addresses growth.

Between 2010 and 2020, the county’s population grew by 44%, from 190,039 to 273,425. The inflow of new residents has resulted in a housing shortage, resulting in people paying more than the asking price for homes on the market.

The growth has posed challenges not just with regard to transportation, but for law enforcement and fire rescue. It’s also had an impact on utilities, parks and recreation, waterway access, libraries and solid waste.

Though growth is happening throughout the county, the northwest and Nocatee are seeing an especially high amount of residential development.

And, as many new homes have been built, there is a potential for many more.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Katherine Sanborn of Ponte Vedra Beach addresses the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners during a public workshop on growth.

Of the 137,153 planned unit development residential units approved over the past 50 years, only 75,480 have been built, leaving 61,673 yet to come.

As motorists have noticed, this surge in growth has affected traffic.

Phong Nguyen, the county’s transportation development manager, reported that, based on existing traffic, 18 roadway segments are deficient, eight critically so. The estimated cost of improving these roads is about \$191 million.

To improve county roads alone – as opposed to state roads – available funding falls about \$140 million short of what is

needed.

One of the problems with funding results from a delay between when a development is approved and when it is built.

Impact fees imposed upon construction are supposed to fund road construction to mitigate the impact of the resulting increase in traffic. But if construction is delayed – sometimes for decades – the fee remains the same even when inflation during that period means the cost of roadway improvements is higher.

The commission was not able to take action at the meeting as it was a workshop.

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INTERIORS

Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club offers world-class pampering

Area residents looking for a great way to relax and rejuvenate will be glad to know that The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is offering some excellent opportunities. Here's a look:

Treat Her, Him, Or Yourself

Offered Feb. 1-14, for every gift card purchase of \$150 or more, the purchaser will receive a \$15 voucher for The Spa's services. The voucher may be redeemed through Dec. 31.

Gentlemen's Discount Day

Every Thursday, gentlemen can enjoy a discount of 20% off full-priced services at The Spa.

Service Of The Month

This month's highlighted service is a Sunflower Renewal Body Wrap, which lasts for 60 minutes. The price is \$170, service charge additional.

Guests can get "all wrapped up" in this month's Spa service that fights the signs of aging skin. First, they relax as succulent shea butter and a sugar coconut scrub refines and preps the skin.

A sunflower honey butter serum rich in vitamin A, retinol and antioxidants is then painted on the skin. A body wrap follows, which helps detoxify and relax sore muscles. The skin receives a soothing massage featuring the mystical aroma

of South America's tonka bean and lotion elixir.

Guests enjoying this service in February can also indulge in a complimentary Spa Tini!

To learn more about The Spa or to schedule an appointment, go to pvspa.com/spa-faq.htm.

The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is located at 302 Ponte Vedra Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.



Photo provided by The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is the place to go to pamper the mind and body.

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'Links of Love' a unique, romantic getaway

By Shaun Ryan

For couples seeking that truly unique experience during this romantic season, TPC Sawgrass is once again offering its popular "Links of Love" package.

With a backdrop of beautifully manicured fairways and majestic moss-draped oaks, golf enthusiasts will relish this rare escape to a world of luxury and recreation.

The package includes a whole host of amenities:

- Three-night luxury accommodations at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort & Spa's Villas at Sawgrass, with complimentary champagne and chocolate golf balls, as well as TPC-embroidered robes and slippers for two.
- Access to two bikes for the duration of the trip
- Round of golf for two on THE PLAYERS Stadium Course
- Round of golf for two on Dye's Valley
- Lunch for two on NINETEEN's patio, with panoramic views overlooking PLAYERS Stadium No. 18. (Valued up to \$140)
- Two 50-minute spa massages and two 80-minute signature facial treatments, including gratuity
- Five-course dinner with wine pairings on the Ponte Vedra balcony with views of



Contributed photo

The 17th hole on the Stadium Course is widely recognized the world over.

the 18th green (Valued at \$520)

- Private sunset sailboat ride out of St. Augustine with blankets and pillows for snuggling, wine and hors d'oeuvres (includes transportation)
 - Transportation to and from the airport, if applicable
- This getaway is for couples with dis-

criminating tastes who like to splurge. It is offered at a price of \$9,604. "Links of Love" is booking now through Feb. 28, with travel until Dec. 31.

To learn more, go to tpc.com/sawgrass/links-of-love.

TPC Sawgrass is the ideal place for those seeking the ultimate Florida golf

vacation. It boasts two courses, including the legendary Stadium Course with its signature island green, the 17th hole, which is one of the most widely recognized golf holes in the world.

Further information regarding TPC Sawgrass is available at tpc.com/sawgrass.

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Halo Spa hosts Chamber After Hours

Photos by Susan Griffin



From left, Emily Carpenter and Halo Spa owner Monica Ketterman at the Chamber After Hours event hosted by the spa.



Cassandra Cotoia and Conner Battreall attended the Chamber After Hours event.



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Spa time for that special someone

Photos courtesy of Amara Med Spa



Amara Med Spa at the St. Johns Town Center.

Valentine's Day and spending time at the spa are a pairing that go hand in hand and Amara Med Spa in Ponte Vedra has put a package together with that in mind.

The package includes a DiamondGlow, a syringe of lip filler and SkinMedica HA5 Smooth & Plump lip system for \$850.

Amara Med Spa opened its first location in March 2021 and within the last couple of months has added three more locations at St. Johns Town Center, on St. Johns Avenue in historic Avondale and in Fernandina Beach.



The entrance to Amara Med Spa's new Avondale location.

It's Galentine's Day all month at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is celebrating Galentine's Day throughout the month of February with spa specials. Here's a look:

- A complimentary hydrating eye enhancement is being offered with the purchase of any facial.
- A complimentary soothing foot enhancement is available with the purchase of any body wrap.
- A complimentary champagne cocktail will be offered with the purchase of any nail service.

The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is located at 1000 PGA Tour Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach. The phone number is 904-285-7777.

To make an appointment, go to spa.marriott.com/#/en-US/sawgrass-marriott-golf-resort-and-spa/spa. Offers are valid Feb. 1-28, 2022.

In addition, Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa has established a loyalty program that rewards participants.

Those who purchase 10 services (at a minimum \$150 per service) will receive a complimentary 11th service. This offer is valid for a 50-minute Sawgrass custom facial or massage.

Anyone who is interested can pick up a loyalty card in person.

Spavia plans Galentine's event

Spavia Ponte Vedra is offering a special event on Valentine's weekend.

The Jane Iredale Galentine's Event will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, at the link in Nocatee.

Attendees will enjoy an adult beverage (or two), appetizers and a Jane Iredale step-by-step make-up application lesson. In addition, they can take home an event make-up kit and inclusions valued at \$100.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a friend, and they will both be entered to win a glam bag of goodies.

The cost to attend is \$75 per person. RSVP Spavia Ponte Vedra at 904-395-7300.

The link is located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra Beach.

Spavia Ponte Vedra is located at 80 Pine Lake Drive, Ste. B, Ponte Vedra.

For further information, go to pontevedrafl.spaviadayspa.com.



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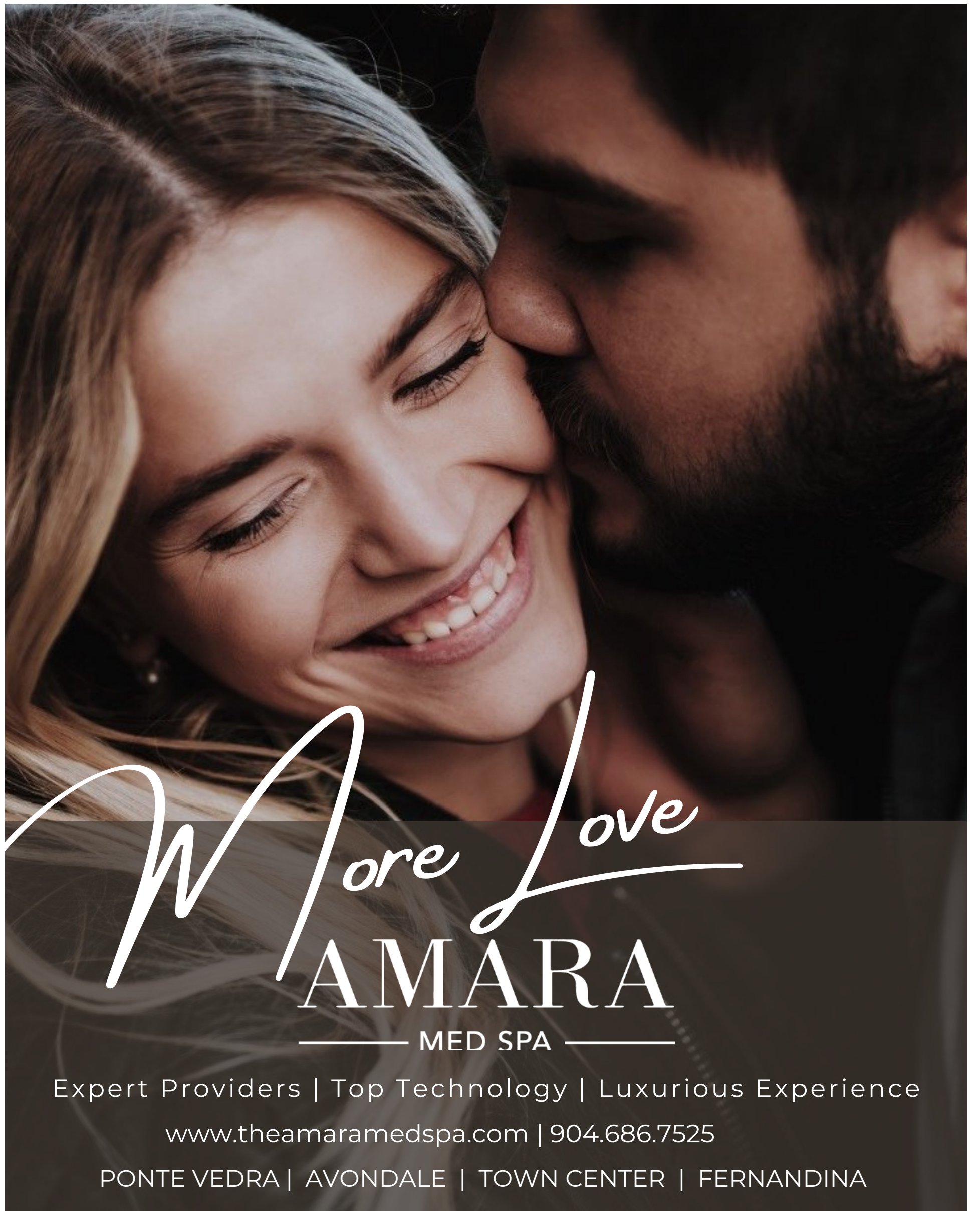
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PAGE 16 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022

— FEATURING —
*Meet Your
Insurance Agent*

PAGES 16-17

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Photo by Shaun Ryan

State Farm agent Jonathan A. Gibbs is seen at his desk in his Nocatee office.

Insurance agent in Nocatee likes to build relationships

By Shaun Ryan

Jonathan A. Gibbs never doubted what he wanted to do with his life. Born and raised in Ponte Vedra, he is the son of a longtime State Farm agent. And watching his dad at work, he saw a future he wanted for himself.

“I always knew I wanted to go into insurance, because that’s what he did,” Gibbs said. “It seemed like a really cool job.”

After graduating from Nease High

School, he went on to earn a degree in business from Bethune-Cookman University. Then, in the early 2000s, he went to work in his dad’s agency.

After eight years there, he went to work in 2016 at his own State Farm agency in Nocatee. He’s found the community very welcoming and enjoys being involved with it. His agency participates in the Nocatee farmers market and Nocatee-A-Glow.

Talking with Gibbs, you know instantly that he enjoys what he does.

“I like the fact that we are here to help people when they need help the most,” he said. “Insurance is definitely something that can benefit people when they have a loss or a crisis or something like that. They can call, and we can deliver on the promise of State Farm.”

The agency, located at 340 Town Plaza Ave., Suite 250, Ponte Vedra, offers many lines of insurance: automobile, homeowners, condo owners, rental, life and more. For information, go to weinsure-pontevedra.com.

Though many people prefer to do their business online, by phone or by email,

Gibbs enjoys meeting his customers in person. He can, and does, conduct business in whatever manner the customer prefers, but sees a great value to building interpersonal relationships – especially in the beginning.

“The main thing that I think you should do when you’re going out and looking for insurance or if you’re looking for a particular agent is go and meet with them,” he suggested.

This better allows the agent to become familiar with the customer’s specific needs and helps the agent to recommend the correct coverage.

Gibbs emphasized the importance of asking oneself: Am I adequately covered?

He also suggests looking into the financial strength of an insurance company to ensure that, should something happen and a claim becomes necessary, the insurer has the resources to cover it.

“One of the things that you get when you’re with State Farm or a company that has the financial strength that we have is that you know we’re going to be there when something happens,” he said.

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Bono to receive award from Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

Ernie Bono will receive the 2022 “Rock of the Community Award” from the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach during its annual Mineral City Celebration, to be held April 23 at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa.

A longtime Prudential Insurance executive, Bono has been an active philanthro-



Ernie Bono

BONO continues on Page 17

Junior Achievement benefits from \$60,000 State Farm grant

The Junior Achievement Florida Foundation has announced that it has received a \$60,000 grant from State Farm.

The statewide initiative will support Junior Achievement learning experiences in eight localities throughout Florida, enabling thousands of young people to participate in JA's nationally recognized financial literacy and career readiness learning experiences.

"State Farm is committed to helping ensure that young people receive financial literacy and work readiness education programs," said Jose Soto, State

Farm corporate responsibility analyst. "Junior Achievement programs help all students acquire and improve their financial literacy skills, especially the low- to moderate-income students who derive greater benefits from the programs."

Each JA area will use the support to advance learning experiences most needed in their region. Locally, JA of North Florida will provide JA Personal Finance, introducing high school students to the interrelationship between today's financial decisions and future financial freedom.

"We are grateful to State Farm for this grant because it helps make what we do possible," said Shannon Italia, president of Junior Achievement of North Florida. "Junior Achievement is providing our young people with the tools to transform their futures. We are increasing economic equity and mobility through our learning experiences focused on financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship, which creates a brighter tomorrow for all."

The JA Florida Foundation areas have worked with local State Farm represen-

tatives to build out an interactive career exploration booth for the JA Inspire Career Expo. This virtual platform provides students the opportunity to explore business and education booths and listen to dynamic speakers. Across the state, more than 25,000 students will participate.

All areas will offer volunteer opportunities for State Farm associates to participate either in person or virtually, the length and scope varies for each experience.

Bono

Continued from 16

pist in the Jacksonville area. In addition to serving as a board member of Catholic Charities and Baptist Beaches Medical Center, he serves as vice president and secretary of the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation, where he has helped raise more than \$5 million to help area families who have been impacted by childhood

cancers.

"Ernie Bono's record of giving back to the community make him richly deserving of the Rock of the Community Award," said Lori Anderson, president of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach.

A nationally known speaker, Bono is a corporate consultant and author of the book, "There Are No Shortcuts: Enjoying the Balance of Faith, Family and Career." It details his life experiences from his childhood days growing up in the tough

"Devil's Pocket" neighborhood of 1950s Philadelphia to his career as an executive with the Prudential Insurance Company. He has consulted with such companies as Fidelity National Capital, Acosta Sales and Marketing, PineRidge Film & Television Company and Rug Decor.

Bono is a graduate of Cheyney State University in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, where he lettered in football. He received his Chartered Life Underwriters (CLU) Degree from American College and his

Limra Life Insurance Fellow (LLIF) from Babson College.

The Mineral City Celebration is the signature annual fundraising event for the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach. Proceeds from the event have benefited more than two dozen local nonprofit organizations and charities, including the Beaches Dial-a-Ride program, Mission House, BEAM, HEAL, the Council on Aging and more. For more information, go to mineralcitycelebration.com.

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Rent Like A Champion presents alternative housing options for golfers

By Anthony Richards

There are plenty of fabulous aspects to being a professional golfer, but the travel and having to stay in hotel after hotel is not exactly one of them.

However, that has changed in recent years thanks to Rent Like A Champion and its partnership with the PGA Tour.

According to Rent Like A Champion CEO Dave Longwell, the company has had a partnership with the PGA Tour since 2016 and developed one with THE PLAYERS a year later.

Since then, homeowners near TPC Sawgrass can use the company to offer up their home to the golfers and caddies competing.



Local homeowners will be offering up their homes for golfers to use the week of THE PLAYERS.

“These golfers are traveling so much, and a lot of them bring their families with them,” Longwell said. “It’s nice when you can share a living room and a kitchen together.”

Unlike other sporting events the company is involved with, such as college football or racing, a golf event requires a space for players to live for a week rather than a couple of days.

“We’re very proud and thankful for the homeowners in the community to have welcomed us in as they have,” Longwell said. “For most of the homeowners, they are offering up their primary residence.”

Longwell is happy that many of the golfers and homeowners who use their service often come back the next year wanting to do it again.

The company has about a more than 98% approval rating from those who have rented a home or owners who have offered it up.

“Many of the players end up asking for the same home,” Longwell said.

Since the majority of the renters are those competing in the professional event themselves, convenience is something considered when placing a home for rent.



Photos courtesy of Rent Like A Champion

Rent Like A Champion began branching out after striking business deals with investors Mark Cuban and Chris Sacca on ABC’s “Shark Tank” in 2015.

“Being within 10 miles of the golf course is what we shoot for,” Longwell said.

Rent Like A Champion started in 2006 as “mom-and-pop” operation that focused solely on helping house visiting fans during University of Notre Dame home football games.

In 2015, the company went on the ABC television show “Shark Tank” and struck a business deal with Mark Cuban and Chris Sacca, and the result was growth and expansion into other sporting event markets that included the PGA Tour.

“We realized that there was a big need for us in the golf world,” Longwell said. “It’s exciting to see that our service is being utilized and filling that void.”

Jared Rice, THE PLAYERS vice president and executive director, has stated that the plan is to have an uncapped event in March, which follows suit with what

other sporting leagues and events have done throughout the past year.

“2020 was a tough year for the travel industry,” Longwell said. “We are proud that we did not have to make any layoffs and were able to have a productive 2021. We hope that 2022 is much of the same.”

The company has hosted more than 75,000 guests over the years and offers more than 4,000 properties available across the country on its website.

Listing a home on the website is free and homes of all shapes and sizes are welcome.

According to Longwell, the company is always on the lookout for new homeowners willing to rent out their homes. Anyone living around TPC Sawgrass interested in doing so can email info@rentlikeachampion.com or call 855-BIG-GAME for more information.

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Gallery 725 hosts Dali exhibit

By Shaun Ryan

Salvador Dali devotees will want to make a point of visiting Gallery 725 this weekend to hear from Madame Christine Argillet, who has been called the last living link to the surrealist master.

The daughter of Pierre Argillet, Dali's publisher and confidante for more than 50 years, will speak from Paris via satellite. Her presentation accompanies a 92-work exhibition at the Jacksonville Beach gallery. On display – and available for purchase – are copperplate etchings and a few originals by Dali, all authenticated and autographed.

Gallery owners Shayna and Matt Winghart had been working to bring the show to the First Coast since the beginning of 2019. It was originally scheduled to go on exhibit in August 2020, but the timing put that right in the middle of the pandemic.

So, after a long delay, Dali's works are finally here.

"Considering that Jacksonville hasn't seen a show like this in nearly a decade, we're very excited and honored that they chose us to do the show," Shayna Winghart said.

Christine Argillet is scheduled to appear between noon and 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, and 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6. To RSVP, contact the gallery at 904-345-9320 or gallery725@gmail.com.

The exhibit is being presented by Road Show Company and has traveled around the globe.

Many people think of Dali as something of an eccentric, but Argillet remembers him as "a very shy man ... simple in



Chris and Marci Connelly examine etchings by Salvador Dali, currently on display at Gallery 725 in Jacksonville Beach.

his daily life ... and a true workaholic." She says he was always experimenting with new techniques.

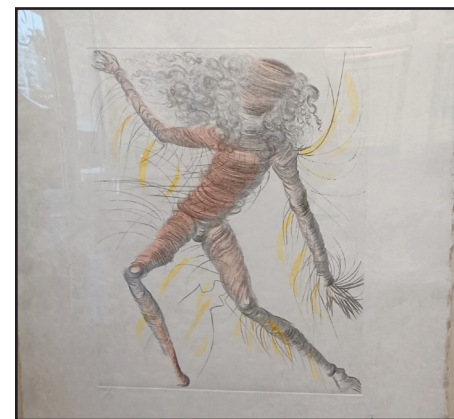
"This exhibition truly is an intimate collaboration of my family with the most fascinating artist of the Surrealist Movement," she is quoted as saying. "It is with honor and humility that we, the Argillet family, are able to present to you this extraordinary assemblage of Dali's works."

The exhibition features works from Dali's Suites, including "Mythologie," "Les Hippies," "Goethe's Faust" and "Poemes Secrets d'Apollinaire." There is also a surprising collection of works inspired by the poems of Mao Zedong.

Gallery 725 is located at 1250 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach. It is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.



When Pierre Argillet saw "Bust of Mao Zedong," he asked why the subject was headless. Dali replied: "Well, the man is so tall that he didn't fit on the page!"



"Cosmonaut" by Salvador Dali is one of the etchings in his "Les Hippies" suite.

Photos by Shaun Ryan

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Photographer's work to be exhibited in county administration building



Lenny Foster

The St. Johns Cultural Council has selected the work of St. Augustine-based fine art photographer Lenny Foster for display at the St. Johns County Administration Building Rotunda Gallery from Tuesday, Feb. 15, until April 22.

Work from Foster's series, "Where We Stand," will provide a glimpse into the African-American history of

St. Johns County. A morning reception is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Feb. 15 with a formal opening from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, with remarks from Foster at 6 p.m. The free events are open to the public.

According to Foster, the new exhibit is influenced by his relocation to St. Augustine and residence in the historic area of Lincolnville.

"Upon arriving in St. Augustine, I discovered a deep history, largely unknown to the public, about African-Americans in St. Johns County," he said. "I learned about a hidden history of my own African-American heritage. As awareness of the local past dawned on me, it has become the focus of my work. This mindfulness has allowed me to combine my fine art photography with a historic and social awareness of the continuing struggle for freedom and recognition by the people



Photos by Lenny Foster

Giant Steps

who are my ancestors and my heritage. I feel honored to be able to share this history, through my work, with a broader public."

Foster's gallery, Gallery One Forty Four, is located at 144 King St. in downtown St. Augustine.

The Cultural Council presents this exhibition with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Dr. Joann Crisp-Ellert Fund of the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, the Florida Division of Arts and Culture, the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council and the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners.

The St. Johns County Administration Building is located at 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine.

Tale Tellers return to Limelight Theatre

The Tale Tellers of St. Augustine will bring "Theater of the Mind: Storytelling" back to the Limelight Theatre after a hiatus of almost two years with the return of The Three Tellers.

The program, "Oldest City Tales: The Weaker Sex?" is a captivating chapter in the Oldest City Tales series developed by The Three Tellers. The vignettes feature episodes dealing with the success or travail of women who have impacted life in the Nation's Oldest City through the centuries.

The Three Tellers are Wayne and Jane Sims (The Storytelling Sims), humorists, historians and tandem tellers; and Margaret Kaler, popular storyteller, actor and director.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 8. General admission is \$10; group rates are available.

For reservations or information, call 904-540-0402 or 386-439-9413. Tickets may be purchased in advance online at www.taletellers.org.

Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave. Free off-street parking is available.

The Tale Tellers of St. Augustine, a nonprofit organization of cultural and educational orientation, was founded in 1993 to promote the art and perpetuate the tradition of storytelling. Dedicated to community enrichment, the guild promotes the art of storytelling by sponsoring its members in performance.

Guests and new members are invited to meetings, held at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month except July. For further information, call 904-377-7063.

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Sports



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Ponte Vedra High seniors Paige Hulihan and Reeghan Mayer share an embrace on the court following a blowout win over Fletcher on senior night.



Ponte Vedra seniors Parker Peverley, Paige Hulihan and Reeghan Mayer enjoy some cupcakes following a big victory on senior night.

Photos by Anthony Richards

Sharks cap emotional senior night with blowout win

By Anthony Richards

It proved to be a memorable senior night for the Ponte Vedra High girls basketball team, who defeated Fletcher 53-16 Jan. 28.

It was a night seniors Reeghan Mayer, Parker Peverley and Paige Hulihan will remember for quite some time.

“Heading into the game we knew this could be our last home game, so we really wanted to win because we all have so many family and friends in the crowd,” Peverley said.

Although the class is not the largest, with only three seniors, they have made an influence on the program.

“This senior class is probably one of the better ones I’ve had in my 12 years here,” head coach Jim Piggott said. “They each have a different role on the team and play different amounts of time, but they’ve gelled together so well, and they were able to get the girls to believe in the system and the team concept.”

Throughout the day leading up to the game and the senior night festivities prior to it, the girls could not help but look back at all the experiences they’ve had together.

“Me and Reeghan were really hyped and listening to music all day in the car,” Hulihan said. “All the girls came up and made signs for us, so it was just a pretty special day.”

All three girls have been involved with

basketball from an early age thanks to support and a love of the game within their families.

Knowing that their basketball careers will soon be coming to an end is what made the night so emotional.

“I’ve been playing for my whole entire life, and I’m so happy to share this experience with some of my best friends,” said Mayer, who had been playing since she was 3 years old.

Hulihan played in her uncle Tommy Hulihan’s basketball league when she was 8 years old, and the game has been a major part of her life ever since and Peverley was introduced to the game by her dad who played.

One of the common things mentioned was the close nature of this year’s squad.

“We’re all so tight,” Mayer said. “The thing about our team that’s so important is that everyone holds each other accountable.”

That accountability is something special and unique for such a young team, which points to the leadership role the seniors have played.

“They didn’t just develop that this year,” Piggott said. “In our system we try to develop that throughout their four years here. We’re trying to establish a tradition here at Ponte Vedra about being family-oriented and playing for the love for each other.”

All three seniors have differing roles on

the team, but they each have a vital part in the overall success of the group.

According to Piggott, Mayer is a true point guard out on the court and so much runs through her to make sure everyone is in the right position to have success.

“She makes everyone around her better, offensively and defensively,” Piggott said. “She’s like another coach on the floor.”

Hulihan’s ability to not shy away from contact and instead embrace physicality on the court is a key part of her style of play.

“She’s a beast going to the basket,”

Piggott said. “No one wants to get in her way.”

Peverley’s influence as a leader off the bench has helped provide the Sharks with reliable depth that will come in handy during the postseason.

“We have such a big freshmen and sophomore core, so being a senior has become more and more important in helping the younger girls,” Peverley said.

Mayer led all scorers with 18 points, while sophomore Morgan Gavazzi finished in double figures with 10, as the Sharks jumped out to a 32-12 halftime lead.



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1. Fantasy sports data
 6. Accounting acronym
 9. Stark daughter on "Game of Thrones"
 13. Branch of economics
 14. All talk, no action type of service
 15. Relating to symmetry, in geometry
 16. Base-8 numeral system
 17. "___ the land of the free..."
 18. Lots and lots
 19. *Actor Ryan of "Blue Valentine"
 21. *Desdemona's suspicious husband
 23. Big fuss
 24. Nose-in-the-air type
 25. Uber alternative
 28. One on a pedestal
 30. Moderately wide
 35. Eye layer
 37. Twelfth month of Jewish year
 39. Cheese-covered chip
 40. Popped relief?
 41. *"Love, ___" movie
 43. Splints site
 44. Muhammad's teachings
 46. Orchestra instrument
 47. Past of heave
 48. Avoids work, in British slang
 50. Give off
 52. Dose of sunshine
 53. Back seat
 55. Hair-raising product
 57. *___ valentine, an opposite of love note
 61. English author perhaps best known for "The Canterbury Tales"
 65. Like Mary-Kate and Ashley
 66. Pooh's "wise" friend
 68. Bring to an end
 69. Potassium nitrate
 70. Farm sound
 71. Arm bones
 72. Back talk

- DOWN**
1. Smoke plus fog
 2. Comes in hard or soft shell
 3. Parts of a play
 4. ___-___-la
 5. Plural of solidus
 6. Heidi's shoe
 7. *Sweetie follower
 8. Cook's cover
 9. Wheel holder
 10. Cambodian money
 11. Two-masted vessel
 12. "The Sun ___ Rises"
 15. Trash can for fireplace (2 words)
 20. Source of lymphocytes, pl.
 22. Pull along
 24. Dormant state
 25. *Famous archer
 26. Dispatch boat
 27. "___ and whistles"
 29. Hodgepodge
 31. Mr. and Mrs. Incredible's son
 32. Blood of the gods, Greek mythology
 33. Seven days postmortem
 34. *Hive-related endearment
 36. Unfortunately, exclamation
 38. Rumpelstiltskin machine
 42. Stallion's cry
 45. Business combination
 49. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway
 51. Darjeeling server
 54. Smell, usually pleasant
 56. Calms
 57. Ford Transit and such
 58. Pelvic parts
 59. Lice eggs
 60. Augments
 61. Oaf
 62. Scoop holder
 63. Biblical twin
 64. Donna or Lou
 67. Got a blue ribbon

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Photo courtesy of Ponte Vedra Athletics
Ponte Vedra senior Ellie Moritz recently committed to the Georgia Tech running program.

Runs in the family

Moritz commits to Georgia Tech running program, continues tradition

By Anthony Richards

For Ponte Vedra senior Ellie Moritz and her family running track at Georgia Tech is a tradition that she will proudly continue.

Moritz's father and uncle ran for the Yellow Jackets and her sister is currently on the team as a senior.

"We have really good family ties with Georgia Tech," she said.

The program's current head coach Alan Drosky also coached her dad in the early 1990s.

"I had already seen the campus with my sister going there but visited again in December and I was reassured it was the place for me," Moritz said.

She had not run competitively growing up until her parents convinced her to give it a try her freshman year of high school.

Over the years she has really started training and striving to be the best runner she can be, and the results have been there to back it up.

According to Moritz, her personal best was 24.50 her freshman season, a time she got down to 19:40 in a couple of years.

"I love seeing when all the hard work pays off," Moritz said.

Oddly enough, it was the pandemic that really helped her find the next level of performance.

"The pandemic hit, and I had nothing else to do but run," Moritz said.

As part of the Georgia Tech running program, she will be asked to perform in multiple disciplines, including cross country, as well as the indoor and outdoor track seasons.

She specializes in running longer distances, which means the events she will be most likely be suited for at the next level will be the 6k and 3k for cross country; the 10k, 5k and 1500 for outdoor track and field; and possibly the mile distance during the indoor season.

"I feel like you're able to get in more of a zone with the longer distances," Moritz said. "If you have a bad part of a race, you can make it up."

Moritz was the lone senior on this year's Ponte Vedra girls cross country team, but it was a leadership role she embraced and the group went on to win the Class 3A team state title for the first time in school history.

She hopes to continue that momentum and confidence gained from her senior season as she enters college.

"You have to really commit your lifestyle to running at the college level," Moritz said. "You're around a bunch of people that just love running. It's definitely going to be a humbling experience, but I know I'm fast and I am only going to get faster. I can feel the potential is there."

She will enter college as a business major but also wants to focus on the marketing side of things.

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SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Osteen Media Group in Jacksonville, Florida, is seeking a Senior Accountant to work out of our Fleming Island office. Pay range: \$50,000 to \$65,000 based on experience. Osteen Media Group owns and operates three established weekly newspapers, web sites and their numerous associated publications and promotions (monthly, quarterly and annual magazines, special sections, contests, events, etc) in Fleming Island, Fla.; Ponte Vedra, Fla., and Las Cruces, New Mexico.

This position is based in the Jacksonville area, with occasional travel to New Mexico. We are a small, privately owned media company that specializes in producing trusted, reliable, award-winning community journalism and advertising/marketing solutions for our wide range of readers and advertisers, both in print and online. We are a team-oriented company (35 employees) with highly experienced publishers and experienced, versatile personnel at each of our three locations.

Experience Required:

- BA in Finance, Accounting or equivalent
- 3 or more years of progressive accounting experience
- Supervisory experience a plus
- Advanced Quickbooks Online experience
- CRM media sales system experience a plus
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Report directly to ownership team on a daily basis
- Work with experienced, industry specific CPA firm to develop, implement & maintain financial controls & guidelines.
- Ability to solve problems, analyze data, produce reports & implement change
- Communicate & explain accounting, cost control & evolving financial guidance to the management team.
- Perform complex accounting duties, including month-end close, G/L maintenance, variance analysis, journal entries, payroll and account reconciliations.
- Strong Excel skills
- Ability to work independently, prioritize, organize, and coordinate assignments and responsibilities of self and staff

The position is office-based in Fleming Island, but allows for flexible hybrid work solutions after successful 6 months.

Employment with Osteen Media Group is at-will and nothing in this Job Description should be interpreted or construed to alter the at-will employment relationship.

This Job Description includes the essential job functions required to perform the job described above, as well as additional duties and responsibilities. This Job Description is not an exhaustive list of all functions that the employee performing this job may be required to perform. The Company reserves the right to revise the Job Description at any time, and to require the employee to perform functions in addition to those listed above.

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