

Ponte Vedra Recorder



September 21, 2017
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PonteVedraRecorder.com



On a Mission: First Coast nonprofits

Pages 15-20



Business Weekly: Recovering from Hurricane Irma

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Sports

Pages 40-44

AFTER THE STORM CLEAN-UP CONTINUES

Residents across the Beaches and St. Johns County are in the process of restoring to some sense of normalcy after Hurricane Irma. Read more about storm recovery in our After the Storm section on pages 24-33.

Photos courtesy of Susan Griffin, Bruce Reid and Colonial Church



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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.

E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

M	O	C	H	A	T	I	S	D	E	U	S			
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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to jonb@opcfla.com by Monday at 5 p.m.

All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

Five readers correctly identified last week's photo as the entrance sign to Sawgrass Country Club. Good job, everyone! The winner of the random drawing was Mary Maples. Congratulations, Mary – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CATS OF THE WEEK

My name is Snickers, and I am a 1-year-old female cat who was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray, there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #39481



My name is Candy, and I am a 6-year-old female cat who was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray, there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #39868

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to its new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training, and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions 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 Rd., off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. For more information, please call the **St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**



Susan Griffin
Publisher
susan@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3938

Jon Blauvelt
Editor
jonb@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3939

Samantha Logue
Reporter
samantha@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3945

Rob Conwell
Circulation Manager
rob@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3936

Ed Johnson
Senior Account Executive
ed@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3940

Suzanne Kirby
Account Executive
Suzanne@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3941

Kristin Flanagan
Account Executive
(904) 285-8831

April Snyder
Sales Assistant
aprils@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3937

Benjamin Naim
Intern
recorderintern@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3943

Paris Moulden
Page Designer/Reporter
paris@opcfla.com

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SPOOKTACULAR NIGHTS

OCTOBER 13-15, 20-22, 27-31

6:30 PM - 10 PM
GATES CLOSE AT 9 PM

JACKSONVILLE
ZOO AND GARDENS

spooktacular.jacksonvillezoo.org

Ponte Vedra Auto Show rescheduled for Sept. 24 at Nocatee Town Center

The Ponte Vedra Auto Show is rescheduled for Sunday, Sept. 24.

Originally planned for Sept. 10, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce decided to reschedule the annual event because of the threat from Hurricane Irma.

The 2017 Ponte Vedra Auto Show presented by Fields Automotive will take

place at the Nocatee Town Center. The event will begin at 9 a.m. and end after the awards ceremony concludes at 3 p.m.

To find out more about the Ponte Vedra Auto Show, visit www.PVAutoshow.com. Auto Show participants can contact the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber for more information at (904) 285-2004.



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Local officials reflect on wrath of Hurricane Irma, compare impacts of storm with Matthew

By Jon Blauvelt

With more than a week of storm recovery efforts to reflect upon, St. Johns County Administrator Michael Wanchick told the Recorder that he believes Hurricane Irma will prove to be more damaging for the county than Hurricane Matthew.

“With Irma, we saw more pervasive county-wide damage,” he said. “If I were to guess before I’ve seen all the final damage assessments, I would say it was more damaging.”

Wanchick explained that Irma, like Matthew, resulted in beach erosion on the barrier islands and flooding in low lying areas like Downtown St. Augustine and the adjacent Davis Shores community. Unlike Matthew, however, he said Irma left the county with heavier inland damage in places like Hastings and Flagler Estates, as well as more structural damage and downed trees and signs due to the higher winds that characterized the storm.

St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office (SJSO) Commander Chuck Mulligan agreed with Wanchick’s assessment on the higher winds, which he noted were sustained at approximately 80 mph, compared to peak winds during Matthew that were sustained at approximately 65 mph. The SJSO spokesman said Irma, unlike Matthew, produced three confirmed tornadoes that touched down across the county, including one in Crescent Beach reaching 130 mph that was responsible for significant damage to condos at the Summerhouse Beach & Racquet Club.

As for rainfall, St. Johns County’s Director of Emergency Management Linda Stoughton confirmed that Irma produced more than 17 inches of precipitation over the four days of the storm, which included the nor’easter that preceded the hurricane. On the other hand, she said the greatest amount of rainfall seen during Matthew was in Bakersville, where approximately 9.9 inches of precipitation fell.

St. Johns County Fire Rescue Public

Information Officer Jeremy Robshaw said both Irma and Matthew will leave “forever impacts” on the community and agreed with Wanchick’s characterization of Irma as a more county-wide event, compared to Matthew’s more localized impacts.

“It’s created a challenge where you now have to provide that level of recovery and emergency response throughout the entire 680 square miles, versus just being able to focus on specific areas,” said Captain Robshaw.

As for that recovery, Wanchick said he’s been proud of the county’s response. He said the county’s prior investments in training and equipment have proven to pay a huge dividend, such as the county’s emergency operations center and its recently built \$26 million radio system that was installed during the “Great Recession.”

“That system has played out flawlessly,” said Wanchick. “If you ask anyone who’s a first responder—federal, state or local—that system was a real life saver.”

Overall, the county administrator stated that there’s also no substitute for an experienced and cohesive staff, which he believes wholeheartedly exists in St. Johns County, especially after dealing with Matthew last year.

Moving forward, Wanchick said recovery from Irma will take months, explaining that the process requires mitigating several federal, state and local regulations, as learned over the past year with Matthew.

As a result, he is asking for the community’s cooperation.

“This kind of event puts a tremendous burden on local government,” said Wanchick. “It’s almost like you open up a second business with no additional staff, in addition to running the day-to-day operations of local government that we do 365 days a year.

“Hopefully people will be patient. They’ll let us prioritize what’s most urgent, which I think is storm recovery right now, and allow us to transition back into more day-to-day activities over a period of time.”

JACKSONVILLE COUNTRY DAY STUDENTS BREAK DRESS CODE FOR HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

Jacksonville Country Day School (JCDS) students, including Ponte Vedra Beach residents Ellie Goodfriend (far left) and Izzy Davis (far right), “break” the school’s dress code Sept. 1 to raise money for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Students were asked to donate \$1 for the privilege of breaking the dress code. Overall, students raised \$2,218, which will be donated to the United Way of Greater Houston.

Photo courtesy of Ian Nyquist



RAMONA donates Sept. 18 sales of new single and album to benefit Hurricane Irma victims

RAMONA, an original jazz-meets-R&B eight-piece outfit based in St. Augustine, released its new single “Not Your Mama” on Sept. 18 off its self-titled album, and donated all proceeds made on the release date to assist victims impacted by Hurricane Irma. All proceeds from sales of the band’s album and single made on Sept. 18 went directly to the American Red Cross.

RAMONA felt the effects of their own tragedy in 2016 when Hurricane Matthew destroyed singer and lead conceptualist Jeanetta Salyer and Alberto Cebollero’s home.

“We were going through a lot of changes and growth as a band after Hurricane Matthew hit, and we began developing a more sophisticated, relaxed sound in part because we felt unshakable as a musical force,” Salyer said. “Creating was a sure way to bring positivity to an uncertain time of transition.”

The six-song album took a total of three months to record through the expertise of Lucio Rubino from Fish Tank Records (Paramore, Larry Coryell, Flock of Seagulls). Due to their loss from Hurricane Matthew, the band was in the middle of rebuilding their lives and dealing with

personal tragedy, while also sustaining their music by playing 40-plus shows a month and finalizing the record.

“I’m still in awe at the amount of work our band put in to get us back to square one after those devastating months,” Salyer said.

Throughout the past year, RAMONA has garnered national attention, winning the Delta Grammy contest, being named the “What’s Hot” band of the year and receiving a feature on the Best of NPR. Created to lift spirits, “Not your Momma” has been described as “a lighthearted, humorous take on an ordinary occurrence, a true new school jazz standard riddled with female empowerment, playful lyrics and a musical punch.”

While often performing as a duo or trio, RAMONA also plays as a full-piece band consisting of Jeanetta Salyer (vocal/emcee), Chris Kearnes (saxophone), Alberto Cebollero (guitar/piano), Jim Johnston (guitar), Tommy Bridgewater (bass) and Kent McKinney (drums).

To purchase the album or single “Not Your Mama” online, go to www.ramonatheband.com/music.

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Local health and wellness business to hold 'Soothe Your Soul' workshop post-Hurricane Irma

By Jon Blauvelt

Soul Life, a Ponte Vedra Beach-based health and wellness business, is hosting an all-day workshop Sept. 26 entitled "Soothe Your Soul" that will enable attendees to learn more about the concept of "Human Design," new stress intervention technologies and dreams and premonitions.



Kelly Sullivan Walden

Soul Life Founder Dr. Chez Leeby said the event will provide attendees with tools and knowledge to help them persevere through the recent adversity of Hurricane Irma.

"I feel like these are tools that...will be of added value and help them in recovering from any type of stress, trauma and any difficulties they've been through," she said. "There will opportunities for sharing, opportunities for learning and opportunities for healing."

Los Angeles-based hypnotherapist, dream therapist and author Kelly Sullivan Walden is flying into Ponte Vedra for the event to facilitate a few of the sessions. She has appeared on numerous national radio and TV shows, including "Coast to Coast AM," "The Dr. Oz Show," "Ricki Lake" and "The Real," to analyze dreams and explain how people can benefit from listening to their inner wisdom.

Sullivan Walden's first session will focus on "Human Design," which she said is similar to an astrology reading or Myers-Briggs indicator that allows people to better understand how they're wired.

"It's kind of like a personal owner's manual so that you can make choices and

live a life that is in sync with your nature," she said.

Sullivan Walden will explore how understanding the conscious and unconscious genetic maps assist in navigating a purposeful life.

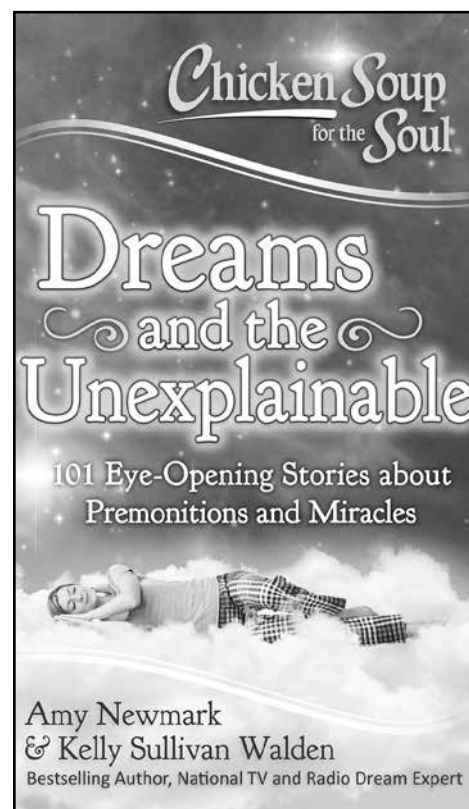
Later in the day, Sullivan Walden will facilitate an additional workshop on dreams in which she will discuss the main elements of dream work, which include declaration, remembrance, embodiment, activation and mastermind.

At the end of the day, the dream therapist will conduct a book signing for her newest compilation, "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Dreams & the Unexplainable," which will be released Sept. 26. Co-authored by Sullivan Walden, the book includes a handful of stories on navigating life with direction from dreams, finding love and a soul mate and facing fears and overcoming them through dream experiences.

Leeby explained that in addition to Sullivan Walden's contributions to the workshop, the day will also feature a discussion on natural stress intervention strategies led by Greg Culver, who is a worldwide speaker and expert in the fields of parasympathetic dominance and holistic healing technologies such as NuCalm.

"He is joining us to share some natural stress intervention technologies," said Leeby. "Greg will be perfect for this situation that we've all been through...the Irma aftermath. He will share new and innovative modalities that help with stress, anxiety and difficulty sleeping."

Leeby added that the workshop will also include yoga, guided mediation, lunch and a presentation about Soul Life, which she described as a "mobile wellness" business



Photos courtesy of Kelly Sullivan Walden

Kelly Sullivan Walden's new book "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Dreams & the Unexplainable"

that visits its clients and enables them to create their own wellness workshops.

"We'll bring in meditation, we'll bring in yoga, the psychotherapy that I do," she explained. "We'll bring in all kinds of different modalities so that people can not just read about them or hear about them but actually experience them and try on different things."

Open to men and women of all ages, the Sept. 26 workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with tickets costing \$125. The location of the event in Ponte Vedra will be determined by the number of registered participants. Tickets for the workshop are available through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/soul-life-presents-shake-up-your-soul-workshop-with-kelly-sullivan-walden-tickets-37358481223>.

As part of the event, Leeby said Soul Life will be holding a canned food drive for Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) and a drive for the Bahamas through local nonprofit Adventures in God's Creation. Attendees of the workshop are encouraged to bring canned foods and bottled water for relief efforts.

Fourth annual Wellness Fair at PV Wellness Center rescheduled for Sept. 28

Due to the impacts of Hurricane Irma, the Wellness Fair and Anniversary Party hosted by the Ponte Vedra Wellness Center has been rescheduled to Thursday, Sept. 28 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Wellness Fair will feature displays from a variety of local health and wellness providers, as well as raffle prize drawings, organic wine tasting, food and other treats from Metro Diner and Peterbrooke Chocolatier of Ponte Vedra Beach.

This event is organized in cooperation with First Atlantic Bank and is free and open to the public. While all food, health screenings, services and raffle tickets are complimentary, a donation to benefit Mission House is encouraged.

This year's Wellness Fair participants include Balini Mind and Body, Connect Hearing, CrossBarre, Eccella, Full Circle Women's Care, Healing Massage of Ponte Vedra, Health Partners LLC, Podiatry Associates of Florida/Beach Division, Ponte Vedra Eye Associates, Ponte Vedra Training Company, Ponte Vedra Wellness Center, PRP Wine International, SJC Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division and First Atlantic Beach.

The Spa at One Ocean to host a day of wellness on Sept. 28

The Spa at One Ocean Resort & Spa will host "Happiness, Ayurveda and Wellness," a full-day of health and wellbeing with international yoga and meditation teacher P.K. Perusal, Thursday, Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Participants will free their mind, unwind and reconnect with a day of wellness that includes morning yoga, tea service, happiness and meditation exercise, a healthy vegetarian lunch and a luxury spa service. Services include a choice of one service

including a 50-minute massage, 50-minute facial or 80-minute manicure/pedicure combo.

Open to hotel guests and locals of the area, the one-day wellness event is limited to 25 people and reservations are required. Appointments can be scheduled by contacting Beverly Fox-Crismond at (904) 853-2316 or beverlyfox-crismond@oneoceanresort.com. The cost of the event is \$200 and includes the full day of wellness, lunch and spa treatment.

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A Ponte Vedra Beach resident, Greg Wong is the senior vice president of corporate development at Web.com, as well as a trustee for the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Board.

Greg Wong

By Jon Blauvelt

Can you please tell us about your background?

My wife Amy, sons Danny and Liam and I have been Ponte Vedra residents for nearly 10 years. I grew up in Southern California and received my undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame. After serving six years as a U.S. Navy officer in the Nuclear Propulsion Program and receiving my MBA in finance, I became a technology investment banker. During my over 11-year tenure as an investment banker, I completed dozens of initial public offerings, merger and acquisition transactions and strategic advisory assignments.

I started working with Web.com in 2002 as the company's external investment banker and came on board as the company's internal investment banker in 2008. Since then, the company has grown from \$17 million in revenue to over \$750 million in revenue and now has over 3,400 employees. Web.com is now the largest Internet company in the Southeast U.S.

What are your roles and responsibilities as senior vice president of corporate development at Web.com?

I am responsible for all mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and equity and debt capital market activities. Since joining full-time in 2008, I have led all of Web.com's capital-raising transactions and acquisitions in the United States, Europe and South America. I have had the opportunity to advise Web.com President and CEO David Brown and our company's Board of Directors on every acquisition and capital markets transaction, including our initial public offering (IPO) in 2005.

The best part of my job is the chance to meet and talk with CEOs of the small business-focused companies in our marketplace. Over months, and often times years, I get to develop relationships with these CEOs and really understand the opportunities (and challenges) each of their companies face.

What are your specific responsibilities as a MSD trustee?

I lead our communications and emergency services efforts for the MSD Board. I primarily focus on getting important information out to our residents on a timely basis. We utilize multiple channels of communication including broadcast e-mails, our website and our annual newsletter. In addition, whenever we have potential emergency situations that could affect our community, I act as the primary conduit to alert our citizens about the upcoming threat. We look to provide critical information that allows our residents to take action to protect themselves, their families and their property.

Can you please tell us about how you're involved with emergency operations when hurricanes like Irma and Matthew roll through?

As the MSD trustee assigned to emergency operations, my primary role is to facilitate communications between the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center, the MSD chairman and the residents within the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District. During my tenure, we implemented an email system to get urgent and timely information out to our residents, including evacuation notices, bridge closings and openings and critical storm clean-up information. In the event of a catastrophic event, we would also disseminate information on shelters, food and water distribution and rescue and recovery efforts.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Greg Wong

What brought you to the First Coast?

Amy and I have been coming to Ponte Vedra for 12 years. We originally purchased a condo near Sawgrass Beach Club and began to come to Ponte Vedra for our holidays. After the birth of our second child, we moved here full-time in 2008 to join my favorite investment banking client, Web.com. We have always enjoyed the balanced lifestyle of community, sun and business opportunities that Northeast Florida has to offer. By living here, you get the benefits of a major city, while still enjoying the benefits of a local community.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I particularly enjoy spending time with my family and watching my two sons grow up. My oldest son, Danny, is an eighth grader at Episcopal School of Jacksonville and is actively involved in cross country, theatre and sailing. Liam, our fourth grader at Jacksonville Country Day School, is a state champion black belt in Taekwondo. Most weekends, Amy and I travel to support each of our sons' activities. Each year, we try to take a family vacation overseas. So far, we've been to New Zealand, Australia, Italy, England, France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Greece and Turkey. China is top of the list for our next trip.

Planning underway for Beaches Resource Center Foundation Luau

The 12th annual Lemon Bar Luau will be held Oct. 14, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the Lemon Bar in Neptune Beach.

The event will include a silent auction, door prizes, raffle, steel drum band and food from Beaches area restaurants

like Sliders, Mellow Mushroom, Angie's, Mojo's, Mezza and more. All proceeds will benefit the Beaches Resource Center, which helps Beaches children and families.

LUAU continues on Page 12

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<p>THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS w/ BASH & POP SEPTEMBER 23</p> <p>MORGAN JAMES SEPTEMBER 26</p> <p>TERRI CLARK SEPTEMBER 27</p> <p>TROMBONE SHORTY & ORLEANS AVENUE OCTOBER 1</p> <p>JOSEPH w/ LIZA ANNE OCTOBER 2</p> <p>HARD WORKING AMERICANS w/ LOS COLOGNES OCTOBER 4</p> <p>ELEPHANT REVIVAL OCTOBER 6</p> <p>DELBERT McCLINTON & SELF MADE MEN OCTOBER 6</p> <p>BODEANS STRIPPED DOWN, BEAUTIFUL RENDITIONS OF BODEANS CLASSICS OCTOBER 15</p> <p>THE JAMES HUNTER SIX OCTOBER 16</p> <p>CONOR OBERST w/ THE FELICE BROTHERS OCTOBER 17</p> <p>SAMANTHA FISH OCTOBER 18</p> <p>THE CALIFORNIA HONEYDROPS w/ THE STEADY 45s OCTOBER 19</p> <p>MATISYAHU w/ COMMON KINGS & ORPHAN OCTOBER 20</p>	<p>FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS WEBER & BRAHMS OCTOBER 22</p> <p>DEANA CARTER w/ SWEET TEA TRIO OCTOBER 26</p> <p>TOAD THE WET SPROCKET OCTOBER 27</p> <p>JOHNNYSWIM NOVEMBER 1</p> <p>JOYCE MANOR & WAVVES w/ CULTURE ABUSE NOVEMBER 3</p> <p>SISTER HAZEL NOVEMBER 4</p> <p>OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA NOVEMBER 12</p> <p>MILES ELECTRIC BAND NOVEMBER 18</p> <p>ELVIN BISHOP'S BIG FUN TRIO NOVEMBER 19</p> <p>TIDINGS OF JAZZ & JOY KEIKO MATSUI & EUGE GROOVE w/ LINDSEY WEBSTER & ADAM HAWLEY NOVEMBER 29</p> <p>BEN HAGGARD DECEMBER 13</p> <p>HORTON'S HOLIDAY HAYRIDE REVEREND HORTON HEAT JUNIOR BROWN THE BLASTERS & BIG SANDY DECEMBER 19</p> <p>DONNA THE BUFFALO DECEMBER 29</p>	<p>FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS BOCCHERINI, PUCCINI, NINO ROTA & WOLF JANUARY 7, 2018</p> <p>THE ZOMBIES ODESSEY AND ORACLE 50TH ANNIVERSARY JANUARY 12, 2018</p> <p>BLACK VIOLIN JANUARY 27, 2018</p> <p>JOHN MCCUTCHEON w/ GRANT PEEPLES FEBRUARY 8, 2018</p> <p>BOTTLE ROCKETS w/ CHUCK PROPHET & THE MISSION EXPRESS FEBRUARY 16, 2018</p> <p>SIERRA HULL FEBRUARY 17, 2018</p> <p>AN EVENING WITH GEORGE WINSTON FEBRUARY 23, 2018</p> <p>AN EVENING WITH JOHN HAMMOND MARCH 3, 2018</p> <p>ANA POPOVIC MARCH 7, 2018</p> <p>MIKE + THE MECHANICS MARCH 21, 2018</p> <p>LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III w/ LUCY WAINWRIGHT ROCHE MARCH 30, 2018</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS SCHUBERT APRIL 8, 2018</p> <p>AN EVENING WITH BRUCE COCKBURN APRIL 19, 2018</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS MOZART & SMETANA MAY 6, 2018</p>
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Thursday, Sept. 21	Friday, Sept. 22	Saturday, Sept. 23	Sunday, Sept. 24
<p>Social hour at Casa Marine Penthouse Lounge The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club will host a Sept. 21 social hour at the Penthouse Lounge in the historic Casa Marina hotel from 5 to 7 p.m. Guests can purchase their own drinks and enjoy socializing with members. The Penthouse Lounge is located at 691 1st St. N., Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Concerts in the Plaza St. Augustine's Plaza de la Constitución will host the Oldest City's summer-long concert series, "Concerts in the Plaza." The series provides free concerts featuring local musical entertainment. The Session will play at the Sept. 21 event. All of the "Concerts in the Plaza" shows are free to attend, and visitors are encouraged to bring lounge chairs for seating. Picnic dinners are allowed, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the plaza.</p> <p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Sept. 21 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>Kelly Quinn at Donna Mancini Interiors and Flooring Donna Mancini Interiors and Flooring will present artist Kelly Quinn live in the showroom Sept 21 from 4 to 8 p.m. Visitors will learn about Kelly's painting techniques, view her work and more. This event will take place at 141 Hilden Road #202, Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Grief support group A grief support group meets on the third Thursday of each month at St. Paul's Catholic Church in room 102 of the Family Life Center. This month's meeting will take place at 7 p.m. St. Paul's Catholic Church is located at 578 1st Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Cannon Firing Demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers will demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 South Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Sing Out Loud Music Festival The Sing Out Loud Music Festival is the largest free music festival ever held in St. Johns County. Music venues throughout St. Augustine will host various musical artists in a range of genres throughout the weekend. Artists will include Steve Earle, Lake Street Dive, Wolf Parade, Dirty Dozen Brass Band and more. For the full schedule of performances and events, visit www.singoutloudfestival.com.</p> <p>Florida Heritage Book Festival The Florida Heritage Book Festival will hold a fee-based writers conference for budding authors who are seeking to hone their skills. Professional authors, editors and book publishers will present workshops from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the St. Johns County Convention Center at World Golf Village. The Florida Heritage Book Festival is a non-profit corporation that promotes Florida's literary heritage and a love of reading. This event will take place at 500 S. Legacy Trail in St. Augustine. Visit www.fhbookfest.com for more information.</p>	<p>MOSH boat tours St. Johns River Taxi and MOSH host a St. Johns River boat tour every Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The tour features a history host who explains the historical significance of the river and various landmarks in Jacksonville. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$12 for children. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Family sening at the GTM Research Reserve Guests are invited to the GTM Research Reserve Sept. 23 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. to learn how to pull a seine net. Participants will collect fish and crabs as well as learn about their habitats and role in the environment. Waders and boots will be provided. The program is included with regular admission to the reserve and takes place in the Environmental Education Center at 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Dog Adoption Day Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty presents Dog Adoption Day Sept. 23 at Petco on Marsh Landing Parkway from noon to 3 p.m. Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty has partnered with Petco and TARA for this event, which will take place at 950 Marsh Landing Pkwy #145, Jacksonville.</p> <p>Old City Farmers Market The Old City Farmers Market features fresh produce, baked goods, handcrafted items and plants along with live entertainment. Fresh seafood in season will be available for purchase as well. The farmers market takes place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre at 1340 A1A S. Admission is free.</p> <p>Fundraiser for JFRD firefighter 1-800-BOARDUP, 3PHASE Business Advisors, and Atlantic Beach Brewing Company will present a fundraiser to benefit Jacob Tomlinson and his family. Tomlinson lost everything as his house burned while working to help with rescue and recovery operations during Hurricane Irma. Local firefighters, police and neighbors will be on hand for the event Sept. 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Atlantic Beach Brewing</p>	<p>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. The program is offered daily, serving the Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Ordinary People Exhibition by Don Trousdel This 450th commemoration exhibition (running through Oct. 1) at the St. Augustine Art Association features paintings by the late Don Trousdel, which highlight the first settlers who founded and built St. Augustine during the 16th century. The exhibition is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. The St. Augustine Art Association is located at 22 Marine St.</p> <p>Trivia Night at Woody's Bar-BQ Join the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club Sept. 24 for dinner and trivia night at Woody's Bar-BQ, located at 226 Solana Road in Ponte Vedra Beach, from 6 to 8 p.m. Meals for guests will cost \$25 per person or \$45 per couple. Additionally, cash prizes for winners and item raffles will be available. All proceeds will benefit the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.</p> <p>Premier Bride Expo This expo will take place at Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village from 1 to 4 p.m. and will feature more than 100 Florida wedding professionals in attendance. Visit www.premierbride-expo.com to purchase tickets. The Renaissance Resort is located at 500 S. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine.</p>

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Monday, Sept. 25	Tuesday, Sept. 26	Wednesday, Sept. 27	Thursday, Sept. 28
<p>MOSH Daily Programs Join Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History for its Daily Animal shows. On Monday at 2 p.m., explore "Skin and Scales" in the Florida Naturalist's Center, during which guests learn about the cold-blooded world of reptiles and amphibians. Prior to the program at 1 p.m., museum-goers can witness the exploration of space in the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium during "Astronaut," an interactive venture led by a test astronaut named Chad. For tickets and additional information, visit www.themosh.org.</p> <p>Friends for the Arts Get involved in the arts by joining a team of fellow art supporters at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Help develop and support fundraising projects and help initiate special projects to benefit and promote the cultural center and the arts in our community. For more information, visit www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-the-arts.</p> <p>Steve Anderson Art Exhibition at the Villa Zorayda Museum The Villa Zorayda Museum hosts an art exhibition of Steve Anderson's paintings Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anderson, who is visually impaired and has less than 10 percent of his sight, highlights St. Augustine's architectural heritage in his work. View this exhibition at 83 King St., St. Augustine. General admission to Villa Zorayda Museum is \$10 for adults and \$4 for youth.</p> <p>Cecile and Gene Usdin, Judeo-Christian Lecture at Flagler College Dr. Lucinda Mosher will present a lecture entitled "Writing the Sublime: Calligraphy, Iconography, Hagiography and the Promotion of Interreligious Understanding" at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, located at 14 Granada St., St. Augustine. The lecture begins at 7 p.m.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Democratic Club meeting The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will meet Sept. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, located at 101 Library Blvd. The meeting is open to the public.</p>	<p>Book club at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Join the Ponte Vedra Beach library from 3 to 4 p.m. for a discussion on "News of the World" by Paulette Jiles. Everyone is welcome; for more information contact the reference department at (904) 827-6950 or visit the library's reference desk. The Ponte Vedra Beach library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p>Yoga on the Beach Each Tuesday morning through September, join yoga fitness instructor Emily Johnson as she leads a free yoga session on St. Augustine Beach at 978 A1A beach Blvd. at 8 a.m., weather permitting. The yoga sessions take place at the Ocean Hammock walkover. Donations are accepted.</p> <p>Free Admission at Cummer Museum Every Tuesday, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens offers visitors free admission to its galleries and gardens for its "Florida Blue Free Tuesday" promotion. The Cummer Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p>Seminar on Funeral Pre-Planning The Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home will host a free seminar on the benefits of funeral pre-planning Tuesday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Special and important information for veterans will also be discussed. Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home is located at 3600 Third St., Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 249-1100.</p> <p>Morgan James at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall New York-based soul singer and songwriter Morgan James will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Sept. 26 at 8 p.m. (Doors open at 7.) James' performances showcase virtuosic vocal range that span from sultry to spontaneous and controlled. The soul singer has made leading appearances in "Berry Gordy's Motown: The Musical," "Godspell" and more. Visit www.pvconcerthall.com to purchase tickets. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings will help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>The Facts on Fats Dr. Sharyl Truty, MD & registered dietician, and Elizabeth Sisselman, RD and LDN, will present a discussion on the fats in diets and how to know which diet is the healthiest. Samplings and recipes will be provided. This event will take place Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Native Sun Natural Foods Market, located at 1585 3rd St. N., Jacksonville Beach. Call (904) 930-4774 for more information.</p> <p>Kingsman: The Golden Circle, IMAX Hollywood film "The Kingsman: The Golden Circle" will be shown at the World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater Sept. 27. With their headquarters demolished and the world held hostage, the Kingsman works with an allied spy organization to overcome the enemy. Visit www.worldgolfimax.com for show times and ticket pricing. The World Golf Hall of Fame is located at One World Golf Place, St. Augustine.</p> <p>Gabriel House of Care Living Well Symposium The Gabriel House of Care Living Well Symposium, taking place at 4599 Worrall Way in Jacksonville, will offer insights into a healthier life through expert speakers on stress reduction, acupuncture, music therapy and art therapy. The event will take place Sept. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Visit www.facebook.com/GabrielHouseofCare to purchase tickets.</p> <p>Postpartum Support Group Mothers experiencing depression and/or anxiety can get support in a safe, non-judgmental environment at Baptist health's Postpartum Support Group. The group meets Sept. 27 at 10 a.m. at the Y Healthy Living Center, located at 221 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Sept. 28 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>NocaTour The NocaTour, taking place Sept. 28 at 10 a.m., is a personal golf cart tour on Nocatee's Greenway Trailway System, Nocatee Community Park, Coastal Oaks and Del Webb. Participants will return to the welcome center for a walking tour of Splash Water Park and the fitness club. This event is weather permitting. Email WelcomeCenter@Nocatee.com to re-register if the tour is cancelled due to weather. The Nocatee welcome center is located at 245 Nocatee Center Way, Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>Fourth annual Wellness Fair The Wellness Fair and anniversary party hosted by the Ponte Vedra Wellness Center, located at 100 Corridor Road #220, will take place Sept. 28 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The event will feature displays from a variety of local health and wellness providers, as well as raffle prize drawings, organic wine tasting, food and other treats from Metro Diner and Peterbrooke Chocolatier of Ponte Vedra Beach. Call (904) 273-2691 for more information; this event is free and open to the public.</p> <p>An Evening with Alison Krauss and David Gray The St. Augustine Amphitheatre will host multi-platinum artists Alison Krauss and David Gray live in concert. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., while the performance starts at 7 p.m. Visit www.staugamphitheatre.com for tickets.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to recorderintern@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>



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Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach to hold inaugural fine arts festival at Nocatee in 2019

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach recently announced a partnership with Nocatee to bring a major, fine arts festival to Northeast Florida.

The Ponte Vedra Arts Fest at Nocatee will be held at the outdoor field at Nocatee April 6-7, 2019. The festival will feature upscale art and artists from all over the country, as well as a family event with performances and a children's area with a hands-on art experience.

The arts fest will be a 100 percent juried art show featuring fine art, sculpture and performing arts. Also planned is a special patron and sponsor event highlighting the raffle of a work from a noted artist.

The Ponte Vedra Arts Fest is an endeavor of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach and helps fulfill its mission of "bringing the arts into the life of the community." The Arts Fest commit-

tee is co-chaired by Sheila Lieberman and Leslie Kleiman. Other committee members include professional artists laird (sic) and Ellen Diamond, as well as CCPVB staff and supporters. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in joining the arts fest committee, contact Sheila Lieberman at (904) 834-7174 or at smlieb@mac.com or call Leslie Kleiman at (847) 338-8249 or lekleiman@gmail.com.

Rock Solid Law expands to Nocatee

For over 25 years, Rock Solid Law has offered support for the various legal needs of clients in the Jacksonville area and surrounding beach communities, specializing in all facets of estate planning; wills, trusts and probate; real property law and business law. Recently, the firm announced the expansion of its offices to provide services to the Nocatee area.

"This new office space will offer a comfortable and accessible setting for us to provide our Nocatee clients with the same proactive approach that we are known for in order to build a 'rock solid' foundation for their family, home, business and property," said John Miller, Rock Solid Law's founding attorney.



Photo courtesy of Rock Solid Law

As a vendor partner with the Better Homes and Gardens Lifestyles Realty Nocatee office, Rock Solid Law's new space is located in the BHGRE office at 86 Town Plaza Ave., Suite 410 in Ponte Vedra.

The firm intends to hold a grand opening celebration in the near future. For more details, visit rocksolidlaw.com.

Cancer-fighting superheroes need assist of a sidekick

CureSearch for Children's Cancer is looking for teams and participants for its Jacksonville Superheroes Unite! event at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Nocatee Welcome Center.

The event will help raise funds for life-saving children's cancer research and is aimed at making young cancer fighters feel like superheroes.

Community members and members of the media are invited to come and share their stories.

The Nocatee Welcome Center is located at 245 Nocatee Center Way in Ponte Vedra. To register for the event or for more information, go to www.curesearchevents.org.



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OBITUARIES

Betty Berry Stephenson

Betty Berry Stephenson, 93, died Sept. 8, 2017, at St. Vincent's Hospital in Middleburg of complications resulting from a fall. She was born in Atlanta on Aug. 23, 1924, to Walter and Elizabeth Berry.

In 1931, her family moved to Jacksonville. Betty graduated in 1942 from

Landon High School, where she was a cheerleader and was also involved in numerous other clubs. She attended the University of Alabama ("Roll Tide!") where she was a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

She was a longtime member of Community Presbyterian Church in Atlantic Beach and resided in Ponte Vedra Beach until 2004, when her house was destroyed by fire in the aftermath of a hurricane.

In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by her brother, Walter Berry, Jr.; her husband, John F. Stephenson and her grandson, Christian Stephenson. She is survived by her sons, Lawrence (Patricia) Stephenson of Middleburg and John W. (Sandy) Stephenson of Hawthorne; her grandchildren, Kimberly (William, III) Huether, John E. Stephenson, II (fiancée, Iulia Istrati), Joshua Stephenson (fiancée, Ann Wanserski) and Jennifer Stephenson (David Roberts) and great grandchildren, Katherine, Kristen, William, IV and Sarah Huether, Hailey and Christian, II, Stephenson and Amelia and John T. Stephenson.

A graveside service was held Sept. 16 at Oaklawn Cemetery in Jacksonville. Please visit her memorial page at www.williamsthomasfuneralhome.com. For further information, contact Williams-Thomas Downtown at (352) 376-7556.

Daniel M. Goldman

Daniel M. Goldman, 85, of Ponte Vedra, died Sept. 16, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com.

James Inman

James "Keith" Inman, 53, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Sept. 14, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com.

Joallen Mons

Joallen Mons, 83, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Sept. 9, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com.

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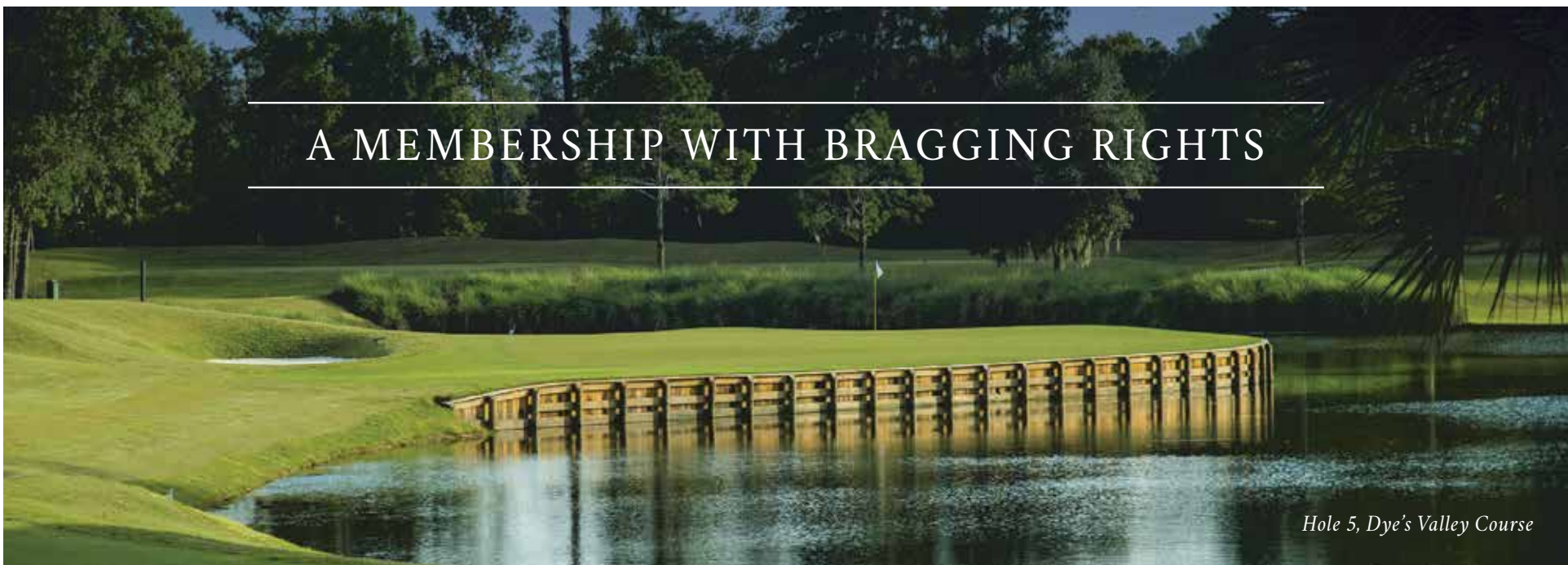
Luau

Continued from 7

Tickets can be purchased online at bit.ly/LemonBarLuau or at the Beaches Resource Center. The cost is \$35 per person in advance and \$40 per person at the door. Small business and corporate sponsorships are available from \$250 to \$5,000. Restaurant owners interested in food sponsorship can email Laura Acker at Lauraa@uwnetf.org

for more information or call her at (904) 270-8200.

The Beaches Resource Center is one of seven Full Service School locations. Full Service Schools of Jacksonville is a neighborhood-based collaboration designed to remove non-academic barriers from a child's success in school. All services are free and include behavioral help for children, individual/family counseling, mentoring, parenting help, case management and substance abuse counseling.



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Ocean Palms Elementary recently exceeded its goal of collecting 1,000 food items by collecting 1,789 — a full day before the deadline. Donations benefit the St. Francis House, Migrant Workers in Armstrong and the Celebration Lutheran Food Pantry. School students celebrated the achievement by wearing a crazy/favorite hat on Friday, Sept. 8.

Photo courtesy of Pam Riley



LIFETIME OPPORTUNITIES.



FALL 2017 OPEN HOUSE DATES

**Lower School (PreK-5)
Open House for Parents**

Whitehurst Campus
October 5, 2017 at 9 a.m.
Whitehurst Campus
November 14, 2017 at 6 p.m.

**Lower School (PreK-5)
Open House for Parents**

Ponte Vedra Beach Campus
November 8, 2017 at 9 a.m.
Ponte Vedra Beach Campus
November 28, 2017 at 6 p.m.

**Middle School (6-8)
Open House for Parents**

Bartram Campus
November 7, 2017 at 9 a.m.
Bartram Campus
November 9, 2017 at 6 p.m.

**Upper School (9-12)
Open House for Parents**

San Jose Campus
October 6, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.*
San Jose Campus
November 10, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

*The October 6 Open House includes a "Bolles for a Day" experience for prospective Upper School parents and students. Please visit www.Bolles.org for additional "Bolles for a Day" dates.

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At Bolles, student potential is nourished by a superior curriculum and the most extensive program offerings in Northeast Florida for grades PreK to 12. Students here have access to extraordinary opportunities in a vibrant, global community of contributors who celebrate all beliefs and cultures.

We believe life's greatest achievement is to realize one's best possible self. This mindset drives every decision we make, and it's why we've earned an exemplary international reputation.

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For more information, to reserve your space at one of our many Open Houses or to schedule a tour, visit www.Bolles.org or call (904) 256-5030.

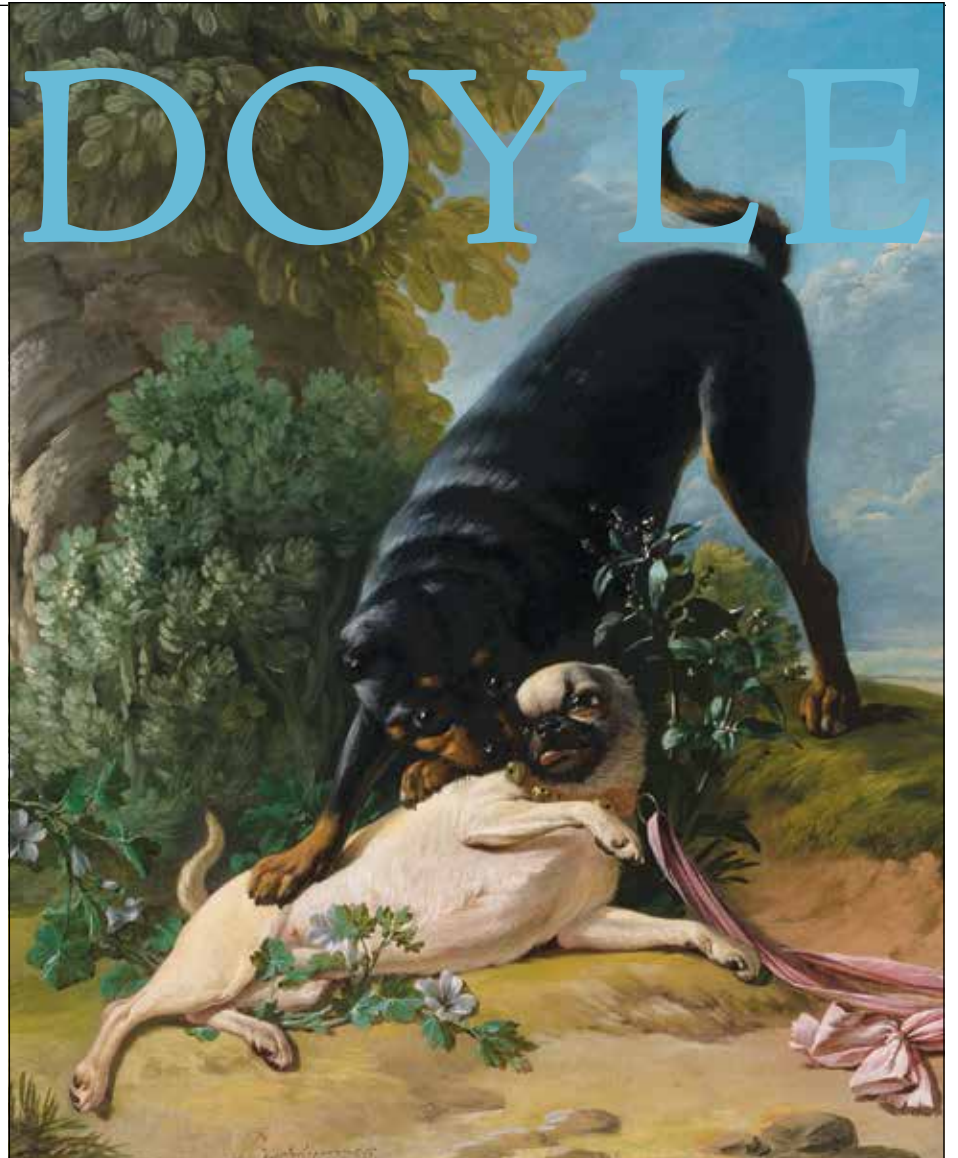
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School from PreK
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PV2-LV42573



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Burma (Myanmar) Sapphire Ring. Sold for \$275,000

The Collection of a Pratt Family Lady

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PV2-LV42584

Ponte Vedra Beach native completes Cadet Basic Training at West Point

Cadet Graham Paul Ungrady, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ungrady of Ponte Vedra Beach, completed Cadet Basic Training at the U.S. Military Academy in August.

Ungrady entered West Point July 3 and successfully completed six weeks of Cadet Basic Training. According to the academy, basic training is one of the most challenging events a cadet will encounter over the course of his or her four years there.



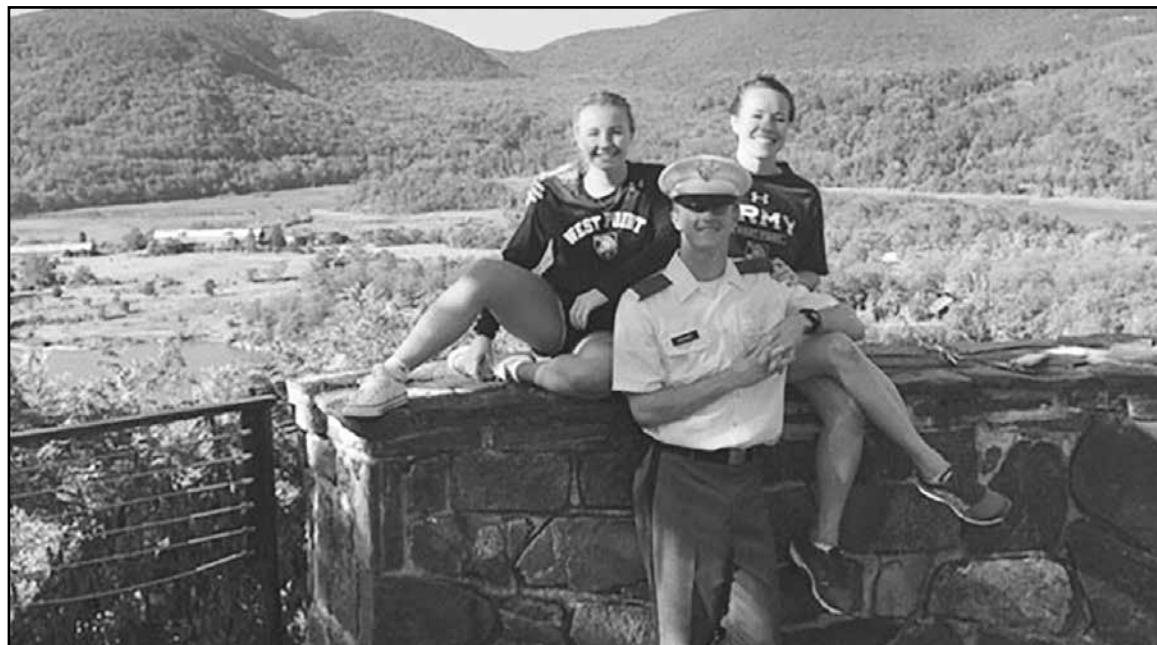
Graham Paul Ungrady

The initial military training program provides cadets with basic skills to build discipline, pride, cohesion, confidence and a high sense of duty to prepare them for entry into the Corps of Cadets. Areas of summer instruction included first aid, mountaineering, hand grenades, rifle marksmanship and nuclear, biological and

chemical training.

A graduate of the Bolles School, Ungrady began classes at West Point on Aug. 21. The West Point curriculum offers 37 majors balancing physical sciences and engineering with humanities and social sciences, leading to a Bachelor of Science degree.

Ungrady intends to graduate from West Point in 2021 and be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.



Cadet Ungrady poses with his sisters at West Point.

Photos courtesy of Ryan Ungrady



Miranda Van Zyl pets an adult male white rhino at Busch Gardens in Tampa.

Photos courtesy of Miranda Van Zyl

Ambassador Girl Scout works towards Gold Award by spreading awareness of endangered rhinos

An ambassador Girl Scout from Ponte Vedra who is currently working toward her Gold Award has created a social media awareness program that focuses on saving the remaining rhino population from poaching and ultimately extinction.

Miranda Van Zyl's passion for protecting rhinos developed after she watched a March 2017 news broadcast on the death of a 4-year-old white rhino at the hands of poachers in a French zoo. The incident shook Van Zyl and led her to establish the "USARhinoHero" awareness program.

Van Zyl has been actively promoting her awareness program on social media for the last four months, regularly posting rhino facts, educational articles and updates on poaching incidents. She has also visited many zoos with rhino exhibits as part of her research for the Gold Award, which is the highest award a girl scout can achieve.

"These one-on-one interactions have been a one-of-a-kind experience, and have taught me so much," said Van Zyl.

According to the Girl Scout, rhinos are being poached at high rates across the world for their horns, which could force



Miranda Van Zyl (right) meets a rhino keeper at the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa.

the entire species into extinction within the next decade.

"Rhinos are being poached throughout Africa and Asia at an estimated rate of 10-15 rhinos every day," noted Van Zyl. "Statistics are inaccurate because not all African nations report poaching figures, because of the negative impact that this type of publicity may have on their local tourism."

To learn more about Van Zyl's campaign, search for USARhinoHero on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

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OCTOBER 19TH & 20TH 2017



CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN GALA

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Florida Blue Conference Center

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The Francis & Miranda Childress Foundation

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PV2-LV42657

More than \$2 million pledged to local Hurricane Irma relief efforts

Initial \$200,000 in grants awarded to Red Cross and Salvation Army

Over \$2 million has been pledged to Florida's First Coast Relief Fund to support immediate and long-term relief and recovery efforts following Hurricane Irma.

Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry announced the pledges at a Sept. 13 press conference at the Legends Center. The Jacksonville Jaguars, several philanthropic organizations and local corporations have contributed the funds.

"Jacksonville and Northeast Florida have been through a lot in the last 72 hours," said Curry at the press conference. "However, it's been inspiring to see how the people of this community come together in times of crisis. Florida's First Coast Relief Fund is a clear example of the generosity and volunteerism displayed by the people of this city."

Created in 2016 to aid with Hurricane Matthew relief and to establish a permanent disaster relief fund, Florida's First Coast Relief Fund is a strategic collabora-

tion created by United Way of Northeast Florida, United Way of St. Johns County, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund and the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville.

"This collaboration of partners is a great example of the important role of the philanthropic and nonprofit sector in our community, which is the backbone of so many critical services," said Sherry Magill, president of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund.

Major funders who have committed to the relief fund for Irma include:

- Jacksonville Jaguars: \$1 million
- Jessie Ball duPont Fund: \$250,000, plus a \$250,000 matching grant
- Mayo Clinic of Jacksonville: \$500,000 for Irma relief efforts with \$250,000 to the fund
- Lucy Gooding Charitable Trust: \$200,000
- Florida Blue: \$1 million for statewide support with at least \$100,000 to this fund
- Additionally, Wells Fargo, JP Morgan Chase, Baptist Health, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and United Way of Northeast Florida have all made commitments to the fund totaling more than \$300,000.

"Bringing individual donors, corporations and major philanthropies together is a great benefit for the community, because it efficiently focuses energy and efforts," said Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

Two emergency grants of \$100,000 each will be made to the American Red Cross Northeast Florida Chapter and The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida to help the organizations respond to the region's needs following Hurricane Irma.

"These grants represent our immediate initial response," said Michelle Braun, president and CEO of United Way of Northeast Florida, which is acting as the fiscal agent for the relief fund. "Together with our partners, we are addressing urgent needs and will be distributing the funds quickly to where they are most needed."

Florida's First Coast Relief Fund will make grants only to organizations helping individuals impacted by natural disasters in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties. The fund will provide resources to meet needs not met by government programs.

In 2016, donors contributed more than \$652,000 to the relief fund in response to

Hurricane Matthew; 16 local organizations providing relief services received grants totaling nearly \$500,000, leaving a balance in the relief fund of more than \$150,000 for future relief efforts. Those dollars are immediately available to help with response to Hurricane Irma, Braun said. Any unspent funds will remain in the fund to maintain a permanent disaster relief fund for Northeast Florida, and 100 percent of all gifts benefit the relief effort.

All distributions from the relief fund will be overseen by a committee comprised of representatives of United Way of Northeast Florida, United Way of St. Johns County, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville, the City of Jacksonville and other funders.

The fund also provides a vehicle for individual donors to contribute to disaster relief and recovery efforts, maximizing their contributions through matching funds from major philanthropies. Donations are now being accepted.

For more information on Florida's First Coast Relief Fund, visit www.unitedwaynefl.org/relieffund.

Former UNF director of coastal biology to present 'Adapting to a Rising Ocean' at Oceanwise 2017

Dr. Courtney Hackney, the former director of coastal biology at the University of North Florida, will serve as keynote speaker for the Sept. 30 Oceanwise 2017 event at the GTM Research Reserve Environmental Education Center, where he will deliver a presentation entitled "Adapting to a Rising Ocean."

The Ponte Vedra Beach-based event will also feature sustainable seafood and other locally-sourced dishes, fine wine and beer from local fine restaurants, a silent auction, entertainment and a view of the sun setting over the Guana River.

"Money raised from this event helps to fund ecological education programs for local youth, research by local and visiting scientists and stewardship of the reserve's landscape," said Ellen Leroy-Reed, executive director of Friends of the GTM Reserve. "We are delighted Dr. Hackney agreed to be our keynote. In the past, he has partnered many UNF researchers on projects with the reserve, and he will have a lot to share."

Hackney was awarded emeritus status following his retirement from the University of North Florida. During his career, he published over 60 scientific papers and books on tidal marsh ecosystems or wetlands and a variety of subjects. Hackney is a past president of the Society of Wetland Scientists. He was also appointed to the North Carolina Coastal Resources Council by three North Carolina governors, and he received two appointments by President George W. Bush on the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB), during and after Hurricane Katrina.

This is the eighth annual Oceanwise benefit to be held at the GTM Research Reserve's Environmental Education Center, located at 505 Guana River Road. Tickets cost \$50 per person and can be purchased online at www.gtmnerr.org. Those interested in sponsoring the fundraiser can contact Ellen Leroy-Reed at GTM_Friends@gtmnerr.org or call (904) 823-4527.

Friends of the GTM Reserve and Audubon Society partner on Guana water quality project

The Friends of the GTM Reserve recently partnered with St. Johns County Audubon Society and Audubon Florida to fund the Guana water quality project being conducted by the Northeast Florida Aquatic Preserves and the GTM Research Reserve research team.

This project will allow the Guana River Marsh Aquatic Preserve and the GTM Research Reserve to take water quality samples for one year to create a baseline for water quality assessment.

"We are very excited about partnering with Audubon Florida and St. Johns County Audubon to study our precious Guana Lake and Guana River," said Ellen Leroy-Reed, executive director of Friends of the GTM Reserve. "Audubon's mission to protect land, water, and wildlife aligns with GTM's expertise in science-based

monitoring and research, so the partnership makes sense."

Guana Lake and Guana River are within both state Aquatic Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve designations intended to protect the health of Guana waters for long-term recreational enjoyment, commercial fishing and oyster harvesting, research and education. There has been limited water quality testing in Guana Lake, which was created in 1957 after the construction of a dam intended to improve hunting and fishing.

A recent short-term study conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration flagged Guana Lake as a potential problem area due to sediment contaminants, bacteria concentrations and overall habitat quality.

K9s For Warriors partners with NFL star Tyler Eifert to create awareness for veteran PTSD

K9s For Warriors, the nation's largest provider of service dogs for American veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), recently announced a partnership with Cincinnati Bengals tight end Tyler Eifert through the athlete's "Why I Stand Campaign."

Eifert revealed in a blog post his reasons for commencing the campaign and his desire to support K9s For Warriors, a nonprofit organization based in Ponte Vedra Beach.

To create awareness for veteran PTSD and pay homage to those who have served, Eifert will write the name of a veteran on his cleats for each game during the 2017 NFL season. Featured names will be active or retired military members, including K9s For Warriors graduates. Pat Tillman was the name Eifert chose during the Bengals opener against the Ravens.

"I want to take this time to remind everyone why I stand," Eifert said. "I stand because I love my country. I stand because I want to honor the people putting their lives on the line for me on a daily basis. PTSD is a serious issue and something that sadly results in suicide for many veterans when not treated correctly. By meeting and talking with the leaders from K9s For Warriors, they informed me they worry doctors are masking the issues of PTSD by just giving these individuals pills. K9s For Warriors believes more than anything that highly trained service dogs is the right answer."

K9s For Warriors was established in 2011, by a mother, Shari Duval, looking to find a way to incorporate canines into her own son's PTSD recovery. Duval's son, Brett Simon, completed two tours in Iraq as a contractor handling bomb-sniffing dogs before being diagnosed. Duval presented the idea of opening a service dog organization that specialized in veteran PTSD to Simon. The mother-son pair started K9s For Warriors out of a two-bedroom home. Today, the charity operates out of a state-of-the-art, 9-acre property in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The nonprofit has been instrumental in the recovery of hundreds of disabled veterans and successful at preventing



Photo courtesy of K9s for Warriors

Bengals tight end Tyler Eifert will wear cleats bearing the name of a military veteran during each game of the 2017 season.

veteran suicide. Rory Diamond, the organization's chief executive officer, lobbies on Capitol Hill to gain support for the PAWS Act and has also facilitated a major research project in collaboration with Purdue University to provide evidence that service dogs are a viable PTSD treatment option.

"The empirical evidence of the efficacy of service dogs in treating the symptoms of PTSD is clear and overwhelming," Diamond said. "Veteran suicide is an epidemic, so the time for action is now. We need the support of lawmakers and our communities to help our heroes heal."

K9s For Warriors utilizes rescue and shelter dogs, saving the time and money that would be required for a full-blown puppy breeding program. The veteran receives a fully-trained, healthy service canine that was saved from a high-kill shelter. 82 percent of K9 For Warriors graduates report a decrease in suicidal thoughts after receiving their service dogs.

For more information about K9s for Warriors, go to www.k9sforwarriors.org.

Proceeds from 'Toast to Life' to benefit local muscular dystrophy and ALS patients

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) of Jacksonville will host a "Toast to Life" event Friday, Oct. 6 to aid local children and adults with muscular dystrophy (MD), Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and related muscle-debilitating diseases.

This year's event will take place at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra Beach and will feature food, fun, live music by The Chris Thomas Band and an onsite silent auction for guests, sponsors and donors. All ticket sales, sponsorship proceeds and event donations will directly support local children with MD in financing the cost of summer camp attendance.

"Summer camp is the highlight of their year," said Elaine Ashourian, volunteer co-chair of the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Toast to Life - Jacksonville. "Through the involvement of 440 attendees at last year's event, we were able to successfully raise \$340,000. Our goal is to raise even more this year."

In addition, the funds raised by Toast to Life will help support the medical efforts of Mayo Clinic and UF Health in treating patients with MD, as well as ALS.

"Their fight is our fight," said MDA of Jacksonville Director of Business Development Christina Warmouth. "Together, we can succeed in fighting for a cure and achieving a better quality of life for children in our community living with muscular dystrophy."

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available at mdatoasttolifejax.org/sponsor-tickets. General donations can also be contributed to mdatoasttolifejax.org/donations.

Alpha-Omega Miracle Home to hold 17th annual Changing Lives fundraising banquet Sept. 28



Photo courtesy of Alpha-Omega Miracle Home
Danny Wuerffel

Former Florida Gators QB Danny Wuerffel to serve as guest speaker

Alpha-Omega Miracle Home (AOMH) will hold its 17th annual Changing Lives fundraising banquet Thursday, Sept. 28 at Anastasia Baptist Church in St. Augustine.

To be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m., the event will feature former University of Florida and professional quarterback Danny Wuerffel as the guest speaker.

Wuerffel is currently the executive

director of Desire Street Ministries, an Atlanta-based nonprofit organization that revitalizes impoverished neighborhoods through spiritual and community development. While playing for the Gators, he led Florida to four SEC Championships and the university's first National Championship title. He won the 1996 Heisman Trophy and the William V Campbell Award, while also setting 17 NCAA and University of Florida records.

Wuerffel played for the New Orleans Saints, Green Bay Packers, Chicago Bears and Washington Redskins in the NFL. He also played in the NFL's European League, where he won a World

Bowl Championship and was selected as the league's MVP by the European media.

According to AOMH, Wuerffel will use his life experiences playing football and serving in the inner city to inspire the banquet's attendees to live for something bigger than themselves.

The AOMH event will also feature remarks from former AOMH residents and the organization's founder, Lisa Franklin, as well as a live auction and dinner catered by Carrabba's. Dress is business casual. For more information or to register, call 904-823-8588 or visit <http://www.aomh.org/>.

Daniel Kids receives donations from Valmark Global Gift Fund, Fulcrum Partners LLC to aid kids in need

Daniel Kids recently received a \$7,300 grant from Valmark Global Gift Fund that was matched by Ponte Vedra-based executive benefits advisory Fulcrum Partners LLC. The \$14,600 in donations will support Daniel Kids in serving thousands of abandoned, abused and neglected children.

Fulcrum Partners is a long-time donor

to Daniel Kids that linked the nonprofit with the Valmark Global Gift Fund, a shared initiative of Valmark Financial Group and its member firms. The Valmark Global Gift Fund has contributed nearly \$3 million to more than 100 charities since 2003.

Bruce Brownell, managing director at Fulcrum Partners, said Daniel Kids pro-

vides a crucial service to the community.

“Daniel Kids is a fixture in Northeast Florida that Fulcrum Partners is proud to support,” Brownell said. “I have always been impressed by the work that they do and their unflinching commitment to local children in need.”

Jim Clark, president and CEO of Daniel Kids, said he deeply values the support of

Fulcrum Partners and Valmark Global Gift Fund.

“We are so grateful to have organizations – both local and national – that recognize the importance of our mission,” Clark said. “With the help of these stellar organizations, we can continue to assist about 2,000 children and families every day.”

First Coast Heart Walk rescheduled for Nov. 19

In consideration of the ongoing Hurricane Irma recovery efforts in the Greater Jacksonville community, the American Heart Association announced last week that the First Coast Heart Walk – originally scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 16 – has been rescheduled for Sunday, Nov. 19.

Although the date has changed, the Heart Walk will still take place at Metropolitan Park at 1410 Gator Bowl Drive in Jacksonville as planned. Activities will

begin at 8 a.m., and the walk will begin at 9:30 a.m.

The American Heart Association reinforced its commitment to the fight against cardiovascular diseases and stroke, and encouraged Heart Walk participants to join local relief efforts and help one another through this difficult time.

For a list of local resources for dealing with the mental and medical impacts of Hurricane Irma, visit www.heart.org/hurricanesresources.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida to host Margarita J'Ville event in honor of former CEO

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida (BBBSNEFL) will host a Margarita J'Ville fundraiser event Sept. 29 at One Ocean Resort & Spa to honor its recently retired CEO, Warren Grymes.

Inspired by Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville, Margarita J'Ville will feature free flowing margaritas and signature drinks, shopping, island-inspired cuisine, a live band and live/silent auctions. The event

starts at 6 p.m. and tickets cost \$100 per person.

Global Diamonds will serve as the official Diamond Drop raffle host, offering a diamond jewelry piece with a value of at least \$5,000. Committed event sponsors include the Jaguars Foundation and Community First Credit Union.

BIG continues on **Page 19**



OCTOBER 15

12 P.M. – 5 P.M.

NOCATEE EVENT FIELD

TICKETS ARE \$5
FOR AGES 5 AND UP

Bring your family and friends to enjoy food, music and fall activities while raising money for a great cause. There's something for everyone:

- Chili contest with professional, amateur and kids categories
- Kids Zone with emergency vehicles to explore, bounces houses & costume contest
- Football area with big screen TVs

Proceeds benefit the abused, abandoned and emotionally troubled children served by Daniel Kids.

Purchase tickets and learn more at

DANIELKIDS.ORG

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Big

Continued from 18

Grymes retired from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida on June 30 after 13 years of service. In 2004, he created and hosted the Margarita J'Ville fundraiser event to financially strengthen and sustain the organization, which was struggling to keep its doors open at the

time. The number of program youth being served annually grew from 350 to nearly 1,200 students under Grymes' leadership.

All money raised during Margarita J'Ville will support the youth mentoring programs of BBBSNEFL. The fundraiser will take place at One Ocean Resort & Spa located at 1 Ocean Blvd., Atlantic Beach. For more information, visit www.bbbsnefl.org or call (904) 727-9797.

in the pink

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Learn to paddle with the Jacksonville Dragon Boat Club. This is a sport families can participate in together!

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Join us in celebrating
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L'Arche Jacksonville is a faith-filled residential community for adults with intellectual disabilities and the caring assistants who choose to live with them as family.



PV2-LV42592

Capital Grille to present fundraising luncheon Sept. 30 benefitting Volunteers in Medicine

The Capital Grille is hosting a fundraising luncheon Sept. 30 named “The Capital Affair” to benefit Volunteers in Medicine.

Thanks to Brooks Brothers, Erin Healy Designs and Cabi, guests will enjoy a firsthand experience of finery and fashion for this fall with a special, informal fashion show and program emceed by WJXT morning news anchor Joy Purdy. In addition to a special meal, guests will also enjoy complimentary sparkling rosé and prosecco provided by event sponsor Bacardi and a choice of one of The Capital Grille’s crafted cocktails, including its signature “StoliDoli.”

“We are thrilled to host this exceptional event and to support Volunteers in Medicine in their mission to provide healthcare services and programs for our vulnerable, working, uninsured individuals and families,” said Dan Skweres, managing partner of The Capital Grille. “Brandy



The Capital Grille Executive Chef Jared Gilbert, Sales Manager Brandy Robertson and Managing Partner Dan Skweres

Robertson, our sales manager, and our Executive Chef Jared Gilbert have pulled out all the

stops to create the ultimate Capital Grille experience while helping raise funds for such a

worthwhile organization.”

In addition, guests will have the opportunity to participate

in a silent auction featuring gift baskets and one-of-a-kind experiences, including the chance to bid on one of Brooks Brothers’ suits and much more. Other event partners include Arlington Toyota, Beard’s Jewelry and more.

Event tickets and proceeds will directly benefit patient services and programs provided by Volunteers in Medicine, a volunteer-driven, full-service clinic providing free primary and specialty medical care to Northeast Floridians who are vulnerable, working or uninsured. Several sponsorships are available for purchase ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Tables start at \$500, and individual tickets can be purchased for \$150. The event will host no more than 120 guests.

For sponsorship or ticket information, contact Cindy Stoddart Cooper at ccooper@vim-jax.org or call (904) 254-5075.

New research links Girl Scouts to leadership, success



Girl Scouts fine-tune their archery skills.

Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts of Gateway Council

Gateway Council announces Girl Scout programming

With the school year underway and with many families deciding on extracurricular activities for their children, a new study shows there has never been a better time to join Girl Scouts.

A recent report from the Girl Scout Research Institute, “The Girl Scout Impact Study,” suggests that participating in Girl Scouts helps girls develop key leadership skills they need to be successful in life. According to the report, when compared to their peers, Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to have confidence in themselves and their abilities (80 percent vs. 68 percent); act ethically and responsibly and show concern for others (75 percent vs. 59 percent); seek challenges and learn from setbacks (62 percent vs. 42 percent); develop and maintain healthy relationships (60 percent vs. 43 percent); identify and solve problems in their communities (57 percent vs. 28 percent) and take an active role in decision-making (80 percent vs. 51 percent).

“Girl Scouts is a place where every go-getter, innovator, risk-taker and leader can find the space, tools and support she needs

to consistently transform her ideas into actions, turn her questions into adventures and grow a lifetime of confidence,” Gateway Council CEO Mary Anne Jacobs said. “Girl Scouts learn to face challenges head on, embrace failure as a learning opportunity and create lasting relationships – all while building a lifetime of leadership skills they need to empower themselves and change the world in both big and small ways.”

Gateway Council offers programming designed to build girls’ skills and encourage their interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and environmental conservation from an early age, and in an all-girl environment. For example, “Visual Astronomy - Moon Girls,” will take place Friday, Oct. 27 to teach girls in fourth grade and up about the moon and constellations and how to use a telescope. They can also have the experience of “flying” over the moon’s surface like an astronaut.

“Programming like this is what sets Girl Scouting apart,” Jacobs said. “Through Girl Scouting, girls participate in one-of-a-kind programs that feature all sorts of fun and challenging activities. This isn’t your ordinary extracurricular activity. Join us today.”

For more information about Girl Scouts and how to join or volunteer, visit www.girlscouts-gateway.org.

Bon Iver to perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Nov. 10

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre, in partnership with JaxLive and Foundation Presents, will welcome GRAMMY Award-winning indie singer-songwriter Bon Iver and special guest Aero Flynn to the stage Friday, Nov. 10, 2017. This date will be Bon Iver's only Florida appearance.

Bon Iver (Justin Vernon) is a singer-songwriter from Wisconsin whose indie folk music has made him an award-winning critical and commercial success. Bon Iver's debut album "For Emma, Forever Ago," became one of the landmark albums of the late-2000s indie folk sound. Further albums refining and shifting their sound bolstered Bon Iver's popularity and widened the band's fan base. Bon Iver's latest release, "22, A

Million" was released in August of 2016 on Jagjaguwar.

The 10 songs of "22, A Million" are a collection of sacred moments, love's torment and salvation, contexts of intense memories and signs that you can pin meaning onto or disregard as coincidence. If "Bon Iver, Bon Iver" (the follow up to "For Emma, Forever Ago," released in 2011) built a habitat rooted in physical spaces, then "22, A Million" is the letting go of that attachment to a place.

Tickets for Bon Iver and special guest Aero Flynn are now on sale at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Box Offices. Tickets can also be purchased at www.ticketmaster.com, all TicketMaster outlets or by calling (800) 745-3000.

Fall 2017 St. Augustine Record Fair to be held Nov. 5

The Fall 2017 St. Augustine Record Fair, presented by local record store ToneVendor and the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, will be held Sunday, Nov. 5 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. The biannual fair is a free, family-friendly event and is open to the public.

Music lovers and collectors are invited to the event to shop thousands of music-related items, including new and used vinyl records, CDs, cassettes, posters, turntable equipment and supplies, memorabilia, collectibles and more. This year, more than 30 music vendors from across the Southeast United States will be on-site, offering shoppers the chance to choose from nearly every type of musical genre to grow their collection.

DJ sets by Ancient Deep will take place throughout the day, and food and beverages will be available for purchase from several food trucks as well as the Amphitheatre concessions. Fun activities for the entire family will include a jump rope-making booth hosted by St. Augustine Makers Fest, arts and crafts hosted by the St. Johns

County Public Library System's Anastasia Island Branch, face painting and more. The OneBlood Bus will also be on-site, and patrons who donate blood will be entered to win free concert tickets.

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is owned and operated by the St. Johns County Cultural Events Division, under the leadership of Director Ryan Murphy. Upcoming events for the 2017 season include UB40, Jack Johnson, Bon Iver, Lindsey Stirling, Roger Daltrey and more. For more information and a complete concert lineup, visit www.staugamphitheatre.com.

Symphony at Daily's Place to premiere with Harry Potter Film Concert Series event Oct. 14

Jacksonville Symphony at Daily's Place will premiere a four-concert series on Oct. 14 with "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" from the Harry Potter

Film Concert Series, with orchestra. Audiences will be able to relive the magic of the film in high definition while hearing the symphony perform John Williams' unforgettable score live to picture.

Tickets are available at www1.ticketmaster.com/event/2200531FA2139B3F and start at \$28.50, which includes the facility management fee and parking, but not Ticketmaster fees.

Other dates secured for symphony events at Daily's Place are March 10, 2018, April 21, 2018 and May 12, 2018. Concert information for those performances will be announced later.

"We are excited to be part of Jacksonville's newest entertainment venues," said Robert Massey, president and CEO of the Jacksonville Symphony. "What better way to introduce fans to the Symphony than Daily's Place and the Harry Potter Film Concert Series."

CineConcerts and Warner Bros. Consumer Products announced the Harry Potter Film Concert Series, a new global concert tour celebrating the Harry Potter films, early last year. The Harry Potter Film Concert that kicked off in June 2016 is another magical



experience from J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World and is scheduled to include hundreds of performances across more than 35 countries around the world through 2018.

Justin Freer, president of CineConcerts and producer/conductor of the Harry Potter Film Concert Series, said the Harry Potter film series is a once-in-a-lifetime cultural phenomenon that continues to delight millions of fans around the world.

"It is with great pleasure that we introduce for the first time ever an opportunity to experience the award-winning music scores played live by a symphony orchestra, all while the beloved film is simultaneously projected onto the big screen," he said. "It will be an unforgettable event."

The Jacksonville Symphony is Northeast Florida's leading music nonprofit, offering live performances at Jacoby Hall in the Times-Union Center for Performing Arts and other venues throughout the area. In addition, the Symphony provides music instruction for youth and operates the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras.

For more information about the symphony, visit jaxsymphony.org, like them at www.facebook.com/JaxSymphony, follow them on Twitter @jaxsymphony, on Instagram at JaxSymphony and on YouTube at Jacksonville Symphony.



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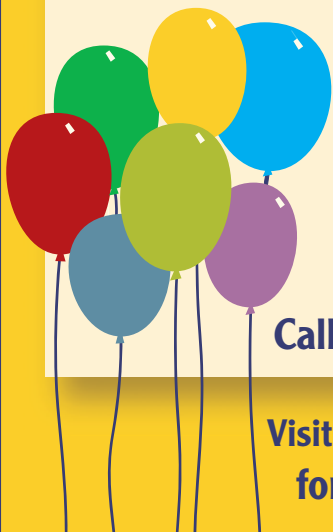
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Jacksonville Symphony to perform with Mambo Kings to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month

The Jacksonville Symphony will celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with Mambo Kings in concert on Sept. 22, 23 and 24 in Jacoby Symphony Hall at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

Conducted by Nathan Aspinall, the Jacksonville Symphony will perform with the Afro-Cuban group, which has been together since 1995, and are one of the world's foremost Latin jazz ensembles. The group has earned a national reputation for its blend of Afro-Cuban rhythms and jazz improvisation. Mambo Kings made its orchestral premiere in 1997 with the

Rochester Philharmonic and has since appeared in festivals and pop concerts across the country.

Afro-Cuban jazz first emerged in the early 1940s. Its true birth is often credited to trumpeter-arranger Mario Bauza who headed a band in New York. When Bauza introduced fellow trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie to famed Cuban percussionist Chano Pozo, a match was made that would change the course of the musical genre. With the introduction of bongos and congas, Afro-Cuban jazz hit the East Coast Jazz scene in the U.S. The program features different types of Afro-Cuban

Jazz including the popular dance types of Mambo, Milonga and Danzón.

This season, the Jacksonville Symphony is conducting an extensive search to find a new concertmaster. The process will bring in eight candidates to perform with the symphony throughout the course of the season. For this concert, Nigel Armstrong will take the stage with Conductor Aspinall and the Symphony. Armstrong is an up-and-coming solo violinist who has experience serving as concertmaster.

The Sept. 22 and Sept. 23 concerts will be at 8 p.m. The Sept. 24 concert is at 3 p.m.

National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

"As part of the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, we are delighted to participate in this celebration," said Robert Massey, president and chief executive officer of the Jacksonville Symphony.

Tickets are available at JaxSymphony.org, by calling the Ticket Office at (904) 354-5547 or by visiting the Times-Union Center Ticket Office, Monday-Friday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

'The Addams Family' to be Alhambra's fall feature

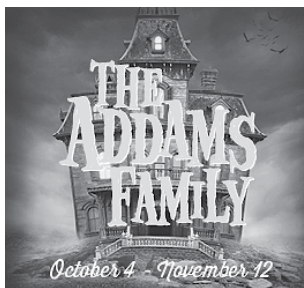
With Halloween fast approaching, the Alhambra Theatre & Dining will embrace the spooky spirit of the holiday by presenting Broadway's "The Addams Family" musical.

Alhambra guests will enjoy the crazy upside-down world of the Addams Family, where to be sad is happy, to feel pain is joy and death and suffering are what their dreams are made of. Comedy ensues when the Addams' dark, beloved daughter Wednesday falls in love with Lucas, an ordinary boy who knows nothing of her strange family.

Originally a 1940s cartoon created by Charles Addams, the evolution of those who became known as "The Addams Family" eventually landed them on television, film and Broadway. When the musical opened on Broadway in 2010, it starred Nathan Lane as Gomez Addams and Bebe Neuwirth as his wife, Morticia. The Broadway show ran for 21 months, giving more than 700 performances and grossing more than \$60 million. The show later opened in London before launching into U.S. and European tours in 2011.

Patterned after the Broadway show, the Alhambra version will feature more than 20 original songs. The cast will feature two actors who were on the U.S. national tour, including Shaun Rice as Uncle Fester and Jake Delaney, who plays one of the Addams' ancestors. Additionally, Carlos Lopez, who plays Gomez, appeared in a host of Broadway shows; Stacey Harris, who plays Morticia, was in Broadway's "Bells Are Ringing" and Evan Gray, who will play Pugsley Addams, just closed the U.S. national tour of "Matilda."

"This cast is one of the most decorated



ensembles we've had on our stage," Alhambra Managing Partner Craig Smith said. "It is a perfect Halloween tale as we journey through our 50th anniversary season. This show represents well our theme of '50 Years of Memories.' Chef DeJuan is really taking advantage of the show's creativity

for the menu, and I know our guests will be thrilled with its diversity."

"The Addams Family" will run at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining from Oct. 4 through Nov. 12, 2017. Tickets start at \$35, which includes dinner, the show and parking. For additional information, call the box office at (904) 641-1212 or visit www.alhambrajax.com.

SHORT TAKES

Moonlight Movies – 'The Secret Life of Pets'

Moonlight Movies is a Jacksonville beach event for the whole family. Visitors can bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy this month's movie, "The Secret Life of Pets," which will be shown at the SeaWalk Pavilion Sept. 29 at 9 p.m. Vendors will provide popcorn, candy and beverages.

Understanding the Civil War meeting

The "Understanding the Civil War" discussion group will hold its monthly meeting Oct. 3 at the Anastasia Island Branch Public Library located in the Seagrove Subdivision on A1A S. The session is scheduled for 1 p.m., and the topic will be "The Battle of Franklin – Nov. 30, 1864." This discussion group is open to the public; for more information e-mail Charlie Smith at smithc32@bellsouth.net.

First Coast Card Club

The First Coast Card Club will meet throughout the month of October at various loca-

tions in the Ponte Vedra / St. Augustine area. Join the group at the St. Augustine Main Library Oct. 3 at 1:30 p.m.; for lunch Oct. 14 (contact club to attend) in St. Augustine; Oct. 17 at the St. Augustine Main Library at 1:30 p.m.; Oct. 18 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library at 1:30 p.m.; Oct. 25 at the Clayhill Branch Library at 1:30 p.m. and Oct. 16 at the Anastasia Island Library at noon. For more information on how to join this community of card players, call Lea at (904) 829-0643.

Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida

The St. Augustine/Jacksonville Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida will hold the following events in October. Boat Ride/Bartram Trail will take place Oct. 1 at 1 p.m.; Trivia Evening is scheduled for Oct. 9 at 6 p.m.; a hike/walk in Mandarin will take place Oct. 24 and the annual Oktoberfest event will take place Oct. 29. Contact Lea at (904) 829-0643 for more information on venues, days, times and how to RSVP.



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Photo courtesy of Jennifer Anderson

Annaliese Anderson, 5, expresses her feelings about Hurricane Irma through art.

Palm Valley residents: Irma was 'way more serious' than expected

By Samantha Logue

"It was like our house was an island in the Intracoastal."

That was how Palm Valley residents Greg and Jennifer Anderson described the impacts of Hurricane Irma on their home after the storm battered Florida last week.

Irma – which many believed would be a greater concern for Florida's Gulf Coast – shocked the Greater Jacksonville area with widespread, record-setting damage.

"The storm came in, and I went out and did a check at about 3 a.m. on Monday morning, and all of a sudden, the water was lapping on our back-porch steps," Jennifer Anderson said.

Along Roscoe Boulevard in Ponte Vedra Beach, where the Andersons live, many residents woke up that day to find their homes in a similar situation. Damage was extensive along that street, which backs up to the Intracoastal Waterway, and ranged

from heavy flooding to uprooted trees, downed power lines and scattered debris.

After having experienced little impact from Hurricane Matthew last year, the Andersons were among those locally who believed that their property would escape the wrath of Irma.

"Matthew, last year, they were talking about the storm surge – especially on the Intracoastal – of 10 feet, so we booked it out of town because we have little ones," Jennifer Anderson said. "With the kids and pets, we didn't want to stay in town last year, but then it ended up being a non-event, so this year, when they said 1 to 2 feet, we were going, 'Okay, big deal.'"

Unfortunately for the family, the storm would end up being a big deal, indeed. After going into the weekend with multiple generators at the ready, the Andersons lost power more than a day before the hurricane

RESIDENTS continues on Page 26

Irma impacts Asian vegetable acreage, delays Cole crops planting in St. Johns County

Winter Melon, also known as ash gourd, is one of the crops included in the nearly 200 acres of Asian vegetables in St. Johns County that were damaged because of the high winds and inundating rainfall brought to the area by Hurricane Irma. According to UF/IFAS Extension of St. Johns County, one of the largest impacts for agriculture will be for cabbage, broccoli and brussels sprouts growers who will have to delay planting by one to two weeks during the peak fall growing window because of waterlogged soils. Small acreages of field corn and sweet potatoes were also impacted.



Photo by Dr. Bonnie C. Wells, Commercial Agriculture Agent, UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County



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UNF ocean engineering professor calls Irma a monster with an 'amazing amount of power'

By Benjamin Naim

Dr. Don Resio, a professor at the University of North Florida in ocean engineering and a meteorological expert, said in a Sept. 18 interview with the Recorder that Hurricane Irma had an “amazing amount of power” that would have made Hurricane Andrew look like a mere thunderstorm had it directly impacted Miami.

“In terms of tornados, it’s up there with an EF4 tornado, and those are immensely destructive at a local scale,” Resio said. “But the size of this put it as an amazing amount of power. There’s sort of a power rating of a hurricane that’s energy over time, and this is off the charts on it.”

Resio explained that several factors enabled the storm to produce 185 mph winds for a record-breaking 37 hours. One element that led to Irma’s rapid intensification and persistent strength, Resio said, is the fact it did not interact with



Photo courtesy of UNF
Dr. Don Resio

significant land masses for a considerable amount of time, and the islands weren’t large enough to weaken it.

“A lot of the islands seem big, but they’re small compared to the hurricane,” he noted. “They don’t have major mountain chains or anything like Puerto Rico does.”

Resio asserted that a lack of windshear in the atmosphere also allowed Irma to remain powerful. Windshear can swiftly weaken hurricanes by removing heat from the circulation.

“It’s somewhat interesting because it takes the heat from the surface from water evaporating and going upward,” he said. “Then it releases the heat aloft

by the condensation and if it’s not being interfered with, it actually has a feedback mechanism of sorts.”

The UNF professor said this mechanism works as winds strengthen, and the storm feeds on warm water until it hits a ceiling.

“And that limit tends to be in the range that Irma was in,” he added.

Dr. Resio explained that Hurricane Andrew, a Category 5 storm that struck Florida in 1992, was dwarfed by Irma in terms of size because Irma’s persistence enabled it to grow larger than average, and then it “just never got smaller.”

“At that point, once you get something going, it can increase its size some but in order to do that you have to go through eyewall replacement cycle,” he said.

An eyewall replacement cycle (ERC) is a naturally-occurring process in which the inner eyewall of a major hurricane is replaced by an outer eyewall. An ERC

can temporarily weaken a storm before it strengthens again once the process is complete.

Resio attributed the eventual weakening of Irma to its interaction with Puerto Rico and Cuba rather than atmospheric conditions. The professor asserted that Irma could have been worse had it taken a different path.

“If it had gone the path they had once thought it was going to go, which was to turn a little bit earlier, it would’ve spent less time against Cuba,” Resio noted. “And that would’ve been a double effect because it would’ve both omitted, or done away with, the decay factor of interacting with Cuba, but it also would’ve given it a clear shot at the upper Keys and Miami.”

For more meteorological information on Irma, listen to the Recorder’s full interview with Dr. Resio online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com.

In my 50 years here, I haven’t seen the devastation of a [Hurricane] Katrina, but I would say that Irma has done more real damage than any hurricane I have ever seen in the time I have lived here.

Greg Anderson, longtime St. Johns County resident

Residents

Continued from 24

even approached Northeast Florida.

“It was way more serious than we expected,” Jennifer Anderson said. “The sad part was, we were supposed to be the escape house for our friends, because nobody else had generators. We set up beds for everybody, and they were all going to come to our house, and then as soon as the power went out and our big generator went out ... they all ended up having to change their plans.”

While a loss of electricity was a problem that the Andersons expected, they didn’t anticipate the flooding.

“The amount of damage that flooding does to a home in many ways is worse than fire, because it’s insidious; it gets everywhere,” Greg Anderson said. “It’s under your carpet, it can get into the tile, it’s in all the baseboards, it smells, you have mold issues and then you’ve got the problems afterward.”

The owners of AndersonGlenn LLP, a civil litigation firm with an office located in Ponte Vedra Beach, the Andersons said that their business was also damaged by the storm.

“We went over and visited our office at Marsh Landing, and the ceiling on one portion of our business had exploded down,” Jennifer Anderson said. “We had to go and clear that out and try to get our operations up and running again.”

According to Greg Anderson, who has



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Anderson

The storm surge from Hurricane Irma last week floods the Andersons’ yard on Roscoe Boulevard in Ponte Vedra Beach.

lived in St. Johns County for decades, Hurricane Irma was about as bad as it gets for the First Coast.

“In my 50 years here, I haven’t seen the devastation of a [Hurricane] Katrina, but I would say that Irma has done more real damage than any hurricane I have

ever seen in the time I have lived here,” he said. “It’s put more people at risk, and it’s caused more concern and anxiety than I remember in any other hurricane.”

Hurricane Irma, which at one point reached the strength of a Category 5 hurricane, was only a Category 1 storm

when it swept through Northeast Florida, yet it still left historic damage in its wake. After having experienced some of that damage firsthand, the Andersons said that the next time a major hurricane comes knocking, they won’t be sticking around.



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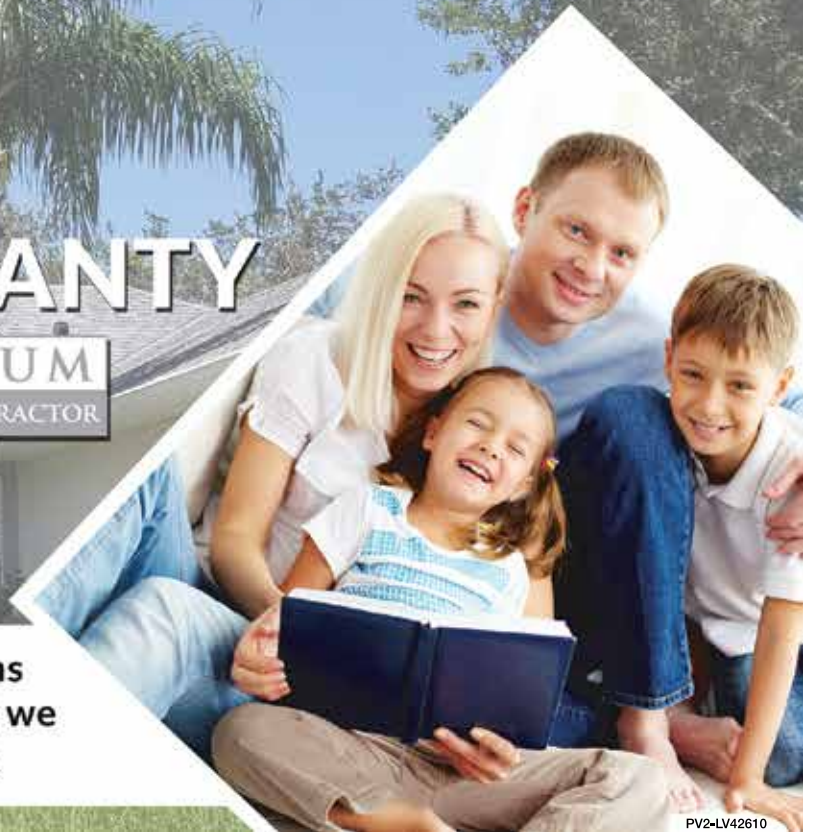
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Florida power companies reveal the challenges of restoration after Irma

By Benjamin Naim

As Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) and Florida Power & Light (FPL) engineers restore power to customers following Hurricane Irma, representatives from both companies revealed in exclusive interviews with the Recorder that restoration has been a challenging process.

JEA spokesperson Gerri Boyce, a longtime Florida resident, said she has “never seen anything” like the destruction left behind by Irma.

“I grew up here; I have never seen anything like this,” Boyce said. “The enormity of the trees down, and I’m not talking small trees but large trees and large groups of trees, and flooding. Places that normally don’t flood, we have seen severe flooding.”

Hurricane Irma, a monstrous storm that impacted a majority of the state last weekend, left hundreds of thousands of residents in the dark. According to representatives from both JEA and FPL, downed trees, damaged poles, flooding and debris have made power restoration a difficult task.

“All you have to do is look at the storm,” Boyce said. “There was quite a bit of rain, we had trees down and we had historic flooding. All you have to do is drive around JEA’s territory, which is Duval County, parts of St. Johns, Nassau and Clay and see the damage. In some areas, it looks like a war zone with all the trees down ... I would say high on the list during this storm would be the tree damage and the flooding.”

FPL’s Bill Orlove, who has worked as a spokesperson for the company for five years, said the potency of hurricanes like Irma can knock out power lines and essential equipment.

“The winds come through, hurricane or even tropical storm force winds,” he

said. “They blow debris into our lines, tree branches, sometimes trees, other debris. Those bring down not only power lines but also poles and other equipment that are essential to get power up and running.”

Boyce noted that JEA readied its crew members, contractors and mutual teams on the ground in Jacksonville prior to the storm. Each of the company’s 2,000 employees had an assignment in different areas, Boyce revealed, such as community outreach or customer care. As for FPL, Orlove stated that the company reinforced main power lines running through each of the 35 counties it covers.

“We determine what are the top tier critical infrastructure facilities that need to be up and running once the storm passes,” he said.

According to FPL’s St. Johns County fact sheet, the company has hardened 860 main power lines and 83,000 smart devices since 2006. However, despite the precautions taken by both FPL and JEA, Irma still induced widespread power outages throughout Florida.

Consequently, FPL’s spokesperson said he understands why some customers might get frustrated after a prolonged period in the dark.

“We understand how uncomfortable it is during these warm time periods to be without power,” Orlove said. “We know that its inconvenient for a couple of hours, let alone a couple of days. But certainly, Hurricane Irma was an intense storm that created damage and destruction throughout our service area, let alone throughout Florida, and we anticipated that it was going to take time to get everyone’s lights back on.

“We have an army of 21,500 men and women, not only from our staff, but throughout the country and Canada that are here restoring power as safely and quickly as possible,” he added.



Photo by Susan Griffin

First Coast thanks first responders in wake of Hurricane Irma

By Samantha Logue

As the Northeast Florida community continues to recover from the significant impacts of Hurricane Irma on the region, there is one group of people who is being widely praised for its response to the crisis: the first responders.

In Neptune Beach on Sept. 15, Parsons Seafood Restaurant invited residents to gather there with first responders for a “Post Hurricane Irma Party” to show support for those who were affected by the storm, as well as those who aided them in their time of need.

“The first responders – from the firemen, to policemen, even the linemen – those guys, they’re working 10 to 12 hours a day and it’s not an easy job, so I just wanted to say, ‘Thank you,’” said Chuck McCue, who helped to organize the event.

Others at the event shared McCue’s gratitude, including Candy Breidert, president of the Beaches chapter of the Society of St. Vincent dePaul, who was there collecting donations for hurricane relief efforts.

“Personally, I think the first responders did a great job—all the people restoring the electricity and everything, it was just amazing,” Breidert said. “They spent a lot of time out there in the dangerous weather, and we were all just hiding in our rooms while they were out there driving around, so they did a wonderful job.”

In any emergency, the first responders are the men and women in uniform who rush toward the danger, often putting their own lives at risk to keep others safe. Long before it was known which path Hurricane Irma would take, local first responders began taking actions to prepare for any outcome.

“By the time the storm actually got here, we had three to four full days of operational planning in place so that we

could manage the impacts of the event,” noted Captain Jeremy Robshaw, public information officer for St. Johns County Fire Rescue.

When the storm eventually did arrive in Northeast Florida and many residents found themselves trapped by rising floodwaters, Robshaw’s team – along with other state and local emergency personnel – were ready and waiting to answer their calls for help.

“Our Urban Search and Rescue teams – which are our immediate post-impact teams – went out as the storm was still happening, surveying structures, ensuring that we didn’t have people trapped in structures and getting to areas that we know are very flood prone,” Robshaw said. “We utilized high-water vehicles to go through and check on those homes to make sure people were okay, and in some cases, evacuate them if they had no other way to get out of the residence.”

In addition to Parsons, other Jacksonville-area businesses and organizations have joined in the efforts to support and give back to local men and women in uniform, including Jimmy John’s, which in partnership with the Blake Bortles Foundation, held a special promotion this past weekend inviting first responders to eat there for free. The Jacksonville Jaguars also donated 5,000 tickets to Sunday’s game against the Tennessee Titans to first responders, volunteers involved in the recovery efforts and residents who were affected by the storm—a decision which was praised by Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry.

Curry also took a moment to praise first responders, and in so doing, seemed to sum up the sentiments of many among the First Coast community, stating, “These men and women have worked around the clock before, during and after the storm, to save lives in our city. Jacksonville is a resilient city full of resilient people. I am incredibly proud of us all.”



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Hurricane Irma forces local retirement communities to set up shop elsewhere

By Jon Blauvelt

A photo of nursing home residents trapped in floodwaters in Dickinson, Texas, during Hurricane Harvey and the tragic deaths of nine patients at a nursing home in Hollywood, Florida, during Hurricane Irma raise questions about how retirement communities respond when a natural disaster strikes. The Recorder checked in with a few local facilities to see how they addressed Irma.

The Palms at Ponte Vedra

The Palms at Ponte Vedra evacuated its assisted living, retirement and memory care residents to the Crowne Plaza hotel near the Jacksonville International Airport—a safe haven that required significant preliminary work and a little bit of luck to secure.

Executive Director Barbara Matteson explained that the evacuation process first began with reviewing the facility's 100-page evacuation plan, which outlines each of the preliminary objectives that must be completed.

At the top of the list, she said her staff had to find a hotel with available rooms and a generator that was large enough to power the elevators and air conditioners in the case of a power outage. In addition, Matteson explained that the Palms had to contract a charter bus to transport the residents. As those arrangements were being made, Director of Sales and Marketing Kay Tober and the facility's staff were in consistent communication with the residents' families to make them aware of the plans for their loved ones.

Leading up to the evacuation, Culinary Director Darryl Young explained that he was responsible for organizing the emergency supply kit, which consisted of a three-day supply of breakfast, lunch and dinner meals, as well as snacks, beverages and water. He also had to ensure they would continue to accommodate for the special diets of their residents, as well as be able to prepare food in the case of a power outage. This required close coordination with the hotel staff to ensure menus aligned with the Palms' guidelines during the evacuation, Young noted.

As for the residents' arrival to the hotel, Matteson said the Palms originally planned to get there the Sunday before Irma, until St. Johns County officials called her Friday and told her they had to leave Saturday. The facility's executive director consequently called the Crowne Plaza to see if they could bump up their arrival, and to their good fortune, reservations for several rooms had just been cancelled, allowing the Palms to change their plans.

"By the grace of god, we had rooms



ABOVE: Residents of The Palms at Ponte Vedra board a bus to evacuate to the Crowne Plaza hotel near the Jacksonville International Airport.



LEFT: Residents of the Palms at Ponte Vedra engage in activities during the storm.

Photos courtesy of the Palms at Ponte Vedra

after all," said Matteson.

Once the residents arrived at the hotel, they moved into their assigned rooms, with husbands of nurses and housekeepers helping them move their luggage.

During the residents' stay, Matteson said staff worked 12-hour shifts, but many worked around the clock to care for the residents.

"I learned that the housekeepers and the culinary department are the best caregivers we may have," she said amusingly. "Our nurses...they didn't sleep. Our dishwasher...he was outstanding. He called bingo."

The facility's activities director ensured that it was "business as usual" for the residents, maintaining a schedule of diversions and activities that was almost identical to what they experience in Ponte Vedra on a daily basis.

Throughout the evacuation, Tober was responsible for continued communication with the residents' families via email, Facebook and phone calls.

"I think that gave them peace of mind," said Tober.

Before they knew it, the storm had passed, and it was time to return back to Ponte Vedra. After wrapping up the residents' first dinner back home, Young said he jumped into his car, and the realization of what they had just accomplished hit him.

"Caregiver was above any title," he said. "Long hours on us, but it was a good feeling. We did the right thing. We did good."

Vicar's Landing

Residents of Vicar's Landing's independent living facilities evacuated to a hotel in Atlanta, while the community's health care residents ultimately evacuated twice, first to Camp Weed & Cerveney Conference Center in Live Oak, Florida, and then to the Glenmoor retirement community in World Golf Village when Hurricane Irma shifted west.

LCPS Management CEO Bruce Jones, who oversees Vicar's, said the evacuation

process is based on an evacuation plan that is reviewed at the beginning of every hurricane season.

As for the independent living residents, Jones said Vicar's contracted luxury coaches to transport them to Atlanta. He explained that his staff collected the residents' luggage the evening before the evacuation and placed it on a box truck that arrived at the hotel before anyone else.

An advance team, he added, then travelled up to Atlanta to make necessary arrangements, including securing an individual dining space for the residents and delivering the luggage to each respective room. Once the residents arrived at the hotel, Jones said activities and excursions were already scheduled to ensure everyone was busy while they were away.

On the other hand, Jones explained that Vicar's has a long-term agreement with the Episcopal Diocese of Florida to use Camp Weed & Cerveney Conference Center as an evacuation location for its health care residents. He said the facility in Live Oak is organized in a similar manner to their facilities in Ponte Vedra. He added that kitchen, dining and housekeeping staffs from Vicar's travel with the residents to provide the necessary care.

"It's set up hotel style so we take enough staff to have at least two shifts a day, if not three," he said. "It's quite a process, but it's what we think is the right thing to do to make sure our residents are taken care of."

This time around, however, the hurricane shifted its track, forcing the health care residents to evacuate back to St. Johns County and stay at Glenmoor, which is a sister community of Vicar's. Jones said

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ST. JOHNS COUNTY CHURCHES COME TOGETHER TO CLEAN UP AFTER IRMA



Photo courtesy of Mike Moran

A group of St. Johns County churches—including Colonial Church, Good News Church, Reverb Church and Christ Church—mobilized last weekend to help with several recovery projects around the county.



Photo courtesy of Colonial Church

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Farm Share provides produce, supplies to victims of Hurricane Irma

By Samantha Logue

While most residents in the Greater Jacksonville area have seen their power restored following Hurricane Irma, many are still in need of fresh food and supplies. Seeing those needs, Farm Share, a Florida-based nonprofit, has stepped in to lend a helping hand.

Saturday, Sept. 16, Farm Share distributed food and supplies to families in Jacksonville with the help of the Florida Highway Patrol. Attendees included several elected officials, including Rep. Tracie Davis, Rep. Al Lawson, Sen. Audrey Gibson and Jacksonville City Councilman Reggie Gaffney.

“We ended up distributing about 60,000 pounds of food, hurricane relief items, water, MREs (Meals Ready to Eat), fresh produce, blankets and just different things that we could help them get, because there’s still a lot of folks without electricity, and even if they got it back, lots of them lost food,” Jacksonville Facility Manager Gerald Sweatt said.

Founded in 1991, Farm Share is a nonprofit organization that seeks to alleviate hunger and malnutrition by distributing fresh food to those who need it most. To do so, the charity recovers fresh produce marked as waste by farmers and redistributes it throughout Florida.

“They are perfectly healthy and nutritious vegetables, but they’re too long or too short; they don’t fit that nice little green package that Publix, or Winn-Dixie or the other grocery stores want them to fit into, so for the purposes of



Photos courtesy of Farm Share

A child carries supplies provided by Farm Share to help residents in the wake of Hurricane Irma.



First Coast residents collect food and supplies, provided by Farm Share.



Rep. Tracie Davis (left) lends a helping hand at Farm Share's community distribution event on Sept. 16.

the industry, they’re considered trash and they get dumped into a landfill or back into the farm

field itself,” Farm Share Chief Operating Officer Stephen Shelley explained. “We go out there,

work with them, we acquire that produce and we turn around and give it out to everybody, free of

charge. That was the concept that Farm Share started with more than 20 years ago, and it’s blossomed now into a statewide organization.”

According to Shelley, Farm Share has three methods of distributing the acquired produce and supplies throughout the state. One method is through partnering with other charitable organizations, or “agencies,” which make distributions at the local level. Other methods include community distributions from Farm Share’s facilities, in addition to weekly food drops to food banks.

“In this particular case, because of the hurricane, we have increased the number of drops that we’re doing in a shorter period of time, and we’re trying to focus on those areas that have been hardest hit,” Shelley said. “All of the places that have been hit by Irma, we’ve got trucks going right now on a daily-basis, multiple times a day.”

Those trucks require fuel, however, and the organization is requesting monetary donations to help cover the costs.

“Our fuel bill has been much higher than budgeted for,” Shelley said. “To help us get some extra dollars to cover the fuel costs and to acquire some additional supplies, donations would be very beneficial at this time.”

Farm Share will hold another local food drop this Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to noon at Schell-Sweet Community Resource Center, which is located at 1697 Kings Road in Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 470-8930 or contact information@farmshare.org.

Facilities

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they were safely housed there for the duration of the storm.

Concerning other logistics during an evacuation, Jones added that Vicar’s sends its IT staff with its residents so that the organization can set up offices in each of its respective locations. This year, he said Irma struck during payroll so staff had to complete that remotely. In addition, Jones explained that Vicar’s allows staff to bring anyone living in their immediate home with them during the evacuation, which adds another element to the process.

“It’s just a big logistical project because we are really setting up an entire retirement community remotely for a short period of time,” he said.

Arbor Terrace

Arbor Terrace of Ponte Vedra evacuated its memory loss residents to its San Jose branch on Dupont Avenue in Jacksonville.

“For the most part it was very smooth,” said Ann Terrell, a senior care counselor at the local assisted living facility. “All of our team members over there at San Jose worked really, really hard. 24 hours around the clock. We made it work.”

Terrell said experiencing Matthew last

year helped the facility be more prepared for Irma. Leading up to this year’s storm, she said the Arbor Terrace staff met on a daily basis to discuss a checklist of what needed to be completed before the evacuation. She explained that each of the residents’ families brought in a suitcase and air mattress for their loved ones. Then, the Arbor Terrace staff organized three days worth of clothing, supplies and food to ensure everyone was taken care of during the storm.

Terrell said the Ponte Vedra branch borrowed vans from the Ortega and San Jose branches to evacuate the residents, which she said took approximately five to six hours the Saturday before Irma.

While the residents were away from Ponte Vedra, Terrell said staff worked hard to operate like it was any other day, with residents enjoying the same activities, entertainment and meals that they usually do in Ponte Vedra. Overall, Terrell said the evacuation required significant organization.

“It’s a big job evacuating everybody,” she said. “You’re combining two communities into one.

“Certainly we’re thanking them [our staff] profusely and rewarding them for doing such a great job in the hurricane. They worked 24 hours a day for many days. Our residents are back and happy and good to go. Back at home.”

Furry family members not forgotten during Irma

By Paris Moulden

People and businesses weren't the only ones affected by Hurricane Irma and forced to prepare accordingly. Pets and those animals waiting to become pets also had to be taken into consideration during the storm.

In St. Johns County, two pet-friendly shelters located at Timberlin Creek Elementary and South Woods Elementary were available for evacuees and their furry family members. Paul Studivant, animal control operations manager for St. Johns County, said the county understands the necessity of making pet-friendly shelters available to residents.

He said there were fewer animals housed at the shelters for Irma than for Matthew, however, surmising that experiencing the 2016 hurricane prompted residents to make other, earlier arrangements for their pets this time around.

During Hurricane Matthew, he said 131 pets were sheltered at Timberlin Creek Elementary, while 175 were at South Woods Elementary. For Irma, 82 pets were sheltered at Timberlin Creek Elementary, while 73 were at South Woods Elementary.

County shelters suggest evacuees have current vaccination records, crates and cages and food and supplies upon arrival, but Studivant said people – and pets – won't be turned away if that isn't done.

"Of course, we ask that they have records, in case of a biting, and that they bring anything the pet would need, but if they happen to forget, we can help," he said. "We have a limited supply of carriers and food, but we will do our best to accommodate them."

Pet safety and shelters became a big issue after a lack of pet-friendly shelters



Photo courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

was blamed for many people deciding not to leave their homes during Hurricane Katrina, which slammed the Gulf coasts of Louisiana and Mississippi in 2005. In response to that storm, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act was passed in October 2006. The legislation requires local and state authorities to include pets in disaster plans if they want to qualify for federal emergency grants. It also authorized the use of federal funds for pet-friendly shelters.

Studivant said he believes St. Johns County was ahead of the curve in providing a safe place for people to escape to with their pets.

"We tried to be proactive," he said. "We were on the forefront, even before Katrina, offering shelter for pets. If someone showed up in need, we tried to accommodate them the best we could."

Some parts of Florida also had problems during Irma with people leaving their animals outside or tied up and unable to escape storm conditions. In Palm Beach County, pet owners who abandoned their animals to escape the storm could be

charged with animal cruelty. Animals found tied up or caged in that county could result in felony charges for owners.

But Studivant said St. Johns County residents, for the most part, appeared to take proper precautions when it came to caring for their pets, particularly this time around. He said there were fewer calls regarding abandoned or chained animals than during Matthew. Most calls came out of the southwest area of the county where flooding was a big issue, and animal control was called to rescue.

"I'm not aware of any deaths," Studivant said. "All the animals that there were calls about were accounted for."

Flooding at Ayla's Acres

Many animals that may not have owners or a forever home were helped by community nonprofits, some of which took a hit themselves in their efforts to save lives.

At Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue, a St. Augustine-based nonprofit, flooding from Irma halted the organization's primary means of resources.

The thrift shop, which was located at

142 King St. in St. Augustine, flooded, forcing the store to close. The organization plans to open it again as a pop-up in a warehouse off U.S. 1 and hopes to have that in place by Oct. 1. In the meantime, the shelter and sanctuary are unable to benefit from funds the thrift shop generally provides.

The animals from the organization's St. Johns County facility were in foster care and accounted for, said Fran Charlson, director of Ayla's Acres, which also runs a sanctuary located in Greenville, Florida. The sanctuary houses and cares for "unadoptable" domestic and farm animals, many of which have been abused or abandoned, and their safety was a priority for the organization.

"We had 190 animals at our sanctuary, and all survived," Charlson said. "Thankfully, the hurricane turned enough, so even though we lost some trees, no animals were harmed."

Preparations were made at the sanctuary ahead of time to guarantee the best possible outcome.

"We have a generator, we had crates and moved as many animals inside as we possibly could," Charlson said. "Our biggest danger was trees falling, so we moved animals out of the way to safety, and we had excess food and water."

Now the organization just hopes it can get its thrift shop back up and running and have enough funds to continue to do its work for homeless and abandoned animals.

"Our needs now our mostly monetary," Charlson said. "The thrift shop provides most of the funding for food and vet care."

For more information on Ayla's Acres and to find out how to help, visit www.aylasacres.org or call (650) 520-5201.

Rep. Rutherford: Federal aid available for Northeast Florida

As Northeast Florida begins to recover from Hurricane Irma, Congressman John Rutherford pointed residents to federal disaster relief programs that can help with recovery.

"Irma caused substantial damage in Northeast Florida, but our communities can be commended for their resolve, kindness, generosity and commitment to one another in the wake of this storm," Rutherford said. "My thanks and appreciation go out to our great local, state and federal first responders, energy linemen and women and local, state and federal government employees who have worked tirelessly to prepare and respond to this event.

"Having seen the damage in our impacted areas firsthand with local response leaders, I greatly appreciate Gov. Scott's requests and President Trump's approval of federal assistance for our communities. As we continue to assess the full extent of

the damage, I hope that Northeast Floridians will reach out to our office for any assistance they may need working with federal agencies as we face Hurricane Irma recovery together."

According to Rutherford's office, Congress approved \$15.25 billion in emergency funding Friday, Sept. 8 to address those impacted by recent hurricanes, which includes funding for FEMA disaster relief, SBA (Small Business Administration) disaster loans and Community Development Block Grants for rebuilding. The Trump Administration is expected to seek additional funding in the coming weeks to respond to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the congressman's office added. The Florida congressional delegation has urged both the administration and leaders in Congress to ensure that FEMA and other agencies have the recovery resources they need in a timely manner so communities can rebuild

as soon as possible.

Rutherford's staff explained that Gov. Scott requested, and President Trump approved, a major disaster declaration for all 67 counties in Florida, triggering the immediate release of resources to help communities recover from Irma by reimbursing local communities and the state government for response efforts. This declaration also makes citizens of Duval and St. Johns counties eligible for direct individual assistance. Citizens may be eligible for grants and loans for home repairs, rental assistance for temporary housing, reemployment assistance benefits, small business loans and crisis counseling.

To apply for assistance, individuals and business owners should visit www.disasterassistance.gov or call 1-800-621-3362. Disaster assistance applicants with a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY should call 1-800-462-7585 directly;

for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week.

Information hotlines:

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■ Online information: Visit floridadisaster.org for more information on recovery efforts.

■ Duval County: A 24/7 information line is available at 904-630-City. You can also visit the jaxready.org for more information.

■ St. Johns County: Visit <http://www.sjefl.us/hurricane/> for the latest information.



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Business Weekly

Irma provides tax deadline extension

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Local businesses bounce back after Irma

By Paris Moulden

Hurricane Irma delivered a big blow to beach businesses across Florida, but many businesses along the First Coast were just relieved it wasn't worse. Mandatory evacuations forced several to close for the weekend, but it was back to business for most of them in the days after the storm.

Maria Messer, owner of beachfront Sea Shells & Souvenirs, reopened her store on Wednesday, Sept. 13, and was just glad to be able to have a business to come back to.

"We were very blessed," Messer said. "We [Jacksonville Beach] were evacuated, so now we're just waiting for everyone else to come back."

Messer said last Thursday that people have been returning to the shop, but it's a slow time of year regardless of the storm. She said they did the best they could to prepare the store, and she reiterated how fortunate they feel, given what happened in other places.

At The Pier Cantina and Sandbar in Jacksonville Beach, clean up was still ongoing last Thursday, but restaurant manager Mike Llanes noted that the damage was minimal. The restaurant did what it could ahead of the storm, bringing in tables and locking everything up. But Llanes said considering where the restaurant is located, there weren't any big surprises for the business after the storm.



Photo by Paris Moulden

Workers clean up after Hurricane Irma at The Pier Cantina and Sandbar in Jacksonville Beach on Thursday, Sept. 14.

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Businesses

Continued from 35

“You always have to prepare around here,” he said.

South of Jacksonville Beach, the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club was also forced to close, but the beachfront luxury resort also had minimal damage. Debris in the pool, and windows needing to be resealed, were the biggest impact on the hotel and lodge, said Ponte Vedra Corporation spokeswoman Misty Skipper. She also said the resort was more impacted by Matthew than Irma, and the business had prepared accordingly.

“Like many businesses, we have a robust hurricane plan which ensures that we prepare for an impending storm,” Skipper said in an email. “This includes backups for technology, communication with employees and guests, assisting in guest evacuations, if necessary, as well as physical items such as removing outdoor furniture, boarding large windows and placing sand bagging doors.”

Jax Beach Surf Shop was one of the first Beaches businesses to open after Irma, and owner Tony Hall said his business actually benefited from the large waves churned up by the storm.

“We sold a lot of leashes for surfboards,” Hall said.

Hall has owned the shop—which sells and rents beach bikes, surfboards, beach



TOP LEFT: The Jax Beach Surf Shop, which rents surfboards, beach bikes and other beach-related gear, benefited from the bigger waves in the days immediately following the storm.

LOWER LEFT: The beachfront Sea Shells & Souvenirs store was open and ready for business a couple of days after Hurricane Irma impacted the First Coast.

Photos by Paris Moulden



gear and other beach-related items—for five years at his current location. He put out sandbags and boarded up, but said the worst part of the storm was simply having to close over the weekend, which is

his busiest time of the week. He also said he had several supplies and the knowledge of what needed to be done after having dealt with Matthew such a short time ago.

In addition, Hall noted that the storm wasn't the only concern he had. Hall said he was also concerned about possible vandalism or looting. But he commended the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for doing a great job of alleviating those fears. Despite the lost weekend, business bounced back quickly for the surf shop.

“It's back to normal,” Hall said. “We even got a little boost from people who are having to hang out here because their power is off down south.”

Beachfront business in the area may have fared better than those on the river or near canals due to the flooding caused by Irma.

Beachside Embroidery and Monograms, located on Canal Boulevard in Ponte Vedra Beach, flooded along with other businesses in the shopping center.

Kelli Votaw, owner of Beachside Embroidery and Monograms, had been considering leaving the storefront to work from home for personal reasons, but the flooding forced her hand.

Votaw said her business and others in the shopping center put up sandbags ahead of the storm, but they weren't enough to stop Irma's floodwaters.

“You prepare as best as you can and you hope for the best,” she said.

But Votaw, a Louisiana native, understands the risk of working and living near the coast and on the canals.

“It's just part of the deal, I guess,” she said. “You can always learn something from each storm. It's no one's fault. It's nature. It happens.”

Votaw said she's thankful to be able to work out of her home and plans to continue her business through her website and Facebook page. But she was also grateful for the opportunity to have had her store in its previous location and said it was a positive experience overall.

“It's a great space,” she said. “This shopping center is a great retail space. The store grew more here than I could have imagined. The pros far outweighed the one time it flooded.”

And despite the damage her store sustained, Votaw said she's still thankful and doesn't want to lose sight of what really matters.

“People are more important than things,” she said. “A lot of people had it much worse. I consider myself lucky and blessed that it wasn't worse than it was.”

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Irma provides tax deadline extension



Jim Peavey
Guest columnist

By Jim Peavey
Special to the Recorder

While there is no good news from a storm like Irma, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has at least provided Floridians with some degree of comfort. Per the IRS, Hurricane Irma victims in parts of Florida and other areas have until Jan. 31, 2018, to file some individual and business tax returns and make certain tax payments.

The IRS filing and payment relief applies to the following counties in Florida: Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Clay, Collier, Duval, Flagler, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, St. Johns and St. Lucie. Additional

counties may be added as FEMA completes its studies.

The tax relief delays several tax filing and payment deadlines in Florida that were originally scheduled starting on Sept. 4, 2017. That includes both the Sept. 15, 2017, and Jan. 16, 2018, deadlines for making quarterly estimated tax payments. For individual tax filers, it also encompasses 2016 income tax returns that got a tax-filing extension until Oct. 16, 2017. The IRS pointed out, though, that because tax payments stemming from the 2016 returns originally came due on April 18, 2017, those payments are not eligible for this type of relief.

Several business tax deadlines are also impacted, including the Oct. 31 deadline for quarterly payroll and excise tax returns. Businesses with extensions also get more time, including calendar year partnerships with 2016 extensions that end on Sept.

15, 2017, and calendar year tax-exempt organizations with 2016 extensions that run out Nov. 15, 2017. The disaster relief page includes details on other returns, payments and tax-related actions that are eligible for the extra time.

On top of that, the IRS is waiving late-deposit penalties for federal payroll and excise tax deposits typically due during the first 15 days of the disaster period. The IRS.gov disaster relief page spells out the time periods applicable for each jurisdiction.

Taxpayers do not need to contact the IRS to get the relief. The IRS noted that it automatically provides filing and penalty relief to any taxpayer with an IRS address of record located in the disaster area. But if affected taxpayers get a late filing or late payment penalty notice from the IRS that has an original or extended filing, payment or deposit due date happening during the postponement period, they should dial the

phone number on the notice to ask the IRS to abate the penalty.

The IRS said it will work with taxpayers who live outside the disaster area but have records located in the affected area. They are needed to meet a deadline occurring during the postponement period. Taxpayers qualifying for relief who live outside the disaster area should call the IRS at 866-562-5227. This includes workers helping with relief activities who are affiliated with a recognized government or philanthropic organization.

Individuals and businesses who have suffered uninsured or unreimbursed disaster-related losses can opt to claim them on either the return for the year the loss occurred (in this case, the 2017 tax return typically filed next year), or the tax return for the previous year (2016).

Jim Peavey is a tax partner at Pivot CPAs in Ponte Vedra Beach.

SBA offers disaster assistance for businesses, residents in St. Johns County

According to St. Johns County, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering St. Johns County residents and businesses disaster assistance in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

Businesses and private nonprofit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA for mitigation purposes.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible up to \$40,000 to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed personal property. Interest rates are as

low as 3.305 percent for businesses and 2.5 percent for nonprofit organizations, as well as 1.75 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at www.disasterloan.sba.gov/ela. To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, applicants should register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by mobile device at m.fema.gov. If online or mobile access is unavailable, applicants should call the FEMA toll-free helpline at (800) 621-3362. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services should call (800) 621-3362.

Additional details on the locations of Disaster Recovery Centers and the loan application process can be obtained by calling the SBA customer service center at (800) 659-2955 (877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 9, 2017. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 11, 2018.

Florida DEO to provide emergency bridge loan program for small businesses damaged by storm

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) will manage and provide short-term, interest-free loans under the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to small businesses that experienced physical or economic damage during Hurricane Irma.

To complete an application by the Oct. 31, 2017, deadline or for more information on the program, visit www.floridadisasterloan.org. For questions regarding the Emergency Bridge Loan Program, contact the Florida Small Business Development Center Network at (850) 898-3489 or email Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org.

Tips from SJC Chamber for getting businesses back in operation following Irma

According to the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, businesses looking to get back in operation after Hurricane Irma should consider the following steps:

1. Register for the Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center and complete the business damage assessment survey to report any damage. This information is needed and will be used to determine the needs and level of assistance for impacted businesses, including activation of the Emergency Bridge Loan Program and federal assistance.

2. Inform the workforce that St. Johns County has been added to the Major Disaster Declaration list, meaning that individuals in St. Johns County can ap-



ply for federal individual assistance at www.disasterassistance.gov.

3. Email the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce with questions at beau.phillips@sjcchamber.com.

Also, keep in mind the following things to come...

- The Department of Economic Opportunity is readying the Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program to provide temporary income support to eligible individuals in counties approved for FEMA individual assistance.

- The Florida Small Business Development Center Network is working on deploying its Mobile Assistance Unit to the most affected areas. The Small Business Development Center administers the Bridge Loan Program.

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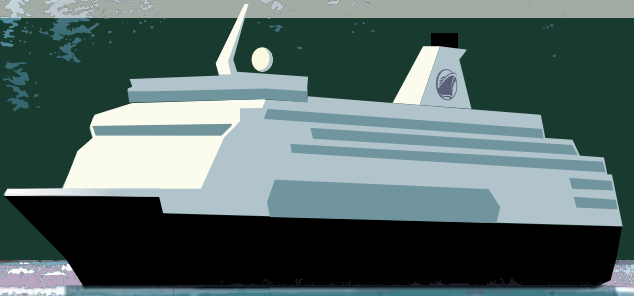
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Sharks, penalties frustrate Westside

By Jerry Norton

Special to the Recorder

Thanks to Hurricane Irma, the Ponte Vedra Sharks had to wait a few days to register their third straight win of the season. But the wait was worth it as Ponte Vedra beat Westside 31-7 on Monday evening at the Wolverines' field.

It took a while before the Sharks could get their offense in gear for this rare Monday night matchup. That wasn't the case for the defense, however, which came off the bus clicking on all cylinders. After the teams exchanged punts for the better part of the first 12 minutes, Ponte Vedra mounted a drive behind the hard running of Mark Calvin.

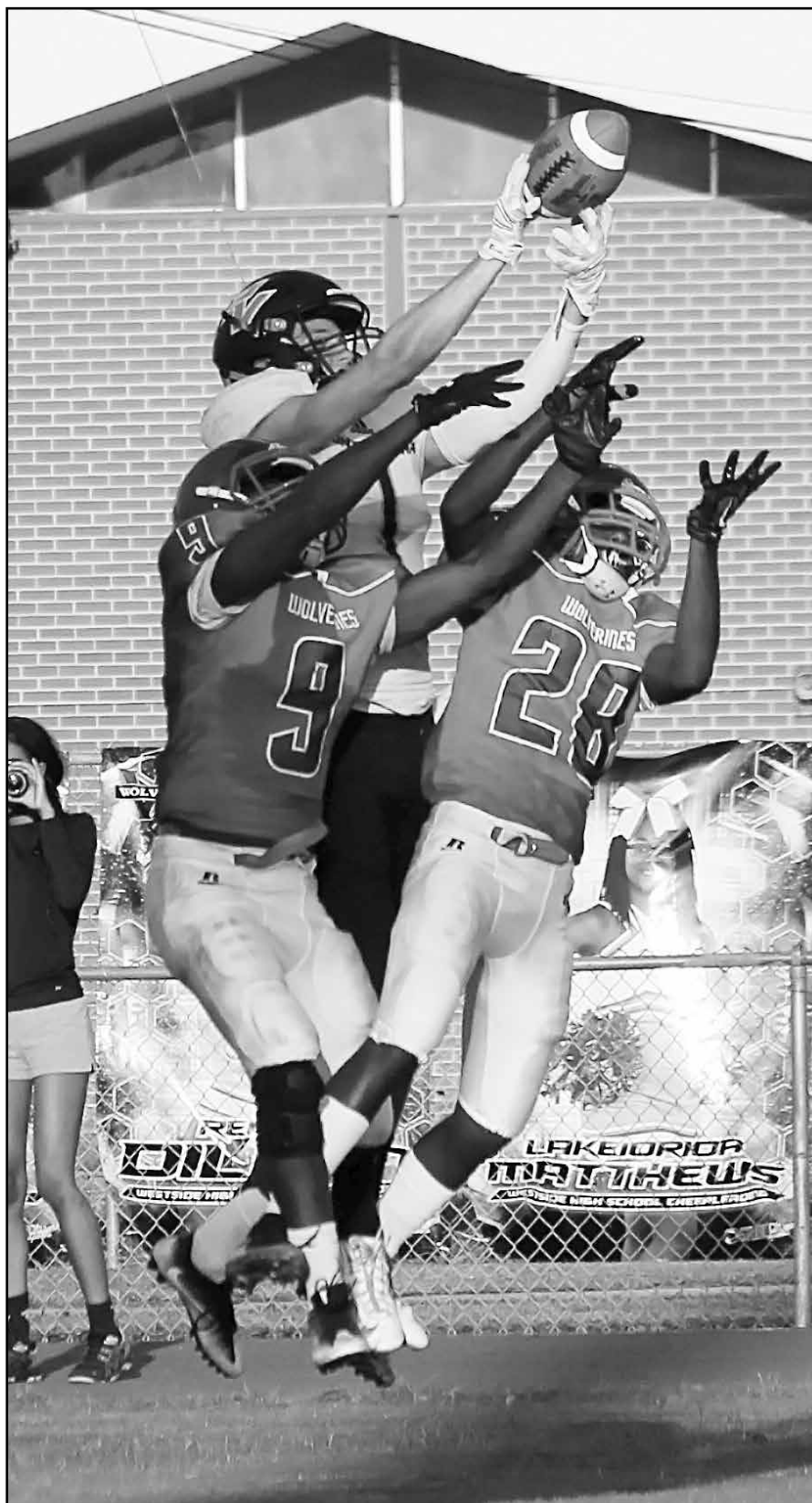
Moments later, RJ Glod—starting in place of injured Jack Murrah—threw a jump ball to Jarrett Stepp in the end zone. The ball was tipped twice before the sure-handed Shark receiver pulled it in. It was Stepp's earlier punt return that had given Ponte Vedra a first down near midfield. Ten plays later, he put the Sharks up 7-0.

Ponte Vedra's defense harried the Wolverines, keeping them constantly bottled up on their own end of the field. Their lone excursion across the 50-yard line proved disastrous when Cole McCormick picked off an errant pass and returned it 65 yards for a touchdown, resulting in a 14-0 Sharks lead.

The next time the Westsiders had the ball, they faced a fourth-and-1 on their own 40-yard line and opted to go for it. A fired-up Sharks defense denied them the yard.

Freshman quarterback Jacobi Myers took over for Glod and moved the team to a first-and-goal situation at the host's 1-yard line; however, Ponte Vedra had to settle for a Riley Robbins field goal and a 17-0 advantage after three passes fell incomplete.

The half ended with the frustrated Westside offense hoping for better things the next 24 minutes. That didn't happen. Sloppy play and numerous penalties (seven called against Westside) combined with Ponte Vedra's stout defense kept Westside out of the end zone until the game's closing minutes.



ABOVE: Ponte Vedra's Jarrett Stepp (center) pulls down a pass from RJ Glod for a touchdown against Westside.

LEFT: The Sharks' Mark Calvin picks up tough yards in Monday night's game.

Photos courtesy of Jerry and Chris Norton

As in the first half, the Wolverines' elusive but erratic quarterback Adroin Webster continued to find himself under pressure from the likes of Carson Shoals, Zach Summers, Daniel Lichlyter and Emory Kingry. When Webster was able to get his passes off, the Shark secondary covered well as

displayed by Tommy Zitiello's interception and the ensuing 20-yard return, as well as a bone crunching tackle after the catch by Wesley Davis.

In the meantime, the Sharks found a few more ways to score, including a

Junior Pee Wee Sharks fight their way to unbeaten record

By Zach Deutch

Special to the Recorder

If you happened to stop by Cornerstone Park on the Saturday before Labor Day, you would have witnessed some hard-nosed football, ages of the players notwithstanding. The Ponte Vedra Sharks Junior Pee Wee squad squared off against an aggressive Callahan Warriors Gold team whose predilection was toward old-school, hard-nosed play on both sides of the ball. The Sharks were unintimidated by their opponents' game plan, and were able to come out on top, via their own mixture of power and finesse football.

The first half was in any event not a showcase for the Sharks (3-0) and head coach Scott Owen. The team was able to dominate the first two quarters in terms of time of possession, and mostly dictated the game's tempo, but struggled to execute consistently and missed out on a couple of scoring opportunities.

On their first offensive series, Ponte Vedra produced an impressive drive behind a big run from running back Zach Martus, a nifty 35-yard scamper that was a desperation tackle away from being a long touchdown.

Moments later, quarterback/running back Corbyn Fordham punched it in from 7 yards out, and the score was 8-0 after the PAT from Jack Brady (Under Pop Warner rules, conversion kicks are worth 2 points, as opposed to 1 point for runs/passes).

On their next set of downs, the Sharks again methodically drove down the field, alternating tough running between the tackles with quicker plays to the outside. However, the team turned the ball over inside of Callahan's 10-yard line, and the drive stalled. After the possession change, Callahan was able to mount a sustained drive, running almost exclusively "up the gut." They made it into the red zone where the Shark defense, which had bent but did not break, denied the Warriors a score and allowed PV to go into the half up 8-0.

In the final two quarters of play, the Sharks tightened up the offensive execution, while maintaining a strong defensive level of play. The team's renewed focus allowed PV to add two more scores and build a somewhat comfortable lead, though this was by no means an easy task. The Callahan team never quit, from opening gun to closing whistle, and was noticeably hard-hitting (especially on defense) throughout the contest.

Ponte Vedra's second score was the product of another sustained, ground-based drive, featuring two crucial plays that

COMMENTARY

Thoughts on a Ponte Vedra native after NFL Cut-down Day

By Jerry Norton

Special to the Recorder

NFL Cut-down Day, when teams reduce their roster from 90 to 53 players, is by definition a bittersweet exercise, and this year's roster-trimming day was especially bitter for one Ponte Vedra football player and his family.

The player I'm referring to was an outstanding Nease High School student athlete, rated the No. 5 high school center in the country by ESPN.com. He went on to become a four-year starter at a formidable Division I school in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), a conference comprised of perennial powerhouse teams like Clemson, Florida State and Miami.

In his college career, this athlete earned ACC Player of the Week honors three times and was a two-time nominee for the Rimington Trophy, awarded annually to college football's most outstanding

center. He was named third-team All-ACC center in his junior year and second-team All-ACC center in his senior year. A well-conditioned and durable athlete, he started every game his junior and senior years when his team won 19 games. In short, he was an outstanding Division I football player at a key position requiring unique attributes.

The unique attributes for a center are second only to that of the quarterback. In importance, the center position is second only to the quarterback position as well. The center makes all the line calls. He requires athleticism, strength and quickness and like the quarterback, must be intelligent and possess leadership skills—characteristics not often found in young players. It is also worthy of note that most centers in football are typically capable of playing the guard position as well; conversely, not all guards are suited to play center.

All things considered, this young man certainly should be a commodity coveted by any NFL team. But despite his skills and credentials, this prospective player went undrafted in April.

Now this, by no means, is the kiss of death for an NFL prospect. Tony Romo and Antonio Gates are two notables who were not drafted. In 2014, 400 players on NFL rosters never had their names called on draft day, and last season, there were more undrafted free agents on NFL rosters than first and second round picks combined.

Although not drafted, the Arizona Cardinals signed this young center to a contract as an undrafted free agent. He was released after several weeks with the Cardinals and was soon after picked up by the Pittsburgh Steelers, where he practiced and played both center and guard.

About a week before the preseason ended, the Washington Redskins made a

trade with the Steelers to get this player, with their stated intention of placing him on their practice squad. Then, unexpectedly, the Redskins released him.

It is inconceivable that a player with such attributes, who excelled at such an important position for four years as a starter in the ACC, is not deemed worthy of even a practice squad spot as an investment in an NFL team's future.

For years, NFL teams have overlooked quality players because they didn't "fit the NFL mold." A player who doesn't measure up to the "NFL standard" for a given position—be it height, weight, speed, arm length, shoe size or whatever—doesn't pass muster.

Perhaps the NFL's selection criteria is flawed. With all the testing and evaluation teams do before and after draft day, they don't seem to have a way to measure a

COMMENTARY continues on Page 44

Pee Wee

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kept the chains moving. The first was a 6-yard quarterback keeper by Ben Burk on a "do-or-die" fourth-and-5, from just inside Callahan territory. Burk took the snap, deftly avoided a couple of tacklers and picked his way past the first down marker.

The second key play, which energized the entire squad as well as the sideline, was an impressive 17-yard rush by Bennett Baumgartner. The run showcased both finesse and power, as he juiced his way past a couple of defenders and ran over a third, en route to a huge first down inside the Callahan 10-yard line. Two plays later, Baumgartner went into the end zone standing up for a 2-yard TD, and the score became 16-0. At this point, the momentum had decidedly swung in the Sharks' favor.

Meanwhile, the Callahan team appeared to become winded as the second half went along. Its defensive line was unable to get penetration against the Shark offensive line, and its linebackers and secondary could not counter Ponte Vedra's slashing running style. This was readily apparent on the last score of the game, a fourth quarter 38-yard Burk touchdown run in which he displayed speed and athleticism in eluding several would-be tacklers on a dash to the pylon. Jack Brady's third PAT of the day made the score 24-0, which



Photo courtesy of Zac Deutch

The Shark offense huddles up around center Mason Hauseman (#8) during the team's matchup with Callahan.

would be the final.

Of note, Brady and the extra-point team had worked intensively on technique and mechanics over the prior week's practices, and the results were readily apparent when he went 3-for-3 on the day, with none of the kicks being in doubt.

Ben Burk finished as the Sharks' leading rusher, with seven carries for 89 yards and a touchdown. Co-defensive stat leaders were Martus and Fordham, both with five tackles a

piece. The play of cornerback Joe Mahoney was also noteworthy. When the Warriors tried to mount a comeback, and thereby shifted to the aerial attack, he played solid in man-on-man coverage, notching three total passes defended and adding a tackle.

Junior Pee Wee Sharks return to action at Fleming Island

On Sept. 16, the Sharks returned to action at Fleming Island High School against the FIAA War Eagles. The balanced of-

fensive attack Coach Owen was searching for did not materialize; his team attempted three passes the whole game, and all were incomplete. However, Ponte Vedra was still able to come out on top, in a back-and-forth contest of unadulterated "smash mouth" football. Both teams' offensive and defensive lines slugged it out for the entire 40 minutes, with a level of intensity even greater than that of the Callahan game.

The Sharks' lone score came on a 6-yard Ben Burk run, which

capped off a sustained second quarter drive. Jack Brady and the point-after team again did their jobs, making the score 8-0. On this drive, and for the majority of the day, Ponte Vedra was able to move the ball effectively against the War Eagles, employing a methodical, ground-based attack which pounded the ball between the tackles and advanced 4 to 5 yards at a time. However, the Fleming Island defense was fundamentally sound and rolled with each blow the Sharks delivered. The War Eagles stiffened when it counted and would thereby give up only the one score on the day.

For its part, the Sharks defense rose to the challenge and one-upped their counterparts' performance, pitching a shutout. The Ponte Vedra "D" showed little sign of fatigue, managing a sustained level of intensity deep into the final quarter, by gang tackling and swarming to the ball on every play. With less than five minutes remaining, a short PV punt gave Fleming Island a last, best chance to tie the score when the team got the ball with excellent field position, inside the 40-yard line. The Shark defenders, with an assist from an offensive penalty, emphatically denied this chance. The Ponte Vedra offense then took over on downs with three minutes left and produced a couple of crucial first downs, killing the clock and icing the game.

Ponte Vedra Junior Pee Wee returns to action Sept. 23 in an away contest versus Oakleaf Black.

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Photo courtesy of Jerry and Chris Norton

Ponte Vedra's Cole McCormick returns an interception 65 yards for a touchdown.

Sharks

Continued from 40

20-yard TD pass to Stepp from Glod and a 36-yard tackle-busting romp by Calvin off a great block by Rob Wortelboer.

Few things went right for the hosts throughout the game as they suffered their

fourth loss. Even after Westside's lone touchdown in the closing minutes, the team's onside kick attempt was recovered by Duncan Van Kouteren.

The Sharks passed up another scoring chance by taking a knee on the game's final play.

Ponte Vedra travels to Pedro Menendez on Friday, Sept. 22.

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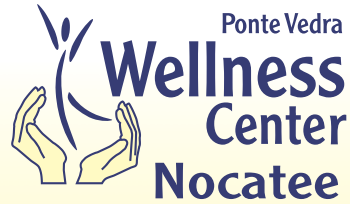
NEASE CADETS TEND 18TH PIN AT JUNIOR PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Nease NJROTC cadets Erin Sass (from left), Troy Barber, Will Moore and Ryan Landeweer participate in the No. 18 hole pin tending during the final round of the Junior PLAYERS Championship on Sept. 3 at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. Nease cadets have tended the pin at the AJGA event at TPC every year since 2014. Photos courtesy of Nease High School NJROTC



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Beaches Town Center and Web.com Tour Championship to hold North Beach Kick-off to Golf on Sept. 25

On Monday, Sept. 25, the Beaches Town Center (BTC) and Web.com Tour Championship are partnering to hold the North Beach Kick-Off to Golf to generate excitement for the tournament and showcase everything the Beaches and Beaches Town Center has to offer.

To be held from 5 to 9 p.m., the event will feature food from restaurants of the Beaches Town Center, cocktails, a craft beer garden and a Merchant Marketplace. The event will also feature New Orleans street funk band Flow Tribe, the band LPT and a singer/songwriter village presented by Southern Grounds and the Courtyard at 200 First Street.

The event's epicenter will be located in the middle of Atlantic Boulevard from East Coast Drive to First Street. Located here will be the food village where eateries including Mezza Restaurant & Bar, Hawkers

Asian Street Fare, Ragtime Tavern, Poe's Tavern, Ocean 60 and Slider's Seafood Grille will serve food direct from their kitchens.

To encourage North Beach Kick-off to Golf attendees to explore the evening's other exciting experiences, streets will be closed off to ensure an easy transition between the craft beer garden, St. Augustine Distillery tent and automated alcoholic beverage experience, presented by Tended Bar. Premium wines will also be served. This year, there will be a Merchant Marketplace, complete with Beaches Town Center merchants and local makers.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Beaches Town Center on this exciting evening of food, drinks and entertainment," said Web.com Tour Championship Tournament Manager Adam Renfroe, "The 2017 Web.com Tour Championship will incorpo-

rate the look and feel of the beaches area as we mesh one of the top locales in Northeast Florida with rising PGA Tour stars who will soon become household names."

The North Beach Kick-off to Golf is free to attend. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Beaches Town Center, the central business district of the Neptune and Atlantic Beach neighborhoods. Locals are encouraged to walk or ride their bikes; parking will be available throughout the Beaches Town Center, except where street closures are being enforced.

The Web.com Tour Championship will be held Sept. 25 to Oct 1. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit Wolfson Children's Hospital.

For more information regarding the North Beach Kick-off to Golf and Web.com Tour Championship, visit <http://webtour-championship.com/north-beach-kick-off>.

Commentary

Continued from 41

players' heart, his grit, his determination, his fortitude, his toughness, his character or his commitment. If they could measure these critical traits, this Ponte Vedra football player would certainly be a member of a National Football League team today.

But this was not the case, and Lucas Crowley's hopes and dreams of playing professional football were dashed, at least for now.

With time, his disappointment will ease. After all, the career duration of most athletes—especially football players—is but a brief moment in an entire lifetime.

Lucas can look back on his accomplishments and feel proud. He has already achieved what most young athletes can only dream of. What he learned playing football will serve him well in the future. It is now time for him to "get on with his life"...and what a life it is certain to be.

THEME: FALL FUN

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
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48					49		50			51		52		
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57	58	59	60					61			62	63	64	
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

ACROSS

1. Dolphins' home
6. *Sports acronym
9. Deep wound
13. Spy's cover
14. 100 square meters
15. "Door," on #35 Across
16. Approximate date
17. Bygone bird
18. Letter-shaped girder
19. *Pastoral autumn trip
21. *Falling all around
23. Galley tool
24. Eight bits
25. Trigonometry abbr.
28. "Hey!"
30. ____weed
35. Faubourg Saint-Honoré and Rivoli, e.g.
37. Left after deductions
39. Hymn of praise
40. Hoosier State's capital, for short
41. Boiled or baked buckwheat
43. Actress ____Jones
44. Hospital's CAT and PET
46. Smoke plus fog
47. Not counterfeit
48. Graphite writer
50. "____ Lang Syne"
52. Hasten
53. Like hard times
55. Scepter's partner

57. *Seasonal squash cultivar
61. *Fall's the time to pull it out of storage
65. Light-footed
66. Gastrointestinal tract
68. Blind alternative
69. "____ as a whistle"
70. Hog heaven
71. Come into
72. Windshield option
73. Golf peg
74. Not slouching

DOWN

1. ____ 1 jet speed
2. Pelvic parts
3. Well-ventilated
4. Introduction to economics?
5. Old Testament prophet
6. *Fall's the season that has more than one
7. "To" follower?
8. Like kale
9. Mongolian desert
10. Equals pi times square of the radius
11. Dateless male
12. Part of hemoglobin
15. Highway accident
20. *Hot apple cider, e.g.
22. Giant Hall-of-Famer
24. *World Series player
25. *Like fall air

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

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

26. Prevention measure
27. Four-door
29. Those not opposed
31. *Corn ____
32. Plywood raw material
33. Delhi policeman's club
34. Related on mother's side
36. Update an iPod
38. Biblical pronoun
42. Like a neon sign
45. Smooth and shiny
49. Circle of flowers
51. Search bottom of river, e.g.
54. Teen worry
56. More nude
57. Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement, e.g.
58. Tangerine and grapefruit hybrid
59. Dignified manner
60. Neighborhood map
61. Eye infection
62. UK art museum
63. Larger-than-life
64. Rock opera version of "La Bohème"
67. Beehive State native

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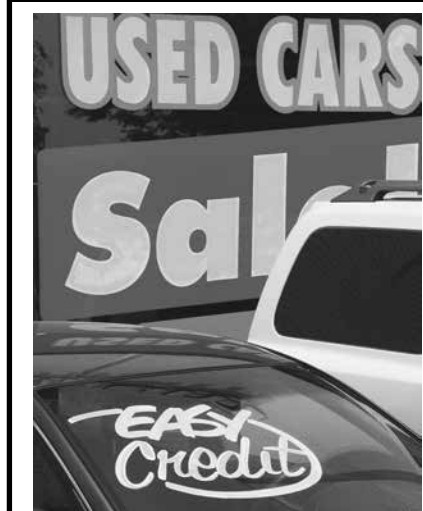
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