

Ponte Vedra Recorder



July 13, 2017
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PonteVedraRecorder.com



County
Commissioner
Discusses SJC's
Troubling
Financial Future
Page 4



Birthday Party
Planner
Pages 17-24



Business Weekly
Pages 26-33

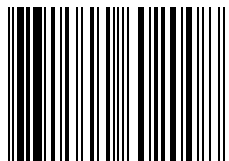
BFAST FINISH: TRIATHLETES FUND THE ARTS



Photo courtesy of Swell Studio

A cyclist raises a fist in triumph at the 31st annual BFAST triathlons in Ponte Vedra. Read more on page 12.

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INSIDE

One of Us
Page 6

Calendar
Pages 8-9

Sports
Pages 34-36

Classifieds
Pages 37-39

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.**



Visit our website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

S	W	A	B	S	I	C	E	S	P	U	N	
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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer with your first and last name 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.

Four readers correctly identified last week's photo as Aqua East Surf Shop. The winner of the random drawing was Thomas Bailey.



Congratulations, Thomas – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Jazzy, and I am a 6-year-old female cat who is looking for a new home. I 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! #38440



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Stewy, and I am a 2-year-old male dog who is looking for a new home. I 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! #38519

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to their 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 Road, 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.**



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SJCSD rated top district in state for ninth straight year

District receives A rating for eighth consecutive year

By Jon Blauvelt

The St. Johns County School District has been rated the top district in Florida as measured by test scores for the ninth consecutive year and has received an A rating from the Florida Department of Education for the eighth straight year, according to district officials.

“When we look at that and see that level of performance, it certainly makes us all feel good about the success that a large number of our children are having in our schools,” said SJCSD Superintendent Tim Forson. “It takes all stakeholders. I appreciate the effort of every individual that works towards the success of our children.”

School Board Member Kelly Barrera echoed Forson’s comments.

“I’m very proud,” she said. “I’ve seen how hard our teachers, our students and our school administrators have worked towards academic achievement. It’s wonderful to be recognized for that.”

Forson explained that districts receive their ratings based on a number of criteria, including Florida Standard Assessment (FSA) scores, learning gains, students’ suc-

cess in accelerated courses and graduation rates. SJCSD is one of 11 school districts in Florida to receive an A rating in 2017.

Although the superintendent is pleased with the accolades, he said there’s always room for improvement.

“We take those numbers and those scores to identify areas where we need to do better,” said Forson. “Our goal is (to help) all students.”

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Jim Zeller 904.772.5592
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Situated on an oversized wooded lot, this beautiful home has a spacious layout with high ceilings, a large kitchen that opens to the great room, private office and more. Entertain out on the screened patio or enjoy the evening breezes by the outdoor fireplace. MLS 879545

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Morris: 'The residents of St. Johns County have no idea about any of this'

County Commissioner discusses county's troubling financial future ahead of budget presentations, calls for increased sales tax to mitigate potential crisis



Jay Morris

By Jon Blauvelt

Ahead of the county's 2018 budget presentations to the Board of County Commission July 18 and Aug. 1, Commissioner Jay Morris said St. Johns County will have no funding sources moving forward unless its leaders act quickly to enact a new revenue source, such as an increase in its sales tax.

"We no longer have any other choices," said Morris in an interview with the Recorder. "We still have a viable way to get out, and it's going to be up to this county commission to do it."

Morris is continuing to advocate for a one-cent increase to the county's sales tax to prevent what he says is a looming financial crisis that could hit the county by 2019.

According to the commissioner, the county is today operating on a budget of \$673 million, which is \$60 million less than what it was in 2007. Over the past 10 years, in which the county's revenue has incrementally dropped due to a decrease in its millage rate, Morris said it has been forced to defer maintenance, including basic infrastructure like bridges and roads, and also defer capital expen-

ditures. As a result, he said St. Johns County is \$300 million "in the hole" in both categories.

At the same time, Morris noted, St. Johns County is the fastest growing county in the state and 35th fastest growing county in the nation, jumping from 174,000 residents in 2007 to 242,000 today. Consequently, the county is required to provide services to more people with less money, he said.

"We're operating on a budget \$60 million less than what we had 10 years ago, and we have a 39 percent increase in our population," said Morris, who has consistently said he will not run for reelection next year. "That combination is going to sink you, and that's what's happening."

Further complicating the situation, Morris explained, is the state legislature's efforts to put a measure on the ballot in November 2018 that would increase the homestead exemption to \$75,000 – a move that, if passed, would reduce St. Johns County revenues by an estimated \$9-10 million. Morris said the only way to counteract this potential loss would be to enact the sales tax this year so that the county could start collecting in 2018. According to Morris, the increased sales tax would bring in \$32-33 million dollars annually for the county.

If the county waits until 2018 to vote on the tax, Morris said it won't be able to start collecting until 2019, when the increased homestead exemption, if passed, would go into effect. Right off the bat, the commissioner hypothetically noted, the county would lose up to \$10 million of its \$32-33 million in earnings from the increased tax. Add in the millions of dollars in Hurricane Matthew restoration costs, Morris said, and St. Johns County has a troubling financial future that needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

The commissioner, who unsuccessfully pushed for a sales tax increase in 2015, believes it's the most logical solution to the county's problem because he says 38 percent of it will be picked up by the more than 6 million tourists that visit St. Johns County each year. He said the

only other option would be to implement a 1.5-mill increase in property taxes, which would also provide the county with around \$32 million each year. Morris noted, however, that residents would pay 100 percent of that tax.

"Wouldn't you be far better off with a sales tax bringing in \$32 million that tourists pay almost 40 percent of, versus a property tax increase in which the residents are going to pay 100 percent of?" inquired Morris, who added that he doesn't believe a gas tax or bed tax will solve the county's problems.

The only way in which the county could enact this sales tax increase and start collecting in 2018, he said, is by voting at one of the two upcoming commission meetings to put a referendum on a special ballot in November that would allow residents to vote on the issue. According to Vicky Oakes, the county's supervisor of elections, the deadline to place a referendum on the ballot is Aug. 1.

Morris said it's up to Commission Chair Jimmy Johns to place the item on the meeting agenda. Then, the measure would need to pass with three of five commissioners voting for it. If it were to pass, county spokesman Michael Ryan said a public hearing would need to be held after the vote. Ryan added that such a hearing needs to be advertised in the media at least 10 days prior to it being held.

Morris doesn't foresee the issue being added to the July 18 meeting, which leaves Aug. 1 as the last viable time to vote to add the referendum to the November ballot and potentially set the

county up to start collecting from the tax in 2018. If that doesn't happen, he said the county would probably have to wait until the general election in November 2018 to enact such a measure.

Oakes reemphasized that for the county to institute a sales tax increase and start collecting in 2018, it needs to do so before Jan. 1, 2018. She said the BCC could pay to hold a special election between November 2017 and November 2018, but the increase wouldn't take effect until 2019 anyways. As a result, she agrees with Morris that it would make most sense to wait until the general election in November 2018 if nothing can be done by Aug. 1 of this year.

Regarding the July 18 and Aug. 1 BCC meetings, Morris said he expects to hear two different presentations from county staff on the 2018 budget: one that requires cutting funding for various departments and another that requires tapping into the county's reserves. The commissioner said the latter is the more probable option because there really isn't anything more to cut. For 2017, he said the county only had \$4 million left to allocate to 12 different departments that were requesting a total of \$22 million dollars. As a result, Morris noted the county was left this year with an \$18 million deficit, which he said will similarly repeat itself in subsequent years if nothing changes.

"This is how rapidly we're going under," said Morris, who is pleading for residents to contact their commissioners regarding the increased sales tax. "The residents of St. Johns County have no idea about any of this."

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MSD Board of Trustees votes to maintain millage rate

By Jon Blauvelt

The Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District Board of Trustees voted to maintain the MSD's .375-millage rate for fiscal year 2017-2018 at its meeting on Monday at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

"Our expenses have gone up; our revenues have gone up," said Chairman John Wegl. "There's no need to raise it."

Vice Chairman Gary Jurenovich said property values have increased enough to cover an increase in costs for some of the services that the MSD provides, including prices for sanitation from Republic Services and security/safety from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. Jurenovich explained that the board determines its budget each year based on the ad valorem tax dollars it expects to receive. He noted that the MSD has not raised taxes in the 11 years that he's served on the board.

Treasurer Murle Harrison said it's clear that property values and ad valorem tax dollars will increase based on construction in Ponte Vedra.

"When you ride around and look at the new construction that's coming online, it is going to be astronomical," he said. "I just think the revenue that comes in next year is going to be considerably more."

The board also engaged in colorful

discussion regarding yard waste and residents dumping trash in empty or vacant lots. Trustee John Cellucci said he's soon meeting with representatives from Republic to discuss the issue. He noted that the MSD's contract with the company states that when a property owner's yard waste is out of compliance, Republic must tag it and tell the property owner why they didn't pick it up, as well as what can be done to correct the problem.

He also noted that Republic is not required to pick up trash in vacant lots. Trustee Kitty Switkes questioned what will happen when trash is dumped on the yard of an out-of-state resident.

Cellucci said most situations are resolved when the trash is tagged. If no progress is made, he said the county is usually notified. Overall, he emphasized that the MSD must adhere by the process that is outlined in the contract.

"Just let it sit there until it goes through the process," he said. "It's an ugly process, and maybe it's more time consuming than some folks like. But that's the process."

Jurenovich said more community policing and education needs to take place.

"If we continue to call Republic and continue to call the county and it continues to get picked up, you're never going to stop the problem," he said. "We haven't



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

The MSD Board of Trustees meets Monday, July 10 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

stopped the problem yet because nobody has gone to the community and said police yourself."

In other MSD news, Trustee Brad Wester said the county's construction of the Mickler's Landing Beach walkover most likely won't happen until the summer traffic dies down.

Also, Wegl noted that the Ponte Vedra Architectural Review Committee is hold-

ing a meeting July 26 in which it will deliberate over a request for a variance from the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club to demolish the existing Ocean House and build a new three-story, 43-foot high and 140-foot wide building. The hotel is also requesting a reduction in the minimum required separation between two buildings from 20 feet to 18 feet.

The next MSD meeting is Aug. 14.

Ponte Vedra YMCA to host baby shower for new parents

The Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a baby shower July 22 for new and expecting parents.

To be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the event will include presentations from the Y Healthy Living Centers, local vendors specializing in child care and youth products and the YMCA's Stroller Rollers group. Prize

giveaways and youth program demonstrations will also be on the agenda, and parents will have the opportunity to learn about the YMCA's various membership programs and discounts for new parents.

The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.

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Quang Pham is the founder, chairman and CEO of Espero Pharmaceuticals. When outside of the office, this Ponte Vedra Beach resident enjoys spending time with his family and participating in Jacksonville's many road races.

Quang Pham

By Jon Blauvelt

What's the story of Espero Pharmaceuticals?

Espero means "hope." I founded Espero several years ago, and we are an emerging cardiovascular biopharmaceutical company with potential life-savings therapies. We have three FDA-approved prescription drugs to treat angina and reduce the risk of heart attacks, strokes or deaths in high-risk patients. The biggest upside in our developmental pipeline is tecarfarin, a safer version of the standard of care blood thinner warfarin and a potential blockbuster. It's about to enter Phase III, the last clinical trial in humans before the FDA reviews it for approval.

What are your goals for the company moving forward?

Espero was just named one of Jacksonville Business Journal's fastest growing companies on the First Coast. Most companies at our stage in our industry are publicly traded companies. We are exploring strategic options including going public. We have an office in California where I spent most of my life and where there's a robust life science industry like the Bay Area, Boston, New Jersey and New York. Several neighboring states and other Florida cities to the south have recruited us to move, but we are staying in Jacksonville...for now.

What's the biggest challenge today for the pharmaceuticals industry?

The biggest issues that we face are the public perception of high drug pricing and difficult reimbursement barriers by the insurance companies. Government price control has always been lurking. The high cost of drug development, and the money that drug companies pay to the middlemen such as the third party logistic providers, distributors and retail outlets cut our margins significantly. Yet they are largely unknown to the public.

How would you describe the business environment in Northeast Florida?

I think certain industries like golf, tourism, banking support and staffing are booming, and world-class medical providers like the Mayo Clinic are here. Espero is the first and only biopharma with products in this region so there are challenges for us. We operate in a capital-intensive industry that requires venture capital, private equity and highly educated work force. The major biotech and pharmaceutical hubs have investor bases, work force and major research universities that discover molecules that are outlicensed to private companies to develop and commercialize. Every hub has had anchor companies like Genentech in San Francisco and Genzyme in Boston. That's how regional expertise is built, one company at a time.

What brought you to the First Coast?

My wife is from Jacksonville, and she moved to Southern California for a decade. Nearly all her family lives here. We did a trial move six years ago and decided to stay. I've visited the area (and hacked TPC often) since 2000 so it wasn't a totally strange relocation. Our middle school-aged daughter is close with her grandparents and relatives so we are blessed to be here. I first came to Florida in 1988 after graduating from UCLA. I began my Marine Corps career as a student aviator in training at the Naval Air Station Pensacola, making this my second time living in Florida.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

What do you enjoy most about living in Ponte Vedra Beach?

I've lived in more diverse communities yet overall have experienced a very warm welcome here. When my friends complain about traffic locally, I just chuckle. We are blessed with the natural beauties of the Intracoastal, the beaches, the golf courses and clean air. Sure, we have to go downtown for concerts and shows but believe me, those are easy drives compared to commuting to downtown Los Angeles for a Lakers game in dead stop six-lane traffic both ways for hours. And there are at least six Vietnamese restaurants within 30 minutes of our home!

I find myself now defending Jacksonville whenever I

travel and people I meet would ask, "Jacksonville? Isn't that like lower Georgia and very southern?" I would reply, "It's actually a very nice place to live and raise a family. Come see for yourself!"

How do you enjoy spending your free time?

I happen to be a trying golfer, a runner and an occasional fisherman so there's plenty for me to do locally. Jacksonville is a huge running city, and there are road races every weekend year-round. Our family enjoys being on the ICW and exploring the different regions in the region and the state. Plus, family is close by now and not 2,500 miles away!



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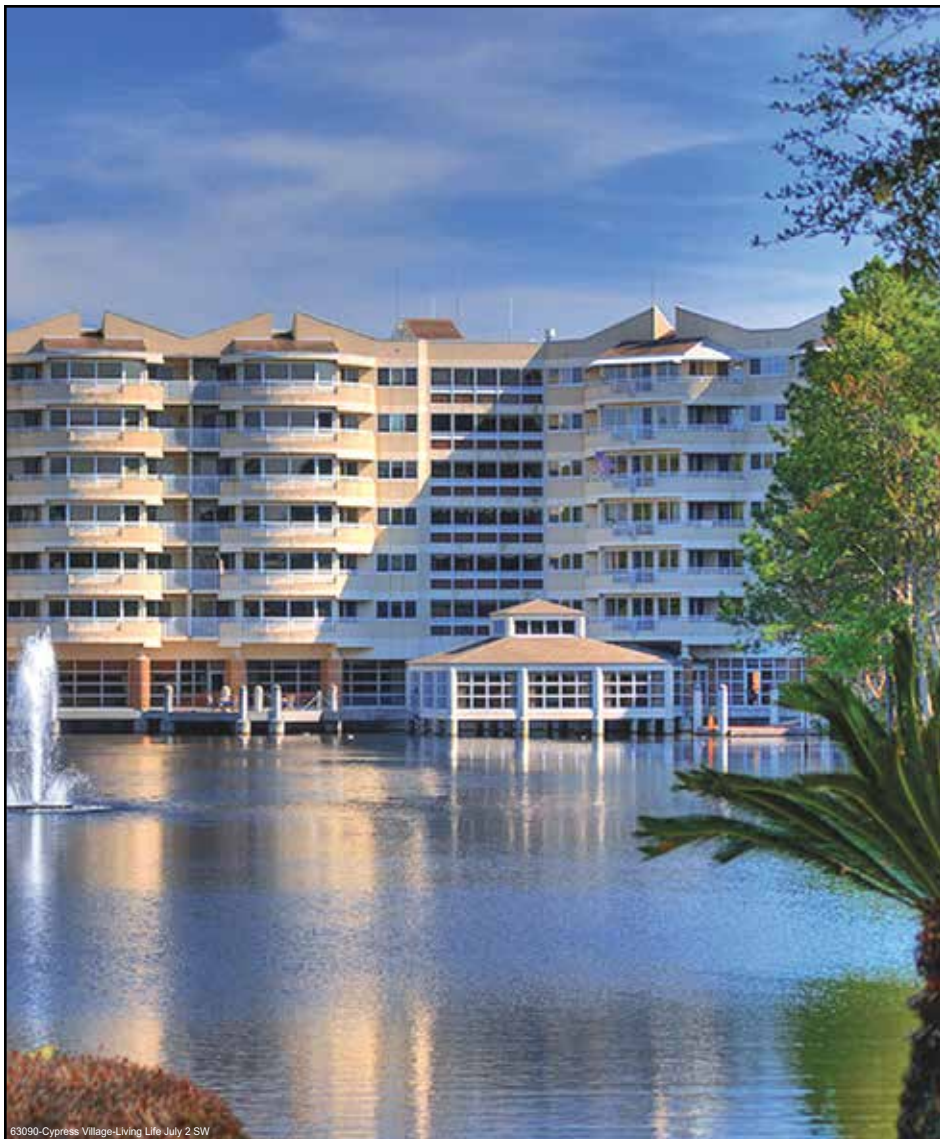
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63090-Cypress Village-Living Life July 2.SW

PV2-LV40074

Thursday, July 13	Friday, July 14	Saturday, July 15	Sunday, July 16
<p>Ted Nugent at the Florida Theatre Rock artist Ted Nugent will perform live at the Florida Theatre July 13 at 8 p.m. as part of his 2017 summer tour. Ticket prices range from \$32.50 to \$49.50. For more information, visit www.floridatheatre.com or call (904) 355-2787.</p> <p>Art of Cooking: Wine Pairing The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens will host a wine tasting event from 6 to 8 p.m. July 13. Attendees will join Certified Sommelier Nathan Asaro of Stacole Fine Wines and Cummer Café's Chef Jamey Evoniuk to learn helpful tips for pairing wine with gourmet foods. Registration is required and is \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members. For registration and additional information, call (904) 899-6038.</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 every Thursday night at 7 p.m. July 13, Bob and Joline Patterson's Friends of Mine Band will play classic folk music. 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>LEGO Club at the Library Kids ages 6 to 10 and their caregivers are invited to attend this club for LEGO-lovers Thursday, July 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. With LEGOs provided by the library, kids will be able to build their own creations and form friendships with fellow enthusiasts in their age group. There will also be LEGO books on display for viewing. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch is located at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p>Puddles Pity Party Known by many for his viral cover of Lorde's "Royals," Puddles, the sorrowful, seven-foot, singing clown will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Friday, July 14. Starting at 8 p.m., Puddles will give an emotional performance that will combine music with humor. Tickets start at \$33 and the venue is located at 1050 A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information visit www.pvconcerthall.com or call (904) 209-0399.</p> <p>Live Music at Table1 Table 1 at 330 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach will host live music starting at 7:30 p.m. In addition to the entertainment, guests can enjoy bar bites starting at \$7 and 2-for-1 well drinks, domestic drafts and house wine by the glass.</p> <p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets Fridays at 9 a.m. at Watson Realty Corp., 615 Highway A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit www.pvpng.com or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</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>Curatorial's Choice Exhibition at the Cultural Center The Curatorial Committee at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach has selected the works of Ronnie Burak, Helen Moody and Francesca Tabor-Miolla to be featured July 14 through Aug. 18. The exhibition will be comprised of photographs, paintings and mixed-media art. Admission is free. An opening reception will be held July 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at which works will be open for viewing and purchase. Located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach, the Cultural Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Bridge of Lions 5K The annual Bridge of Lions 5K will be held July 15 in St. Augustine. The race will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Castillo de San Marcos and will end at Oglethorpe Park on Anastasia Island. Free race photos will be taken and runners in all categories will be considered for awards. The Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 South Castillo Drive, St. Augustine. For registration and additional information, visit www.bridgeoflions5k.com.</p> <p>Art for Tots The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens will host an art class for toddlers aged 24 to 36 months and their accompanying adults. Designed to help develop sensory and motor skills through art, movement, music and storytelling, the class will take place from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 15 at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville. The cost for members is \$15 per pair, \$20 per pair for non-members. For additional information, visit http://www.cummermuseum.org/.</p> <p>Beach Reads Book Sale The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library will hold a Beach Reads Book Sale Saturday, July 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by and purchase some books to take to the beach or peruse by the pool. The Ponte Vedra Beach Library is located at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Touchdown for Life Blood Drive The Jacksonville Jaguars will team up with OneBlood July 15 to hold a blood drive at EverBank Field from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The event will include appearances by alumni players, the Jaguars cheerleaders and mascot Jaxson de Ville. Each blood donor will receive a free pre-season game ticket, a limited edition t-shirt and a free wellness checkup. Those who make their donation appointments in advance will also be entered to win a raffle basket, which will include four additional pre-season game tickets. EverBank Field is located at 1 EverBank Field Drive in Jacksonville. For more information, visit www.oneblood.org/jaguars.</p>	<p>Katz 4 Keeps Adoption Event Join Katz 4 Keeps July 15-16 for an adoption event helping cats and kittens find their forever homes. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Katz 4 Keeps facility located at 935B A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information about this event or organization, call (904) 834-3223 or email info@katz4keeps.org.</p> <p>'A Tea with Zora and Marjorie' A Classic Theatre will present the play "A Tea with Zora and Marjorie" July 15-16 at the Lincolnville Museum Cultural Center. The play is about two female American writers, Zora Hurston and Marjorie Rawlings, and their first meeting in St. Augustine in 1942. The first show will take place 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 15, and the second at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 16. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. The Lincolnville Museum Cultural Center is located at 102 Martin Luther King Ave., St. Augustine. To purchase tickets, visit www.aclassictheatre.org or call (904) 501-5093.</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 Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Annie at Alhambra The classic Broadway musical "Annie" continues its run at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining on Sunday, July 16. The Alhambra's summer family show, "Annie" tells the story of a Depression-era orphan who is chosen to live with a millionaire for a short time. A three-course dinner will be served starting at 5:30 p.m., and the curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. The show will run through August 13. The Alhambra is located at 12000 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville Beach. For tickets and additional information, visit alhambrajax.com or call (904) 641-1212.</p>

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Monday, July 17	Tuesday, July 18	Wednesday, July 19	Thursday, July 20
<p>Camp Cummer Week 6 of Camp Cummer sessions kicks off July 17 through July 21. During these day camp sessions, children will print, draw, paint, work with clay and learn new facts and techniques behind the art in the museum's galleries and gardens. Sessions are intended for children in grades 1 through 6. Registration is required and costs \$180 per week for members and \$215 per week for non-members. For more information, email education@cummermuseum.org or call (904) 355-0630.</p> <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 lead by a test astronaut named Chad. For tickets and additional information, visit www.themosh.org.</p> <p>Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament The 37th annual Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament will take place July 17-22 at the Jim King Park & Boat Ramp at Sisters Creek. Up to 300 boats will fish and compete in the week-long tournament for cash prizes. In addition to the general tournament, there will also be a Junior Angler Offshore tournament and a food festival with live entertainment. For more information, call (904) 251-3011 or visit www.kingfishtournament.com.</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>Free Admission at Cummer Museum Every Tuesday, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens offers visitors free admission to its galleries and gardens, for their "Florida Blue Free Tuesday" promotion.</p> <p>Caregiver 101: Dementia Those diagnosed with dementia need specialized care. This free training course, to be held July 18 from 3 to 4:30 p.m., will instruct caregivers in the proper ways to care for those suffering from dementia. The class will be held at the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center at 1048 A1A North. For more information, contact Paulette Kozlowski at the Council on Aging at (904) 209-3690 or via email at pkozlowski@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club Meeting The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call club President Janeene Hart at (904) 412-5409 or email jwhart1208@gmail.com.</p> <p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p>Marineland Photography Workshop Marineland Dolphin Adventure will host a photography workshop from 9 a.m. to noon July 18, guided by award-winning photographer Ed Siarkowicz. Participants will hone their skills by learning to use professional techniques and editing programs as they photograph Marineland and its surrounding beaches. Registration costs \$99 plus tax. Marineland Dolphin Adventure is located at 9600 Oceanshore Blvd, St. Augustine. For more information, visit www.marineland.net.</p>	<p>Wednesday Market Each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., approximately 60 to 80 vendors participate in the Wednesday Market in St. Augustine Beach. Vendors and artists display produce, prepared foods, local seafood, art, crafts and more, placing an emphasis on home-grown and homemade items. The Market is held at the St. Johns County Pier Park at 350 A1A Beach Blvd, St. Augustine Beach.</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 Carmen at carmenjsardinas@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Music by the Sea Concert Series The "Music by the Sea" concert series returns to the St. Johns County Pier for its 15th year, bringing free weekly concerts in a variety of genres from 7 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday. Visitors are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. Dinner is offered for \$10 or less beginning at 6 p.m. The July 19 concert will feature rock group Grapes of Roth. The St. Johns County Pier is located at 350 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach. For more information, visit www.sabca.org.</p> <p>Summer Movie Series Ripley's Believe it or Not! and the Colonial Quarter will host a free showing of the film "Monster Trucks" at the Colonial Oak Music Park starting at 8:30 p.m. on July 19. Ripley's Red Trains will provide free transportation from the St. Augustine parking garage and Ripley's stops to the St. George St. stop. The shuttles will run every 15 minutes from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will resume after the movie ends. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own seating. The Colonial Oak Music Park is located at 27 St. George St., St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 824-1606.</p>	<p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class July 20 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>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 will provide free concerts featuring local musical entertainment every Thursday night at 7 p.m. July 20, the Raisin Cake Orchestra will play early 20th century jazz. All of the "Concerts in the Plaza" shows are free to attend and visitors are encouraged to bring lounge chairs for seating. Picnic diners are allowed, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the plaza.</p> <p>Harry Potter Magic Show Elementary school-aged children and their parents are invited to attend a magic show at the Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library celebrating the "Harry Potter" book series. Meant as a summer reading wrap-up event, the July 20 show will have two performances and will feature local comedian-magician Mark Alan. Performance times will be from 2 to 3:15 p.m. and 4 to 5:15 p.m., respectively, and kids are encouraged to dress up in the colors of their favorite Hogwarts Houses. The library is located at 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.</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 samantha@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrerecorder.com using</p>

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SJCSD to hold district-wide orientation Aug. 9

The St. Johns County School District is hosting a district-wide orientation Wednesday, Aug. 9 from 8 to 11 a.m. to provide students and parents the opportunity to obtain supply lists, receive class schedules and meet teachers.

While many schools within the district have scheduled their own orientations on other dates, staff will be available at all schools Aug. 9 during the district-wide event. Parents are encouraged to call or visit the school websites to verify any changes in school orientation and open house dates.

The district also recommends that parents register their children for school as soon as possible. Parents may access information regarding registration requirements and attendance zones by visiting the school district website

at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us and clicking on the "Families" tab. Additional information on registration and school attendance zones may be obtained from the student services office at (904) 547-7797.

According to district officials, the purpose of early registration is to help reduce the number of students who need to be enrolled at the beginning of school and to help the district prepare for the appropriate number of teachers. The first day of class for the 2017-2018 school year is Thursday, Aug. 10.

The district is current operating on summer hours from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. These hours are in effect until Friday, July 28.

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Peterbrooke Chocolatier celebrates 'Gelato July'

Beat the heat every Wednesday in July with a free scoop of fresh, handmade gelato, courtesy of Peterbrooke Chocolatier for its third annual "Gelato July."

Since July 5, Peterbrooke has invited guests every Wednesday to treat themselves to a scoop of any of the chocolatier's classic gelato flavors, such as sea salt caramel and mint chocolate chip, with no purchase necessary. Gelato July is a promotion that Peterbrooke started in 2015 to introduce the community to its gelato.

"Gelato is a great alternative to regular ice cream because it is churned slower, creating denser and richer flavors," said Elizabeth Rice, marketing manager for Peterbrooke Chocolatier. "Our gelato is made daily and in small batches to ensure the freshest, most flavorful and delicious treat for our guests."



Photo courtesy of Peterbrooke Chocolatier

Gelato July treats are available at participating Peterbrooke Chocolatier

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and Tuscaloosa. Gelato flavors will vary per location.

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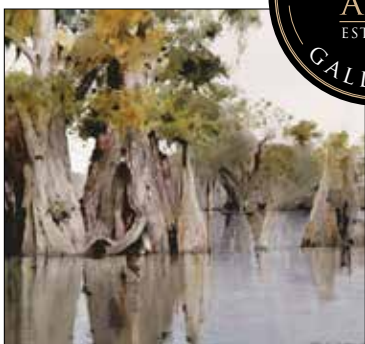
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Beaches Fine Arts Series hosts annual BFAST triathlons



Photos courtesy of Swell Studio.

By Samantha Logue

The Beaches Fine Arts Series held its 31st annual BFAST triathlons July 8 in Ponte Vedra.

More than 400 athletes participated in the triathlons, which included a sprint distance race and an Olympic distance race. First, athletes completed the swimming portion of the race at Mickler's Landing Beach, followed by a run along Ponte Vedra Boulevard. The last stretch of each triathlon sent athletes cycling through Nocatee and back to the finish line at Mickler's.

Prizes for finishers included mugs and original artwork by Heather and Holly Blanton, and there was also a post-race party with food and beer provided by Taco Lu and Bold City Brewery. Proceeds from the

event will go towards the free concerts and educational outreach programs of the Beaches Fine Arts Series.

"Beaches Fine Arts is immensely grateful to all of the numerous people in our community who help to keep our programs free to all people," said Kathy Wallis, Beaches Fine Arts Series executive director. "Our fundraisers are supported by many local businesses, including longtime supporters, Intrepid Capital Management and Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery, as well as Publix Supermarket Charities and Bird Legs, our official bike sponsor. Without the notable support of all of these great businesses and individuals, we would be unable to produce the fundraisers that support our programs."



Athletes receive their prizes after the race.

CCPVB and Cummer Beaches to hold Downton Abbey-themed exhibit and art tour at Lightner Museum

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach and Cummer Beaches are partnering to organize a Downton Abbey-themed exhibit and art tour.

To be held Oct. 12 at the Lightner Museum in downtown St. Augustine, the exhibit will feature nearly 40 period costumes and jewelry from the hit series paired with Otto Lightner's collection of turn-of-the-century fine art and furniture.

Ticket holders will also enjoy a luncheon at the historic Old City House Inn and Restaurant that will be attended by St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver and special guest speaker Dr. Susan Parker, who will discuss some of St. Augustine's greatest secrets. After lunch, attendees will tour the

Ancient City in a private Old Town trolley and then participate in a spirits tasting at the Ice Plant.

Individual ticket price is \$190 for members of the Cultural Center and/or Cummer Beaches. Non-member price is \$200. Tickets include round trip transportation, all admissions, the private exhibition tour, trolley ride and luncheon. \$100 of the ticket price is tax-deductible. No refunds can be made after July 31.

Because of the high demand for reservations, the Lightner Museum is requesting reservations be confirmed by July 31. Please reserve tickets by calling (904) 280-0614 or by visiting the Cultural Center's website at ccpvb.org/events.

Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens receives \$10,000 grant

For fiscal year 2017, the National Endowment for the Arts approved more than \$82 million to fund local arts projects across the country. Of those funds, a \$10,000 Art Works grant has been awarded to the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens to support the creation and implementation of the museum's upcoming "Augusta Savage: Artist-Community-Activist" exhibition, which will be on display in 2018.

The grant, which will also fund the publication and programming associated with the exhibition, was one of 1,029 NEA grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

"The arts reflect the vision, energy, and talent of America's artists and arts organizations," NEA Chairman Jane Chu said. "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support organizations such as the Cummer Museum in serving its communities by providing excellent and accessible arts experiences."

"Augusta Savage: Artist-Community-Activist" will focus on Augusta Savage's legacy as a Harlem Renaissance leader,

as well as her art and her influence on her students. A gifted sculptor, Savage (1892-1962) became an important teacher, leader and catalyst for change. Through this exhibition, the museum seeks to highlight the artistic, social and historic impact of Savage, who despite her influential career, is largely under-recognized today. Once the exhibition closes at the museum, it will travel to four other museums.

"For the past decade, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens has passionately championed the legacy of Augusta Savage throughout the state of Florida," said Cummer Museum Chief Operating Officer and Chief Curator Holly Keris. "Even though her career led her north, Savage was born in relative proximity to our Museum, and her passion for sculpture developed in our region. The Cummer Museum feels this connection deeply, and we are delighted to have received this grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Support of this level adds to the credibility of our institution and the legitimacy of this project."

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Hugs Across the County collects school supplies for local students in need

By Samantha Logue

Local nonprofit Hugs Across the County is holding a school supply drive throughout the month of July to assist and raise awareness for St. Johns County students in need.

“Hugs,” which received its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status earlier this year, works closely with the St. Johns County school district to confidentially identify children in need of assistance and provide them with basic necessities, such as food, shoes, clothing and now school supplies.

“There are needs in all schools in the county, including our own schools here in Ponte Vedra,” said Brette Reiman, the organization’s director. “According to the St. Johns County School District ASSIST program, there were 895 students considered homeless last year. There are thousands more who are not considered homeless, but who are living in poverty. When children don’t have the supplies that others have, they are embarrassed, they are even teased, and they cannot focus on learning. It is our goal to help level the playing field for these great kids.”

According to Reiman, needs throughout the county have only increased in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, with some families having to choose between purchasing school supplies for their children and

feeding them. To assist those in need, Hugs is now seeking help from the local community.

“We are hoping to partner with businesses, civic organizations, neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations, sports teams, book clubs, you name it, to be collection points for school supplies,” Reiman said. “We are very grateful to Merrill Lynch Wealth Management’s Ponte Vedra offices, who have already agreed to collect supplies.”

Donations received will be presented to students in need throughout the St. Johns County School District, and some will also be contributed towards the Investing in Kids (INK) “Tools 4 Schools” program, which aims at reducing the cost of classroom school supplies for educators.

In addition to its supplies drive, Hugs is also planning an upcoming initiative to provide weekend food to students at Gamble Rogers Middle School in St. Augustine. The organization is currently looking for volunteers to assist with shopping, as well as collecting and packing food donations.

“The needs in our county are overwhelming,” said Reiman, “and it definitely takes a village to help local students.”

For more information about Hugs Across the County and its community outreach initiatives, email info@stjohnshugs.org or call (904) 580-HUGS.

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Bolles Guatemala trip provides opportunity for student service, travel

A group of nine Bolles upper school students traveled to Guatemala this summer as part of a new school service learning experience led by Bolles faculty, Erin DuChanois and Allison Chandler.

In addition to serving in two Guatemalan schools during their seven-day visit, students toured historical buildings, Mayan ruins, volcanoes and other cultural sites. The trip also inspired new community service initiatives and club projects expected to launch during the 2017-2018 school year.

Students on the Bolles Guatemala trip included Ellie Anderson, Patterson Guyton, Lauren MacGregor, Jordan Bunn, Chloe Coffindaffer, Kate Gatto, Kavi Kerner, Skyler Mitchell and Nick Maniatis.

"It was a trip that opened our students' eyes and captivated their hearts," said DuChanois. "They were exposed to the poverty that exists and to various groups who are working to teach Guatemalans how to make a better life for themselves. They also learned about people who have held strong to their ancient beliefs in a modern world."

DuChanois is connected to Guatemala through her brother, who lives in Guatemala City and works for the Cooperative for Education (CoEd), a nonprofit organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of Guatemala's poverty through education. DuChanois visited the country last year and contemplated ways she could link Bolles students with Guatemalan students served by CoEd.

Upon returning to Bolles, she found enthusiastic support in Chandler, who teaches Bolles' Latin American History elective. Chandler's first trip to Guatemala inspired her to become a teacher. DuChanois and Chandler staged a student trip application process in the spring, challenging selected students to research and present Guatemalan topics of historical significance. Selected students also spent time fundraising for the purchase of three bookshelves and school supplies for the

Guatemalan students.

During their June trip to Guatemala, students visited a "morning school," where they interacted with elementary-aged Guatemalan children in the classroom and painted the bookshelves they donated. They also visited an "afternoon school," where Bolles students teamed with middle school-aged Guatemalan students in their computer lab. In addition, they taught Guatemalan students how to create a Sway page featuring videos they had created on different topics.

"The students were so welcoming to us, and our students didn't hesitate to get involved," said Chandler. "It was that human interaction, the ability to learn from each other, that made the experience so special. We received much more from them than we gave."

The trip also included touring historical buildings in Guatemala City and Antigua; climbing a volcano; visiting the Iximche Mayan ruins and watching a Mayan ceremony; shopping in colorful marketplaces in Antigua, Panajachel, and Santiago; and boating to several Mayan villages on Lake Atitlan.

"One of the students' favorite activities was climbing the Pacaya volcano," said DuChanois. "Roasting marshmallows on the crater of a volcano is a once-in-a-lifetime experience!"

As the 2017-2018 school year approaches, students and trip leaders are mulling ways they can continue their Guatemalan service mission. One participant wants to start a new student club that will raise funds for CoEd and help meet the educational needs of students in Guatemala. The club also aims to bring awareness to Bolles students of how education can help break the cycle of poverty. Another student wants to begin a pen pal/email program with the middle school students.

Organizers hope to plan a similar trip to Guatemala again so more Bolles students can experience the country and its people.



Photos courtesy of The Bolles School

Ellie Anderson finds a common language with two elementary students in the school yard.



Kate Gatto reads with a student at the CoEd school.



The group reaches the summit of the Pacaya Volcano, outside of Antigua.

Local family saves memories from Hurricane Matthew

By Samantha Logue

Last fall, Hurricane Matthew raged its way up Florida's coastline, leaving a path of chaos and destruction in its wake. Prior to the storm, Ponte Vedra resident Don Struble took steps to ensure that his family's memories and ancestral history would be preserved. Now he is encouraging others to do the same.

Struble, who is now 80 years old, said that his interest in his family lineage began when he was a child.

"It all started when my dad's stepfather died in 1949," Struble said. "I was just a little tyke, and I found these [albums] and I gave them to my dad, because I was just a little kid. They've been in our family since then."

Full of vintage photographs and documents dating back to the 1800s, the albums provide a glimpse into a bygone era. As Struble's collection of family keepsakes has grown over the years, he has made it his goal to learn and preserve all that he can about his genealogy.

"A lot of these people I have never met," said Struble, as he rifled through a stack of photographs. "The only reason I know all

about them is because my dad's cousin's wife put all this together. It basically goes all the way up to the '60s... and it's got all of their history."

While the albums still remain intact, however, their contents have begun to fade and deteriorate with age. In order to preserve his family memories, Don enlisted the help of his daughter-in-law, Lisa, prior to the arrival of Hurricane Matthew.

Lisa, who specializes in the digital preservation of memories, said, "I started with Legacy Republic, which is the digitization and preservation of family memories. When I started with that, we took the albums from the 1800s and had them digitized."

Although the Struble family was fortunate in that they did not lose any of their possessions during the storm, the knowledge that their family history would be preserved brought them comfort while they waited for Matthew to pass.

"I had received the discs back just prior to the evacuation," Lisa said. "Knowing that we had them on the discs and that we had access to them on the family Legacy account... there wasn't concern of getting everything out of the house as there is if



Photo by Samantha Logue

Lisa, Jeff and Don Struble display their family photos.

you're trying to evacuate and you don't have it preserved."

With hurricane season approaching once more, it is the Strubles' hope that others will follow in their footsteps and take the necessary steps to preserve their ancestral

history.

"A legacy is a collection of life's moments that matter most: your marriage, the birth of your children, milestones," Lisa said. "With it being hurricane season again, it's important to think of preservation."

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

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Recorder's

BIRTHDAY PARTY

planner



SPECIAL SECTION

JULY 13, 2017

Ponte Vedra 
Recorder
Not your average newspaper; not your average reader

Karate America Ponte Vedra offering 20 free birthday parties

Karate America is offering 20 free birthday parties for First Coast kids at its location in Ponte Vedra to promote health, fitness and self-defense.

“It’s our service to the community,” said Master Daniel Giménez, a 6th degree blackbelt and four-time world champion who runs Karate America Ponte Vedra. “It’s a way to help kids learn about self-discipline, self-esteem and confidence.”

The first 20 people to call Karate America Ponte Vedra at (904) 285-4031 can schedule a \$300-valued party for free. According to Giménez, a typical birthday party lasts 1.5 hours and includes a karate class led by an instructor, pizza, cake, drinks, a birthday gift for the child and a broken board signed by all guests of the party.



The Karate America Ponte Vedra competition team gathers at a recent tournament in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The business, which is located at 288 Solana Road, also provides all guests of the parties with free karate headbands, a black belt for the birthday child during the party and free uniforms for those guests that decide to schedule a class after the party. In addition, Karate America provides the family of the birthday child with invitations to send to the party guests. Lastly, all guests receive a free month of training.

Giménez said those interested in scheduling a party must do so on a Saturday at 1 p.m. or 3 p.m. All parties must be scheduled by the end of 2017. An unlimited number of kids can attend.

Recent accomplishments

Karate America Ponte Vedra recently sent its competition team to the 2017 ATA World Championships in Little Rock, Arkansas, where teammates Lucas Giménez and Amber Smith captured three combined world champion titles.

After the championships, the team kicked off the 2017-2018 season and took home several tournament medals. Giménez won gold in traditional weapons; silver in creative weapons; gold in XMA form; and bronze in XMA weapons. James Goodrich placed fourth in traditional weapons, while Eilla Guenzler won gold and bronze in traditional weapons and traditional form respectively.

Xander Javier placed fourth in both traditional form and traditional weapons, and Xavier Javier placed fourth in traditional form and took home a bronze medal in traditional weapons. Jessie Miller placed fourth in both traditional form and traditional weapons. Lilly Sonn won gold in traditional form and silver in traditional weapons. Amber Smith wrapped up the group’s accomplishments in style, winning gold in both



Photos courtesy of Karate America Ponte Vedra

Kids enjoy a birthday party at Karate America.



Kids at a Karate America birthday party participate in a karate class led by an instructor.

traditional form and traditional weapons.

The next stop for the Karate America Ponte Vedra competition team will be the 2017 Fall Nationals at the ESPN World Wide Sports Complex in Orlando in October.

Ideas for planning your next water-based birthday party



By Terri Mashour

Special to the Recorder

Everyone knows summer birthdays are hard. Friends are gone for the summer so it can be challenging to find people to attend. It’s hot outside so the traditional park parties or backyard parties are limited. However, you can beat the heat and attract friends to attend by hosting a water-based birthday party! Below are some surefire ways

for kids to stay cool while celebrating birthdays that fall from June through August...and since we are in Florida, beyond!

Head to a water park.

Whether you take a trip as a family to Orlando’s Coco Key, a resort with a fun pool, Legoland’s water park area, Wild Adventures’ water park area or stay in Jacksonville and invite friends to Adventure Landing’s Shipwreck Island, water parks are tons of fun and help guests forget that it is hot! Adventure Landing’s birthday parties include the water park, a decorated table with an assistant, hot dogs or pizza, and you can get a \$10 off coupon when you mention Fun4FirstCoastKids.com here: <http://bit.ly/2fYJZSo>

Head to a spring!

At 74 degrees year-round, the “freezing” water - to us Floridians - is the BEST way to stay cool during the summer! Most are no more than two hours from Jacksonville. The re-

furbished Spring Park Pool is nearby in Green Cove Springs. The small spring head drains to a large swimming pool, and kids can swim or play on the playground for only a \$2 entry! Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy views of the St. Johns River. Find all the springs near Jacksonville here: <http://bit.ly/2kQG0Dr>

Head to a local splash park.

There are six splash parks in Jacksonville and many have free entry! Sunshine Park has a wooden playground, and kids can stay cool while they get wet in the splash park area. Murray Hill has a new splash park; Jacksonville Zoo and Hanna Park have splash parks; and if you’re a member at a local club with a pool or splash park, add friends and family to the guest list and bring your food and cake there. Kids will love splashing with friends while parents talk and keep an eye on their children. Find all the local splash parks here: <http://bit.ly/2sGGMqo>

Enjoy a party at your swimming lessons location.

Many programs have their own pool- indoor or out- and host parties! Swim and enjoy life guards during the party, then break for cake and ice cream. Not only is the party fun, but parents will appreciate the extra, trained eyes on their kids. Find all the swimming lesson locations here: <http://bit.ly/2moedaz>



Photos courtesy of Adventure Landing

Water-Based

Continued from 18

Head out on a water adventure!

Jacksonville has many kayaking companies, locations that rent canoes and paddle boards and we love our St. Johns River Water Taxi and St. Johns River Ferry! Many offer a guided nature lesson or history tour. Bring cake to eat on the taxi/ferry or stop at an island to enjoy snacks and sing happy birthday. Find all the local water adventures here: <http://bit.ly/2swHe6y>

Head to the beach.

Bring a tent, table and beach buckets and shovels to enjoy hours of free fun with a beach party! This is a fun and relaxing option that will keep kids busy for hours. Be sure to have plenty of drinks and watery snacks, like watermelon and other fruits to keep kids hydrated. Organize fun-like beach Olympic competitions or a sand castle contest, or just frolic in the sand. Find all the local beaches here: <http://bit.ly/2tDCYFN>

Terri Mashour is the owner of Fun4FirstCoastKids.com.



Recorder file photo

Backyard water fun

Rent a bounce house with a slide and add water; put out a sprinkler; add water guns, bubbles and pool noodles that squirt water; and you have your own water park in the back yard. Enjoy a bounce house rental special from Big City Bounce when you mention Fun4FirstCoastKids.com. More information can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2uRhX15>

And last, but not least, the classic pool party...

If you are lucky enough to have a backyard pool and you have summer birthdays in your home, you are set for birthday parties for life! Pool parties are classic Florida fun for the kids to swim for hours. You have to beg them to get out of the pool to eat, yet they jump out at just the mention of cake. Throw in some pool toys and be sure to designate life guards and “wa la,” you have a party. If you don’t have one at your home, no worries: there are 33 City of Jacksonville public pools! You can find the one closest to you here: <http://bit.ly/2sNw29U>



Photos courtesy of Adventure Landing



Suggestions on how to fill your party goody bags

By Terri Mashour

Special to the Recorder

Goody bags are a classic part of birthday parties. You bring a gift to the party, you enjoy and eat cake and you leave with a gift or bag of treats as a thank you when you head out the door. Some say goody bags are not necessary anymore, over the top or just a bunch of plastic with trinkets that are played with once and then thrown out. Yet others say goody bags are here to stay. Here’s a list of goody bag ideas that are less trinket-based, and more hands-on and memorable.



Jacksonville Rocks!

What are these, you ask? They’re a

great craft for a birthday party. Purchase rocks at the local hardware store and have the kids paint and decorate the tops and then paint “Jacksonville Rocks” underneath them. Let them dry before the kids take them home. Then, it’s up to them to hide them in their neighborhoods or at a local park for others to find and re-hide, or take them home and enjoy. Search for your local Rocks group on Facebook to join the clubs and learn more!



Baked goods

Whether it’s a Rice Krispies Treat, chocolate chip cookies or a bag of chocolates, you can’t go wrong with a sweet treat in your goody bags. They are easy to make and inexpensive as many can be

made from the ingredients in your home. Or you can purchase specialized treats from a baker, referencing this list of contacts here: <http://bit.ly/2fTWWMo>



Photo booth photo gifts

Kids love to pose in photo booths with props and the funny signs (“I’m here for the cake!” or “Birthday Girl!”). Provide photos as a goody gift so kids can always remember the day. For local photo booths and related ideas, visit <http://bit.ly/2tPKhug>

Action gifts

If you’re having a superhero party, make, or purchase from a website like ETSY, masks and superhero capes to play

with at the party and take home. If it’s a princess party, make a princess hat to play with and take home. The kids will continue to play with the gifts long after the party is over.

Experience gifts

If you have a birthday party at a fun zone or the zoo, include a ticket to come back, or a coupon for an ice cream or frozen yogurt. Those gifts will provide a fun experience for families at a later date.



Consumable gifts

Offer crayons and a coloring book, sidewalk chalk or bubbles as a gift. These

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15 Balloons (1 for each child)
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Goody Bags

Continued from 19

are items that parents always need for activities at home. Our kids enjoyed the long wands with bubbles at two recent summer parties and use them for bubbles and as imaginary magic wands even a month later!

Garden gifts

Head to the local hardware store for bird or wildflower seed, and place it in plastic wrap with ribbon to hand out to party guests. They will enjoy going home to watch the birds come or to plant seeds, and the process will ultimately help the environment!

Books

Head to the dollar store and purchase some cheap books. We've had one dollar

store book about a Minnie Mouse mystery for five years, and we love reading about who ate Minnie's daffodils, even though the book is now held together with tape! Have kids pick out a book before they leave, and families will enjoy reading it for many years to come.

And last, but not least, don't be afraid to nix the party bags!

Many say death to goody bags; some feel they promote consumerism or the

feeling that kids should always get something in exchange for being at the party. Families enjoy just being together to celebrate, and goody bags are not mandatory. I actually forgot goody bags for my daughter's birthday, and no one mentioned it! Alas, if you are a stickler on the birthday party etiquette, consider the above list and enjoy the fun!



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SHORT TAKES

Dean Mitchell at Cutter & Cutter

Award-winning artist Dean Mitchell will make an appearance at Cutter & Cutter Fine Art Galleries July 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. to exhibit some of his most recent work. Known for his figurative works, landscapes and still life paintings, Mitchell has been featured in publications such as the New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, American Artist, Artist Magazine, Fine Art International and Art News. Cutter & Cutter is located at 333 Village Main St. in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit www.cutterandcutter.com.

Shakespeare Abridged

Apex Theatre Studio will present "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged" July 21-22 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. London's longest-running comedy, the play features three performers who weave their way through all 37 of Shakespeare's plays at breakneck speed. The opening performance will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday, July 21 and will be followed by two additional performances at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. the following day. The venue is located at 1050 A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach. Tickets are \$25 each. For more information, visit www.pvconcerthall.com or call (904) 209-0399.

Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants

The Lightner Museum will host a floral arrangement demonstration by the local ladies of the "Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants" Sunday, July 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. From instructors Marilyn Smith and Cathy Snyder of the Garden Club of St. Augustine, visitors will be educated in the elegant floral arrangement techniques of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The event will be held in the museum's East Room Gallery, and light refreshments will be served. The Lightner Museum is located at 75 King St. in St. Augustine.

Lorrie Morgan at the Ritz Theatre

Country songstress Lorrie Morgan will perform at the Ritz Theatre Friday, July 28 at 8 p.m. A four-time winner of the Country Music Awards' "Female Vocalist of the Year" award, Morgan released her most recent album, "Letting Go...Slow" last year. Tickets are \$44. The Ritz Theatre is located at 829 North Davis St. in Jacksonville. For additional information, visit jaxevents.com.

Apex Theatre Studio Presents 'Godspell'

Apex Theatre Studio will present "Godspell" at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Aug. 4-5. The first show will take place on Friday, Aug. 4 at 8 p.m., followed by a second performance at the same time on Aug. 5. The musical puts a contemporary spin on the Gospel

of Matthew. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased through either the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall or the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A North. For more information, visit www.pvconcerthall.com or call (904) 209-0399.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

St. Augustine's Limelight Theatre will present "The 25th Annual Putnam

County Spelling Bee" July 21 through Aug. 20. The musical comedy focuses on a group of six students competing against one another in the Putnam County Spelling Bee. The first performance will be July 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$26. For more information, visit www.limelight-theatre.org or call (904) 825-1164.

Ponte Vedra Auto Show

The 15th annual Ponte Vedra Auto

Show will take place Sunday, Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Nocatee Town Center. Hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the event will feature 180 collectors' cars, including classic cars, exotic cars, trucks and motorcycles. Local food trucks and other vendors will also be onsite throughout the show. Admission and parking for the event are free. Nocatee Town Center is located at 245 Nocatee Center Way in Ponte Vedra.



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ICI Homes names Joe Blanco chief operating officer of North Florida division

ICI Homes has named Joe Blanco as chief operating officer of the company's North Florida division. Don Wilford will continue as North Florida division president and as a senior advisor to Blanco.

"We are extremely proud of the North Florida division's growth and success, and we are proud of the team we have built in Jacksonville," said ICI Homes Chief Operating Officer Tom McCall. "Joe has demonstrated strong leadership, and we are fortunate to have both Joe and Don on our team. Their commitment, dedication and passion will ensure our North Florida division's continued success."

In his new role, Blanco will oversee the company's operations in North Florida, in-

cluding sales, construction, design center, purchasing, drafting, closing and administration. Blanco has been with ICI Homes for 12 years, joining the company in 2005 as a construction superintendent. Over the years, Blanco has received several promotions, and his responsibilities have included management of construction purchasing and operations.

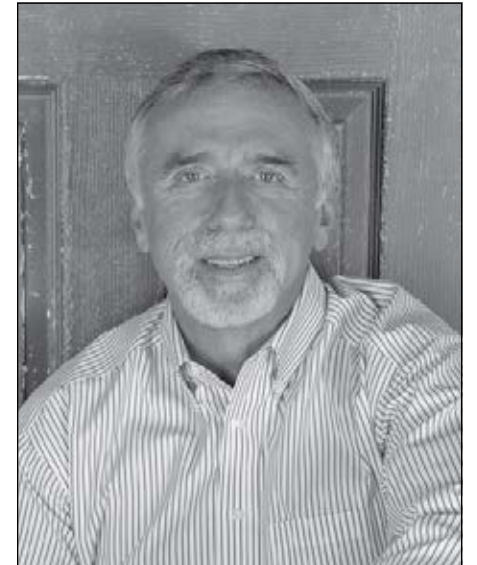
A graduate of University of North Florida with a degree in construction management, Blanco is a Florida certified building contractor and holds a certified green professional designation through the National Association of Home Builders. He has completed the National Center for Construction Education and Research



Joe Blanco

safety training programs in field safety, safety technology and construction site safety (technician and supervisor).

"Joe was hand-picked several years ago by our management team for this position, so this promotion is no surprise for anyone at the Jacksonville office," said North Florida Division President Don Wilford. "He has earned this title, and I am proud to watch the next generation take charge. Joe is a real team player and a great person to work with. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to him."



Don Wilford

Photos courtesy of ICI Homes

Wilford, who is in his 22nd year as division president for the company, will focus on aggressively and actively developing the company's established division that builds high-end custom homes for private owners' lots. He will also expand the local customization process within the company's North Florida division and throughout other divisions, as well as continue to be actively involved in startup communities and other forward-thinking projects as directed by Mori Hosseini, chairman and CEO of ICI Homes.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty welcomes Vandana Sharma

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has welcomed Vandana Sharma to its Ponte Vedra/ Nocatee office.

Sharma began her professional career in architectural design, project management and delivery 17 years ago and has worked as a senior architect, designer and realtor both internationally and locally. Sharma has helped various organizations around the world – including teams in the United States, United Kingdom, Middle East, Africa and India – to drive strategy and business solutions, and she has also helped enable business relations in top-tier firms through her work.

"I am eager to apply my knowledge of good design to my real estate career," Sharma said. "I strive to be

a good consultant and advisor to my clients – to help them market and sell their home for its true value, and to help my buyers see the potential that may be hidden in a home."

With Sharma's background in residential sales, her technical training and 15 years of architecture background, Berkshire Hathaway leadership says clients will not only benefit from her industry expertise, but they will be able to confidently market their home.

"We're excited to have Vandana join the Ponte Vedra/ Nocatee office," said Kevin Waugaman, broker/manager of the Ponte Vedra/ Nocatee office. "Her background in architecture, marketing and interior design will be a great asset to her clients, and I can't wait to see what she accomplishes."



Photo courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty
Vandana Sharma

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce welcomes Cook as new sales and marketing manager

By Samantha Logue

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce recently appointed Erin Cook as its new sales and marketing manager.

A St. Augustine resident with years of experience in business-to-business sales, Cook said she is best known locally for her previous position as a senior account representative at the St. Augustine Record. In her new role, which she officially started in May, Cook seeks to help grow Chamber membership.

“I’m hoping to better acquaint the business community with the Chamber and help businesses understand what the Chamber does for them, rather than just networking and social events,” Cook said. “I also want to focus on retention and helping current members to utilize all of the benefits that come with membership. They’ll get out of it what they put in.”



Photo by Susan Griffin

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Sales and Marketing Manager Erin Cook

Petrillo named ‘Elite Woman in Insurance’

Insurance Business America’s “Elite Women in Insurance 2017” report recognizes Ponte Vedra Beach-based Kimberly Bushong Petrillo of Coastal Insurance Underwriters as one of 125 insurance professionals who have broken barriers to become industry leaders and executives.

In a mostly male-dominated industry, IBA turned the spotlight onto the women who have made their mark and are slowly changing the face of the insurance business. 20 percent of the women on the “Elite Women” list hold top

CEO or leadership positions, including the first female to start an insurance provider in the U.S. This year’s list also includes the executive officers, division heads and agency managers who industry professionals say have overcome obstacles to get to where they are now—entitling them a place in this prestigious list.

“Despite women’s growing presence in the insurance industry, only a few have successfully broken through leadership roles,” IBA journalist Heather Turner said. “However, the women represented on this year’s report

have proven that it is no longer a male-dominated industry, with the number of them breaking through barriers and using their collective influence to mold a brighter future for the insurance space; inspiring the success of their peers every day.”

Read the full report in issue 5.06 of Insurance Business America, out now, or view it online at <http://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/us/rankings/elite-women-in-insurance-2017/>.

ERA Davis & Linn names top producers in June



Photos courtesy of ERA Davis & Linn Real Estate
ERA Davis & Linn Real Estate has named Tammie Gentry as its top producer in June; Paul Bowers as its top agent and top salesman; and Fred Conley as its top lister.

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The Future Of Long Term Care



Frederic Schilling
Columnist

By Ric Schilling
Special to the Recorder

I read articles quite frequently these days describing the increasing longevity trends in this country and in others. One recent article stated that average life spans are increasing by one year every five years; so in 20 years, the average lifespan increases by four years. That trend is significant in so many ways and will impact our society far more than we realize today.

One impact that is already apparent is the increased use of long-term care services. These include care in the home, adult day care, assisted living care and skilled nursing home care. Not long ago, the rule of thumb was that those over age 60 had a 50/50 chance of using some form of care before they died. Given increasing longevity, that chance has increased to 60/40 and is headed for a 70/30 probability of using care.

This shift is troubling from two per-

spectives. First, can our country grow its senior care service sector (qualified personnel, home care companies, long term care facilities, etc.) sufficiently to meet the increasing demand? And second, will those needing care have the financial resources to pay for the care or, if not, will government-funded care be available?

As to the first question, the key ingredient is money. If wages and benefits are high enough, people will be attracted to careers focused on senior care services, although that is not the case at the moment. (Nursing home wage rates are among the lowest of all healthcare positions.) Likewise, if demand is strong and service providers can earn a profit serving the senior population, then more facilities and home-based providers will develop.

However, on the issue of government-sponsored services, the trend is going the other way. The jointly (federal and state) operated and funded Medicaid program is in such serious financial distress throughout the country that the federal government is considering converting it to a block grant program and letting the states decide how best to use the funds. This will undoubtedly result in states providing long-term care services to fewer people,

opting to pay for healthcare for younger recipients over paying for years of custodial care for older adults.

On the facilities side, the news is equally as troubling with more government-operated facilities closing each year. Communities struggle with keeping facilities funded by local governments open; this situation is playing out in communities across our country these days.

What is the lesson here? First, stay as healthy as you can because living longer is a lot more fun if you are healthy enough to enjoy those extra years. Second, prepare for the future in case you need help. There are a variety of ways to pay for long-term care services: explore the options and choose a path that is best for you. For many years, people did not want to invest in long-term care because they feared if they never used it that it would be money wasted. There are options today that if you never have to actually use the long term care policy, it will pay out in the form of life insurance to your loved ones at your death.

The key is to know your options and what fits your needs best. Whatever you do, don't expect the government to come to your rescue. If the government can't

deliver the mail efficiently or keep our roads and bridges safe, I certainly don't want to place my future health and care in their hands. Be the master of your future by planning for it.

Frederic "Ric" Schilling is a Florida native, born in Jacksonville. Ric is President of Senior Guardians of America, a local North Florida firm specializing in tax reduction, long term illness planning, asset protection, probate avoidance and life income planning. Ric is a national speaker and advocate on senior issues and has been featured by the Florida Times Union and WJXT, TV-4 in Jacksonville as an authority on estate planning and retirement issues. Senior Guardians has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and is a member in excellent standing with the National Ethics Association. Contact Frederic: 904-371-3302 or 888-891-3381. Please visit: www.seniorguardian.com

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Do's and don'ts for improving your credit score

Nonprofit credit, student loan counseling agency Take Charge America shares tips for building up credit.

Many people don't understand the importance of their credit score, yet good credit is critical for securing a mortgage, auto loan and even renting an apartment. What's more, credit scores have a direct impact on loan interest rates, meaning a low score usually results in a high APR.

"Your credit score follows you everywhere you go," said Michael Sullivan, a personal finance consultant with Take Charge America, which is a national nonprofit credit counseling and debt management agency. "Even with a low score, there are hard and fast rules for improving your credit, but many of them aren't obvious and some even seem counterintuitive."

Sullivan offers seven tips to maintain and build positive credit:

- **Establish a history:** In most cases, paying with cash is the gold standard, but good credit is established by borrowing money – and making regular, on-time payments to pay it back.
- **Diversify your credit:** A consumer with an auto loan, mortgage and credit card who makes on-time payments will build a better score than someone with loads of one form of debt.
- **Be choosy:** Some small lenders, and even a few large lenders, do not report to credit bureaus. When taking out a loan, be sure to choose a lender that does report to the bureaus to ensure your score will improve with on-time payments.
- **Use autopay:** In a world of near-constant emails, social media notifications and breaking news alerts, it's easy to forget your loan payment – and nothing hurts your credit more. 35 percent of your credit score is based on payment history, so put credit cards and other loans on autopay to ensure you're never late again.
- **Don't close old accounts:** Credit history makes up 15 percent of your credit score, so closing a credit card may lower your score. The rule of thumb is never to

owe more than 20 percent of your available credit; closing a card reduces the credit-to-debt ratio, which could bring down your score.

- **Review statements:** Check loan statements every month to ensure they're accurate and report any errors immediately.
- **Know your credit report:** Request a free report each year at annualcreditreport.com to ensure your credit history is accurate and up-to-date.

Consumers seeking relief from credit cards, student loans or other debt can visit takechargeamerica.org or call (866) 528-0588.

SBA deadline to apply for working capital loans in Florida is July 17

The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding businesses in Florida that working capital loans are still available to small

businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in agriculture and private nonprofit organizations affected by

Hurricane Matthew Oct. 3-19. "Businesses that suffered economic losses as a result of the disaster and want to apply

for low-interest loans from the SBA are urged to do so before the July 17 deadline," said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Low-interest disaster loans are available in the following counties: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Indian River, Lake, Marion, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Putnam, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Seminole and Volusia in Florida; and Camden and Charlton in Georgia.

Working capital disaster loans up to \$2 million are available at 4 percent for small businesses, and 2.625 percent for private nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. The loans are intended to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. To be considered for this assistance, eligible entities need to apply by the deadline.

Businesses may apply online using the electronic loan application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Businesses may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded at www.sba.gov/disaster.

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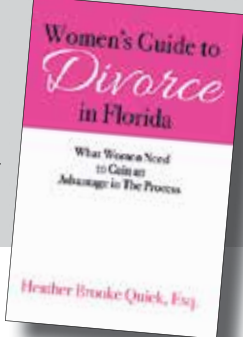
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TrailMark unveils new model homes



David Weekley Homes' Laurelwood model

TrailMark, a St. Augustine community that offers residents an active, nature-oriented lifestyle, now has two newly opened model homes that are ready to tour.

The first is David Weekley Homes' three-bedroom, single-story Laurelwood model. With more than 1,800 square feet, the home offers an open floorplan for entertaining and family living. The Laurelwood features an expansive family room, kitchen and dining area and study, with the main living area and two secondary bedrooms positioned away from the private owners' retreat.

The second is the Juniper model, which is one of Providence Homes' ENERGY STAR® certified homes available at TrailMark. The two-story design includes three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and 2,524 square feet of living space. The first floor

features numerous family entertainment areas, including a family room overlooking the covered patio. The kitchen flows into a dining area punctuated by a bay window. The second story includes a family loft, a large owners' suite with a private seating area and two additional bedrooms.

The Juniper model is built with a conditioned attic system that features air-tight foam insulation under the roof deck. This building practice keeps the attic within six to eight degrees of the indoor temperature year-round, providing the homeowner with a cleaner, healthier, more energy-efficient home.

"Looking at a floorplan drawing is one thing, but nothing compares to walking through a home and seeing its finishes and features," said Providence Homes Vice



Providence Homes' Juniper model

Photos courtesy of TrailMark

President of Sales and Marketing Robert Goettlicher. "Providence Homes has built more than 1,000 ENERGY STAR® Certified homes for Jacksonville families, and we are so excited to offer our award-winning homes at TrailMark."

TrailMark's builder team, which also includes D.R. Horton, Landon Homes and MasterCraft Builder Group, offers a wide range of styles, floor plans and natural settings. Homes range in size from approximately 1,500 square feet to more than 3,900 square feet. The community has several move-in ready showcase homes under construction. Homes are priced from the \$200,000s.

With opportunities to live life connected with the outdoors, TrailMark offers homebuyers a healthy lifestyle with access to a wide range of recreational amenities.

Homeowners can go to the amenity center to lounge by the beach-entry pool overlooking the lake, while the fitness center, sports courts and playing fields make it easier for residents to stay in shape. The camp house provides a space to celebrate and socialize with friends and neighbors, and TrailMark's lifestyle director plans activities and social gatherings to help foster neighborhood relationships.

TrailMark is located within the St. Johns County School District. The new Picolata Crossing Elementary School will open adjacent to the community in the fall. For more information about the TrailMark community, visit www.TrailMarkLiving.com.

Home price report shows prices up in Jacksonville and across United States

Report also shows lack of adequate inventory in most markets, impacting rental markets

Home prices in Jacksonville increased by 6.6 percent from May 2016 to May 2017, according to a report by a global property information, analytics and data-enabled solutions company named CoreLogic.

The company also stated that Jacksonville home prices increased by 0.7 percent on a month-to-month basis from April 2017 to May 2017. The city specific market data was included in CoreLogic's Home Price Index (HPI™) and HPI™ Forecast report, which was released by the company in early July.

According to the report, prices in Florida increased by 6.4 percent from May 2016 to May 2017, and United States home prices overall increased by 6.6 percent. CoreLogic forecasts that U.S. prices will continue to go up over the next year but by a slightly smaller increase of 5.3 percent.

While the market is consistently generating home price growth, CoreLogic's Chief Economist Dr. Frank Nothaft noted that sales activity is being hindered by a lack of inventory across many markets. He said the tight inventory is also impact-

ing the rental market.

"Overall single-family rent inflation was 3.1 percent on a year-over-year basis in May of this year compared with May of last year," said Nothaft. "Rents in the affordable single-family rental segment (defined as properties with rents less than 75 percent of the regional median rent) increased 4.7 percent over the same time, well above the pace of overall inflation."

CoreLogic CEO Frank Martell agreed that while the strong run-up in home prices has boosted equity and spending, it's not as pretty of a picture for renters

and potential first-time homebuyers.

"With price appreciation and rental inflation outstripping income growth, affordability is destined to become a bigger issue in most markets," he said.

CoreLogic's combined data from public, contributory and proprietary sources includes over 4.5 billion records spanning more than 50 years, providing detailed coverage of property, mortgages and other encumbrances, including consumer credit, tenancy, location, hazard risk and related performance information.



Photos courtesy of the St. Augustine Distillery

St. Augustine Distillery's Bourbon and Port Finished Bourbon win gold and "Best of Class" platinum medals at 2017 SIP Awards.

St. Augustine Distillery's spirits receive international acclaim

The St. Augustine Distillery recently won a gold medal for its Florida Double Cask Bourbon and a "Best of Class" platinum medal for its Port Finished Bourbon at the 2017 Spirits International Prestige (SIP) Awards.

The distillery was also recently named "Florida Whiskey of the Year" by Whisky Advocate and one of the "Best Whiskey Distilleries in America" by Esquire Magazine.

"We are honored to receive these two awards from the SIP competition and recognition from two legendary publications," said St. Augustine Distillery CEO and Co-Founder Philip McDaniel. "When both industry experts and consumers recognize the unique finishes we are developing for our whiskeys, it validates the approach we have taken to make our spirits. We are extremely proud of our team, and excited about the future of all our brands."

The SIP Awards is an international spirits competition, and the only blind tasting competition that enlists consumers as judges. This year, SIP Awards hosted its largest competition to date with 673 spirit brands and 118 consumer judges at the Hyatt Regency in Newport Beach, Calif.

"Spirit brands driven by the pursuit of quality exist to serve their consumers, but honest and unbiased feedback straight from those very people is hard to come by," said SIP Awards Founder Paul Hashemi. "We foster a controlled and professional environment for spirit brands to not only get in front of an audience with zero industry entanglements, but also receive feedback straight from their taste buds."

St. Augustine Distillery, a family-owned and operated company, is housed in the historic FP&L Ice Plant, which dates back to 1907. After a multi-million dollar renovation in 2011, the St. Augustine Distillery is a fully operational distillery producing bourbon, rum, gin and vodka on-site.

The distillery is a contributing building to the historic Lincolnville neighborhood, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The company has hosted over 500,000 visitors since opening in March 2014. St. Augustine Distillery has also garnered more than 50 awards for its broad range of ultra-premium spirits. For more information, visit www.staugustinedistillery.com.



Head Distiller Lucas Smith



The St. Augustine Distillery's interior

Great Clips in Pablo Plaza supports BEAM during grand opening



Photo courtesy of Great Clips

Great Clips Pablo Plaza Manager Joanna Grant presents a check for \$1,530.00 to Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) Development Manager Gracie Simendinger after the salon's grand opening. The business, which is located at 2220 3rd Street South in Jacksonville Beach, donated 100 percent of its haircut sales for a week to the charity. BEAM'S mission is to help families through emergencies and guide them to self-sufficiency.

Ponte Vedra residents take home hardware from National Senior Games

By Jon Blauvelt

Two Ponte Vedra residents recently medaled in the National Senior Games in Birmingham, Alabama.

Blake Stichter, a 64-year-old resident of Marsh Harbor, won a silver medal in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 01:19.9 and a bronze medal in the 50-yard breaststroke with a time of 00:35.7. He competed in the 65-69 age group in both races.

"I was pretty thrilled with my times and obviously my placing," said Stichter, who has lived in Ponte Vedra since 1994. "I've been concentrating all year, putting forth as much effort as a 65-year-old guy can."

William "Bill" Lanius, an 87-year-old resident of Del Webb's Riverwood community in Nocatee, won a bronze medal in pickleball mixed doubles in the 85-89 age group. He played with a Tennessee resident



Ponte Vedra pickleball player William "Bill" Lanius (right) receives his bronze medal at the National Senior Games.

Photo courtesy of William "Bill" Lanius

named Betty Case, who the National Senior Games Association matched with Lanius a day before the match.

"I thought we did well," said Lanius, who has lived in Ponte Vedra since 2012. "We played against very good players who had gone to other tournaments as partners before. I think we did fine for just being first-time teammates."

To participate in the national event, both Stichter and Lanius had to advance through a regional event in the Jacksonville area and a state event in Clearwater. This was the first year that both senior athletes competed in the national event. Over the past four years, Stichter has participated in regional and state qualifying meets but never competed in the

national event until this year because he said the site was always too far from Ponte Vedra.

Stichter noted he prepared for the competitions by swimming 2,000 yards almost every day at The Lodge & Club, which he said required significant discipline. Lanius said he tried to play pickleball at Del Webb four times a week leading up to the competition.

According to the Florida Sports Foundation, Stichter and Lanius were two of 900 senior athletes from Florida that participated in the national games. Their three combined medals contributed to the state's overall medal count of 576.

Men and women 50 and over from around the country compete in the biennial National Senior Games, which also include archery, cycling, racquetball, table tennis and tennis.



Photo courtesy of Lisa Stichter

Ponte Vedra Beach swimmer Blake Stichter displays his silver and bronze medals from the National Senior Games.

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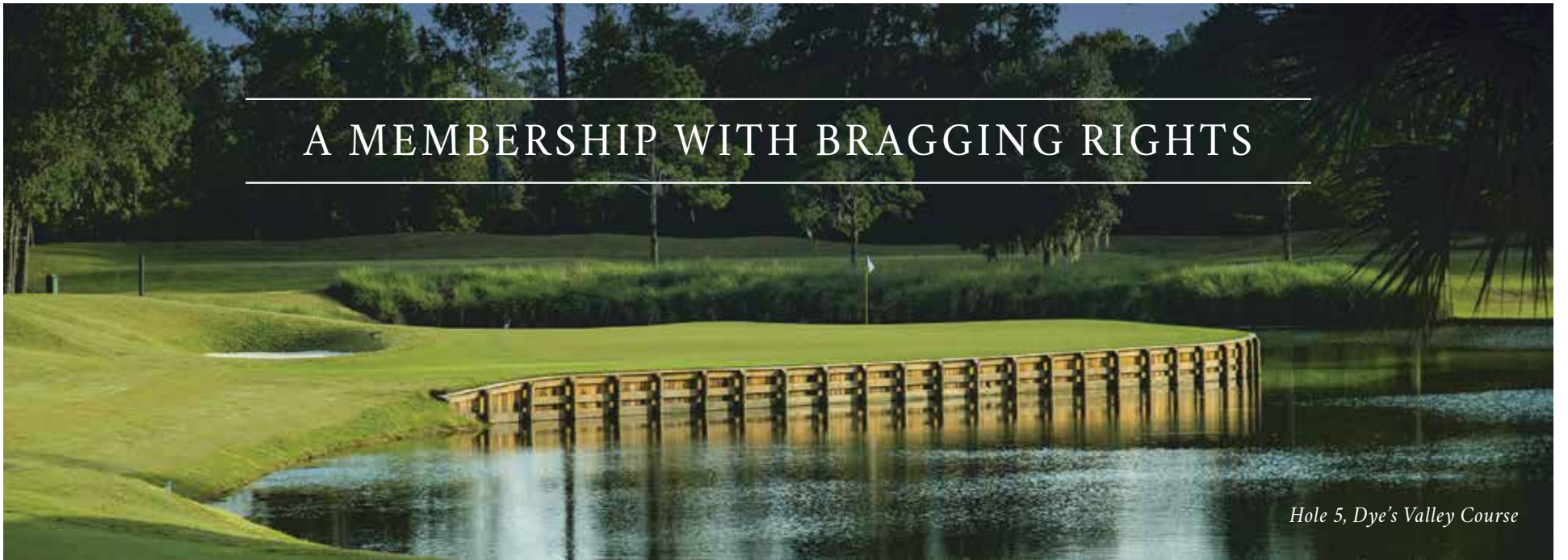
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KEEPING UP

By Barbara Boxleitner

Special to the Recorder

Justin Smith has started his professional baseball career.

The Atlanta Braves selected the 21-year-old outfielder in the 20th round of the June draft. The Bartram Trail High School graduate signed June 19, according to MiLB.com, and was assigned June 21 to the rookie affiliate in Danville, Virginia.

Batting in the lower third of the order,

he has hit .321 through 10 games and had three runs batted in.

During the spring, Smith led the St. Johns River State College starters by batting .355 in 55 games. He led the team with 15 home runs and three triples and was second with 42 RBIs. He had a .978 fielding percentage in 90 chances.

More baseball

Jacksonville University outfielder **John Cassala** was named a designated hitter/utility player for the Coastal Plain League All-Star Game. The Bartram Trail alumnus is among five who are representing the Savannah Bananas. He played in 23 of

Savannah's first 29 games and started 21. Cassala batted .320 with 13 RBIs, which tied for third on the squad. He led the team with 10 doubles. He batted .207 with 11 RBIs in 22 games for Jacksonville.

Trinity College pitcher **Anthony Egel Jr.** had a 2-0 record in 10 relief appearances for Green Bay in the Northwoods League. The Ponte Vedra High School graduate had a 7.04 earned run average.

Women's golf

Former Purdue University standout **August Kim** nearly won her first professional event. The Allen D. Nease High School graduate was tied for third enter-

ing Sunday's final round of the Donald Ross Centennial Classic on the Symetra Tour. But she did not prevail in a three-hole playoff. She shot a 201 (71-66-64) to place second- her best finish in four Symetra events- and earned \$19,053.

Bartram Trail product **Ella Woods** shot a 250 (81-86-83) in the Women's Amateur Stroke Play Championship. She has signed to compete for James Madison University.

Send updates about area athletes to Barbara Boxleitner at jdanddoc@gmail.com.

Ponte Vedra Beach resident wins PGA West Junior Open



Photo courtesy of Hurricane Junior Golf
Carter Lewis of Ponte Vedra Beach displays his trophy after winning the PGA West Junior Open in the boys 14-15 age group at the Jack Nicklaus Tournament Course at PGA West. Lewis shot a 75 on Saturday, July 1 and an 81 on Sunday, July 2, which gave him a four-shot victory over his competitor.

THEME: SPORTS

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- Clichéd
- *UK broadcaster of rugby, cricket, etc.
- Popular one-pot meal
- First cradles
- Note that follows soh
- Alluring maiden
- White, in Paris
- *"Miracle on Ice" winner
- Butcher's refuse
- *A top baseball performer
- *1st F in FFL
- 252-gallon cask
- ___ ex machina
- *Cassius Clay, ___ Muhammad Ali
- Twiggy's skirt
- Undesirable city district
- Cheap trinket
- Lion's share
- Church greeter
- ___ Pound, poet
- Comes before "we all fall down"
- "Partridge in a ___ tree"
- Kind of word, pl.
- "All for one, one for all" sword
- Not final
- Bloody Mary juice
- Wet nurse
- Hi-___
- Baker's baker
- ___ shot taken by police
- *Type of arts
- Firefighter's tap
- Kind of committee
- Form of "to be"
- Helicopter parent, e.g.
- Fare reductions
- Toni Morrison's "___ Baby"
- Kind of change
- JFK or ORD postings
- *Rob Gronkowski is an NFL tight ___
- Devoid of matter

DOWN

- Big brass
- It shall, for short
- *___ Madrid football club
- German surrealist Max
- Authoritative declaration
- Hangover memory?
- Like low relief
- Caused by friction
- Like baby's bottom
- Porous rock
- Paleozoic and Victorian ones
- Skilled in deception
- Japan's main island
- Carl Jung's inner self
- *Month for NFL pre-season games
- China-washing tub
- *Free one is not under contract
- Popular toy wind instrument
- Gold, to a chemist

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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.

- *Win "by a ___"
- *Worldwide leader in sports?
- Not our
- Pick on
- Florentine iris
- *Oregon Ducks' coach Altman
- Team homophone
- Morally degraded
- Unemotional ones
- Female reproductive cells
- *Get-together
- Fill with spirits
- Get one ready for National Dog Show
- Like a full-fledged Mafia man
- Miners' passage
- Actress Perlman
- Marines' toy recipients
- Deer social group
- Summit location
- Hitler's Eagle's ___
- *3-point field goal
- *What Usain Bolt did

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