

# Ponte Vedra Recorder



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*Not your average newspaper, not your average reader*

PonteVedraRecorder.com



## HOMETOWN HERO

**Ponte Vedra native Tim Tebow hugs a fan at his foundation's celebrity golf classic, which was held last weekend at TPC Sawgrass. Flip to page 26 for more.**

Photo by Samantha Logue

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## Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. E-mail submissions to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published in the paper, on our website or on our social media platforms.

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### WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to [jonb@opcfla.com](mailto: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.

Two readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Animal Care of Ponte Vedra sign. The winner of the random drawing was **Virgil Cantrell**. Congratulations, Virgil – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



### ADOPT A PET

#### CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Orion, and I am a 15-week-old kitten who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray, which means there may be some traits that are unknown at the time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #42083



#### DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Rex, and I am an 8-year-old male dog who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center by my owners. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #41274



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

### St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The pet center is located at 130 N. Stratton 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**.

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

N	A	T	A	L	C	I	S	B	A	L	D		
C	E	A	S	E	A	L	A	F	A	R	A	D	
A	O	R	T	A	P	O	L	E	R	E	C	T	
A	N	T	O	N	I	O	S	U	N	D	A	Y	
		R	E	D	E	A	R	N					
F	A	R	D	E	U	S	L	E	T	O	F	F	
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R	O	L	E	L	L	A	M	A	L	E	A	N	
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S	N	E	E	R	O	C	A	K	A	L	E	S	
P	O	S	E	W	E	T	S	T	A	R	T		

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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**PRICE REDUCED**  
**Exemplary Oceanfront Living on Ponte Vedra Blvd**  
 This oceanfront estate is built like a fortress with 2-story masonry construction. Set on 1.45 acres this home is designed with to capture expansive ocean views from almost every room. This is an exceptional opportunity for your most discerning buyer. **\$6,150,000**



**PRICE REDUCED**  
**Highly Sought-After Oceanfront**  
 Situated in the middle of the most desired oceanfront location in NE Florida. This first floor unit was totally renovated with the finest finishes and craftsmanship, 2br, 2baplus powder room, plus office have Saturnia floors mahogany doors and built in custom cabinetry. **\$1,775,000**



**Build Your Dream Home!**  
 One of the largest and prettiest estate lots in Pablo Creek Reserve. Near end of the street for added privacy. One of the most sought-after communities in the area. Convenient to Beaches, Airport, and Downtown. **\$402,500**



**Rare Opportunity Providing Multiple Panoramic Views!**  
 Built on one of the few waterfront corner lots with over 300ft of waterfront in the exclusive Harbour Island. This private Mediterranean home was designed with the intracoastal waterway as the defining element. Avid navigators welcome as there is an existing 40' boat slip adjoining the property. **\$1,895,000**

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# COLLECTION



**SEASIDE AT PV**  
**\$380,000**  
 Adorable Ponte Vedra Beach home in walking distance to the beach! This split floor plan home has been updated and meticulously cared for, with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, beautiful hardwood floors, an updated kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, a screened lanai and private backyard. MLS 920583  
**Sue Hollis | 904.616.2681**  
**SueHollis@WatsonRealtyCorp.com**



**LITTLE BAY HARBOR**  
**\$429,000**  
 This 2-story condo has been thoughtfully updated throughout, including bleached wood porcelain tile & hardwood flooring, new plumbing, a totally renovated kitchen & all 3 baths updated, including frameless glass showers, new cabinets, counters & fixtures. Enjoy water to golf views from your decks off both bedrooms & the main living area! MLS 921339  
**Paul Tarleton | 904.891.3100**  
**PTarleton@WatsonRealtyCorp.com**



**NORTHGATE**  
**\$549,900**  
 Charming pool home on Lake Lynn, located on a corner lot in the much sought after Enclave of Northgate. The exterior features hardy board and cedar, extensive use of pavers, and a beautiful backyard with a screened lanai, pool and dining area! HOA fees are \$200 per quarter. MLS 921385  
**Steve Falor | 904.252.2284**  
**SteveFalor@WatsonRealtyCorp.com**



**BROADWATER**  
**\$625,000**  
 4,258 SqFt brick home situated on a private marsh, & beautifully updated throughout! Features include 12 ft. ceilings, custom wood-plank tile floors, a gas fireplace with floor-to-ceiling stacked stone, a gourmet kitchen with custom cabinetry & premium slate appliances, & a private glassed-in lanai overlooking the fenced yard & preserve! MLS 921432  
**John Richardson | 904.465.5110**  
**JRichardson@WatsonRealtyCorp.com**



## Nocatee Happenings

# PACT Prevention Coalition kicks off cyber and social media safety initiative

By Samantha Logue

In the wake of the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, questions have been raised regarding mental illness, access to firearms and a cultural desensitization to violence. With concern for the safety of students fresh on their minds, members of PACT Prevention Coalition met last Tuesday, Feb. 27, to discuss the influences and risks mobile devices and the internet impose on today's youth.

*This article is the second part of a series on St. Johns County's response to the recent shooting that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. In an upcoming issue, the Recorder will speak with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office about their plans to keep local schools safe.*

"PACT is kicking off a rewrite for cyber and social media safety for schools and law enforcement to help change the influences and exposures our kids are interacting with online and through social media platforms," PACT Prevention Coalition Chair Denver Cook said. "As what our kids are exposed to and what they are learning in school can affect behaviors in both negative and positive ways, we

are looking to rewrite the book for students, parents, educators and community



Photo by Samantha Logue

**PACT Prevention Coalition members and supporters gather Feb. 27 to discuss cyber and social media safety education development.**

on how we are teaching responsibility and values as they relate to this increasingly challenging area."

PACT is a nonprofit dedicated to positively impacting the critical lifestyle choices of St. Johns County's youth, with significant focus on the prevention of underage substance abuse. The meeting, held at the residents' clubhouse in Nocatee's Coastal Oaks neighborhood, was attended by a handful of coalition members, as well as supporters like Ocean Palms Elementary School Principal Tiffany Cantwell and Lt. Mike Strausbaugh of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. Among the topics discussed were the difficulties of limiting children's exposure to the various dangers

of the internet and social media – including cyberbullying, unwanted sexual solicitations and privacy concerns – when the internet has become such a staple of 21st century life.

"(Boundary) conversations have to start early," Strausbaugh said. "What we see a lot in law enforcement is that those conversations aren't had early on with children, and then those children grow into teenagers, without a lot of rules and things in place that need to be put in place. Then they come into things like social media that they misuse or use inappropriately, because they've not had boundaries set since early on."

Strausbaugh added that a lack of paren-

tal control and supervision early on only makes it more difficult to impose restrictions later.

"It's hard to reel that in, when you've had 13 or 14 years of being able to do what you want, and then when you're 15, your parents try to put the lasso around and go back," he said.

Attendees also acknowledged that one of the largest roadblocks to online safety education is the generational gap between today's students and their parents.

"There's a disconnect between the generations, and we all know that," Cook said, pointing to a 2012 study conducted by Hart Research Associates regarding parental perception of youth safety online. When surveyed, 84 percent of parents said that they monitor their children's online activities "very" or "somewhat" closely, yet only 39 percent of teens echoed that response. Similarly, 91 percent of parents responded that they were well-informed of what their teens were doing online and on their mobile devices, but only 60 percent of teens said their parents were in the know.

Noting that the study also found that teens typically rely on their parents and other adults in their lives for information regarding internet safety, Cook zeroed in on parental education as a primary objective for PACT's forthcoming campaign, stating: "The kids are smarter than we are with technology, so we need to develop ways for parents to learn."

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The map is the problem and the solution. For months, St. Johns County has been floating the idea of a six-laned A1A through the very heart of residential Ponte Vedra Beach — the same Ponte Vedra Beach that provides the cache of the PGA, ATP, TPC and the Inn & Club, as well as thousands of high-end homes that provide a treasure trove of property taxes for the county. In essence, the county wants to bolden the eastern boundary of a very large square bounded by JTB on the north, I-295 to the west and Nocatee Parkway and Palm Valley Road on the south. In the heart of that very large box, with the exception of Pablo Creek Reserve, is a vast void of unused space.

More so than St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra Beach is a suburb of Jacksonville. It attracts families who work in Duval, but who want the safety, school system and lower property taxes of St. Johns. And St. Johns is happy to oblige. One cannot drive Roscoe Boulevard, Palm Valley Road or A1A south of Mickler's Landing without running into numerous construction crews and denuded home sites. This says nothing about the ever-growing Nocatee. But whereas St. Johns has no problem authorizing more homes, it has thus far failed to address the added traffic these homes bring. The result for Ponte Vedra Beach and Nocatee is the "Hobson's Choice" of driving southwest to U.S. 1 or I-95 to go north to Jacksonville, or driving east, nearly to the ocean,



to pick up A1A and the far end of JTB.

Anyone who has driven these arteries at peak traffic times — and often in non-peak times — has an intimate knowledge of the word "gridlock." Driving into Jacksonville, normally a 25- to 30-minute trip, can take 45 minutes to an hour at rush hour, with a majority of that extra time spent lurching about U.S. 1 and A1A. Further, there is no direct line from Nocatee to the employment center quickly arising around Town Center. But look at the map. Hodges and Kernan boulevards, both four-lane roads extending into east Jacksonville, dead-end just south of JTB. Both are pointed at the heart of Nocatee, and one or both, if extended to Nocatee Parkway, would provide

alternate north-south arteries for the residents of northern St. Johns County. The problem, of course, is that the vacant land is in Duval, owned by one of the county's most famous families.

The solution is simple - and difficult. St. Johns has to bring Duval to the table. One of Jacksonville's former mayors once famously thanked St. Johns County for its school system, because it had fed Jacksonville's labor force. It's time to remind Jacksonville mayor Lenny Curry of this fact. Someone has to convince the Davis family and Duval County that a new, limited access north-south artery, west of the Intracoastal, offers more for their coffers and permits the opportunity to maintain a preserve of natural forest in the area. The City of Jacksonville, the State of Florida and the St. Johns River Water Management District (the "SJRWMD") already have the land south of Hodges Boulevard and JTB under a conservation easement and will ultimately own the land outright in the future.

Alternatively, if northern St. Johns County becomes unlivable due to traffic, Jacksonville and St. Johns County will suffer. Six-laning A1A through some of the county's most valuable residential property is not an answer and, in fact, likely causes more harm than good. Make the call, St. Johns; Mayor Curry is waiting.

**Philip Vineyard, Ponte Vedra Beach**



# County Commission to pursue ordinance banning medical marijuana dispensaries

By Benjamin Naim

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) voted unanimously on Feb. 20 to begin the process of permanently banning medical marijuana dispensaries in the unincorporated area of the county – which excludes St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach.

Paolo Soria, the assistant county attorney for St. Johns County, delivered a presentation at the BCC meeting to give the board four possible options following the expiration of the medical marijuana dispensary moratorium enacted in March 2017.

Expiring March 31, the moratorium prohibits medical marijuana dispensing facilities from being built in the unincorporated area of St. Johns County. At the Feb. 20 BCC meeting, the board directed staff to develop an ordinance resulting in a permanent ban of such marijuana dispensaries, after viewing Soria's presentation and listening to public comments.

One of those comments came from resident Tom Reynolds, who urged the commission to allow medical marijuana

“There's two kinds of medical marijuana,” he said. “There's the ‘get high kind’ and then there's the kind that stops seizures. So, when you banned medical marijuana in the county, you're banning a child's ability to get ‘non-get high’ marijuana and that's what it's all about ... Don't deny any child, any parent, the right to get medication for a child having seizures.”

Another resident, Ed Slavin, agreed with Reynolds' assertions.

“Please lift the moratorium and please make this legal in St. Johns County,” he requested.

Soria noted at the meeting, however, that a permanent ban on medical marijuana dispensaries will not restrict access to the substance for those ordering it from home to treat a specific medical condition.

“It does not apply to the at-home delivery of medical marijuana to qualified patients,” he added. “As an example – if you meet one of the debilitating conditions in the statute and you obtain a physical certification that you qualify to receive medical marijuana – you can order online or go to one of the two current retail facili-

ties in Jacksonville and have it delivered to you at home.”

If the ban is implemented, Soria said, it will prohibit the retail sale of marijuana within the county at brick and mortar stores, pharmacies and other outlets.

Instead of directing staff to implement a ban, the board could have proceeded with land development regulations consistent with Florida law, reviewed possible changes to zoning for pharmacies or extended the moratorium for an unspecified number of months, Soria told the board.

“I gave the board roughly four options – which are the options that are currently permissible under the regulatory framework given to us by the state of Florida legislature,” Soria said. “They picked the option to ban medical marijuana treatment center dispensing facilities within the unincorporated area of St. Johns County; that was in fact a direction to staff to begin the process of formally prohibiting these types of facilities in the county.”

Commissioner Jeb Smith delivered a closing pronouncement before submitting his vote at the conclusion of the meeting.

“Number one, this is still against federal

statute,” he said. “Number two, there is still no restriction to access for anybody that has a need or that has a doctor's prescription to obtain [medical marijuana] and it can even be delivered at the home. I just believe that this board – we've dealt with some zoning issues as of late – and this is going to be a disaster when it comes to that as well.”

Commissioners Henry Dean, Jimmy Johns, Jay Morris and Paul Waldron also voted for the ban, which will not be formally implemented until a final hearing takes place in April following a series of meetings and public hearings. According to Soria, the board's Feb. 20 decision was a catalyst for county officials to develop an ordinance that would culminate in a permanent decision at a later date. He added that the board can direct staff to do something else at any point in time.

St. Augustine will be unaffected by any future decisions, Soria said, because the city's zoning regulations allow St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach to act as “their own governments” with a distinct set of regulations that cannot be altered by St. Johns County.

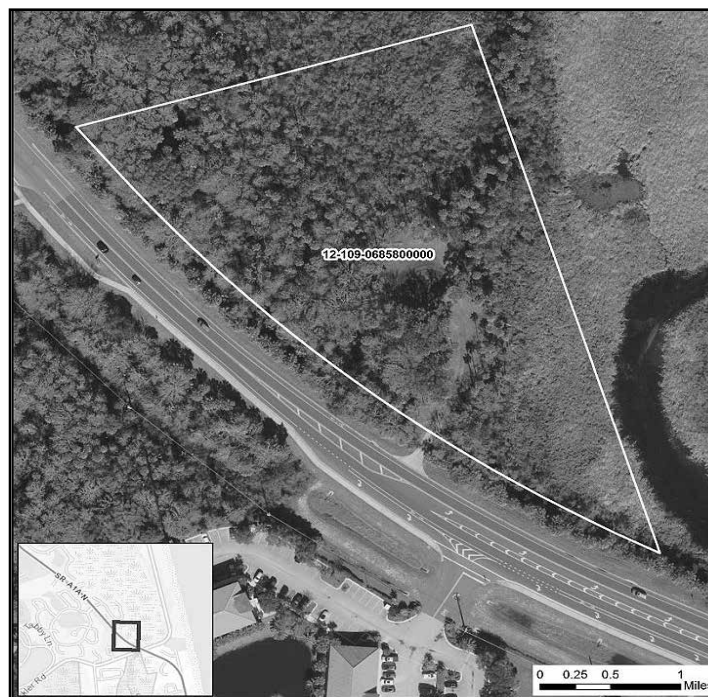
## North Florida Land Trust acquires property on A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach

North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) recently announced that it is now the owner of 4.3 acres of land along A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The property is located next to the McGarvey-Goelz Preserve, which NFLT has owned since 2004. The land conservation organization reached out to the community to ask for donations to help purchase the property, which had been advertised for sale for residential or multifamily development. The land will now be preserved in perpetuity, giving NFLT access to the property and allowing for public access for picnicking, canoeing and kayaking.

“We are very grateful to the donors who stepped forward to help us purchase this piece of land, especially the River Branch Foundation and Joseph and Renate Hixon,” said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT, in a recent press release sent by the organization. “The donations we received covered a portion of the \$400,000 cost of the property and we used NFLT funds to cover the rest. We are now asking for donations to help us replenish those funds.”

The property is located at 1105 A1A North and is a wetland parcel with 0.55 acres of uplands. According to NFLT, it contains a mixture of live oak hammock and cabbage palm that is surrounded by the freshwater wetlands of the Guana River. The organization continued to explain that it is marsh habitat that is rich with wildlife including roseate spoonbills, tricolored herons, great egrets, snowy egrets, white ibis, clapper rails and others. This acquisition is among the 112,346 acres in NFLT's 10-county focus area that the organization had deemed in critical need of preservation.



Map courtesy of North Florida Land Trust

**A map shows the parcel of land in Ponte Vedra Beach that North Florida Land Trust has acquired for preservation.**

The Guana River is the northernmost waterway feeding into the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM Research Reserve). It is one of 28 coastal sites designated to protect and study estuarine systems in the U.S. According to NFLT, the preservation of this stretch of freshwater marsh and upland maritime hammock is vital to the adaptability to this estuarine system under sea level rise and critical to ensure the future health of the GTM Research Reserve.

Those interested in contributing can send the donation to NFLT, 2038 Gilmore St., Jacksonville, FL 32204 or donate online at [www.northfloridalandtrust.org](http://www.northfloridalandtrust.org). For further information, contact Jim McCarthy at [jmccarthy@northfloridalandtrust.org](mailto:jmccarthy@northfloridalandtrust.org) or call (904) 479-1967.

### BRIEFS

#### Council on Aging seeks volunteer for Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center

The Council on Aging is seeking a volunteer receptionist for the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center to serve as a primary responder to all incoming calls.

The volunteer will be asked to pass on appropriate messages in a timely manner, greet all visitors, provide administrative support and effectively communicate with Council on Aging staff to ensure a high level of professionalism.

Hours would be Monday to Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call Amy Leach at (904) 209-3686 or email [aleach@stjohnscoa.com](mailto:aleach@stjohnscoa.com).

The Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center is located at 1050 A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach.

#### PVPV-Rawlings to host Spring Carnival March 10

PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School will host its Spring Carnival presented by Lazzara Orthodontics on Saturday, March 10. The event is from noon to 4 p.m.

Join the school as the campus is transformed into a field of games, food and fun for all.



*A retired, two-time All-Pro NFL punter, Brian Moorman is now a Ponte Vedra Beach resident and a broker/owner of First Coast Sotheby's International Realty, where he also lists and sells real estate with sales partner Jennifer Rowe as part of the Moorman/Rowe Group.*

## Brian Moorman

By Jon Blauvelt

### Can you please tell us about your background?

I grew up in a small town, Sedgwick, Kansas, about 20 minutes north of Wichita. I went to college at Pittsburg State University, where I met my wonderful wife of 18 years. I eventually landed in Buffalo after signing with the Seattle Seahawks out of college and playing two years in NFL Europe for the Berlin Thunder. I have been retired from the NFL since 2014, when I went full time into real estate and am now an owner and partner in First Coast Sotheby's International Realty.

### What is your favorite NFL memory?

It's hard to pin down just one. My 15 seconds of fame comes from when I ran a fake punt in the Pro Bowl and got leveled by arguably the hardest hitting safety to play the game, Sean Taylor. Most would think I would have no memory after a hit like that, but I remember it quite well and get a lot of questions about it. However, if I had to choose a favorite memory, it would be a game against the Cincinnati Bengals in 2013 when I returned to Buffalo after playing most of 2012 in Dallas. It was my first game back in a Bills uniform, and I didn't get to kick until there was only about a minute left in the first half. When I ran on the field to a standing ovation, the outpouring of support and cheers from the crowd will never leave my memory.

### How has your experience in the NFL helped you as a realtor?

Dedication, attention to detail, focus, ability to communicate and willingness to train or work harder than the guy trying to take your job. All of these attributes were needed for me to succeed in the NFL. I find that I still use them all in some way, shape or form. When I stepped on the field, I always knew I was prepared for each situation because I overprepared at every practice. I use that same focus now in my business when listing and selling or helping other agents be successful in the office.

### What excites you most about your work in the real estate industry?

It just fits me. I love working with people and trying to help. I've always had a passion for it in many ways, from the foundation we started in Buffalo to benefit children battling cancer ([www.puntfoundation.org](http://www.puntfoundation.org)) to now in real estate. Buying or selling a home is more than a transaction. I view it as helping a family either make a huge transition, make a dream come true, or both. It's likely one of, if not the biggest purchases a person will make in their lives. It doesn't matter if it's their first home or their final home, they are all important. As an owner and partner in the business, I also get the same opportunity to help the other agents be successful. Whether it is by representing the brand out in the community or helping agents personally, I take very seriously my role as an owner/broker. I'm living a dream and I want them to as well.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

### How would you characterize the real estate market on the First Coast?

The very thing that makes the First Coast so appealing — the wide-ranging housing opportunities from urban to suburban; from historic to brand new; from Intracoastal, to St. Johns River or Atlantic Ocean fronting; from comprehensively amenity-planned communities to rural acreage — is also what makes that question very difficult to answer. The Jacksonville/Duval County market alone covers 3,698 square miles. The Northeast Florida Multiple Listing Service covers 25 regions that are further broken down into 125 areas — each with their own unique attributes. With such broad housing diversity and vast opportunities, there isn't one single answer. It is also why it is so

important to engage with a real estate professional when buying or selling a home. Buyers and sellers need to fully understand the nuances of their particular area in order to make informed decisions.

If I had to make a broad statement about the Northeast Florida real estate market, I would say the overall increase in sale volume year over year and the general uptick in sales prices would indicate the market is exceptionally healthy. Interest rates are still very attractive, which positively impacts buyers' ability to optimize their purchasing capacity. The First Coast is being discovered for the gem that it is for a host of reasons and that's part of why being a part of a dynamic and cutting-edge brand like Sotheby's International Realty is so exciting for me.

*To watch a video portion of the interview, visit [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com) and click One of Us.*



# Jamie Chapin Classic set for March 17 in Ponte Vedra

Event honors former UF lacrosse star, raises money for brain cancer research

By Paris Moulden

Former Nease and University of Florida (UF) lacrosse star Jamie Chapin continues to be an inspiration to the Gators' lacrosse team, and his legacy also lives on in groundbreaking cancer research at UF.

Chapin died of a brain cancer in 2011 at the age of 25. Last year, the UF lacrosse team held the first Jamie Chapin Classic golf tournament to raise money for the UF Brain Cancer Immunotherapy Program. The team hopes to top last year's success with the second annual event on Saturday, March 17, at the Lagoon Course of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

"When we started talking about plans for the second annual event, it made more sense to take it to Jamie's hometown where so many of the people that made up his personal network still reside," UF lacrosse coach Garrett Hanrahan said. "It's also a great golf community and we had access to some great resources, so we decided to make the move this year and anticipate it will remain in Ponte Vedra moving forward."

Hanrahan, a former UF lacrosse player who took over the Gators' program in 2016, said his former coach, Ryan Winters, always kept Chapin's memory alive when Hanrahan played for the Gators. Winters would always tell incoming players about Chapin, a team captain, and the inspiring story stuck with Hanrahan.

"For us to be a small part of that and to be able to support it with our efforts is meaningful, and I think would be meaningful to anybody because it's such a worthy cause," Hanrahan said. "It's a cause that transcends lacrosse, transcends our team."

The tournament raised more than \$7,400 for the program last year, and Dr. Duane Mitchell, program director of the UF Brain Cancer Immunotherapy Program, said fundraising efforts like the golf tournament are crucial to the program's success in finding better treatments for brain cancer.

"I certainly couldn't exaggerate the importance of private support and philanthropic funding like the Jamie Chapin Classic to the work that we do," Mitchell said. "In fact, within the next one-to-two months, we'll have four new immunotherapy clinical trial options available here at the UF that came from research from our laboratories. Every one of those, the science that supported those clinical trials, started with private donor funding. We couldn't pursue that work if we didn't have funding like what the Jamie Chapin Classic provides."

Mitchell will also be speaking to attendees at this year's Jamie Chapin Classic to share what the UF program is doing in the search for better brain cancer treatments.



Caption: Photo courtesy of UF lacrosse

**The 2nd Annual Jamie Chapin Classic benefitting the UF Brain Cancer Immunotherapy Program will be held Saturday, March 17, at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.**

The doctor said while brain cancer might not be the most common cancer out there, it is among the most deadly, with very a very slim survival rare. The median survival of someone diagnosed with malignant brain cancer is only about 15-20 months from the time of diagnosis, and five-year survival is less than 10 percent.

Mitchell also said research on brain cancer is very important, because in 95 percent of cases, the cause of brain cancer is unknown.

"In the overwhelming majority of cases, we really don't have any identifiable either heredity or environmental or exposure-risk factors that lead to the development of brain cancer," he said.

Immunotherapy involves using the patient's own immune system to attack the cancer and to recognize cancerous cells. The process involves harvesting the patient's own immune cells and activating them to be more able to recognize cancer cells, expand immune cells to much larger numbers than what the patient has naturally and deliver activated cells back to patient.

Mitchell said one of the biggest benefits to immunotherapy treatment is what is known as immunologic memory, which allows the patient's immune system to recognize and fight the foreign cells if they reappear. The findings from the program's

research offer "the potential for a treatment that might be able to provide a truly long-term cure and protection against reoccurrence."

Mitchell said he really hopes to be able to convey two things to attendees at this year's event.

"One is our sincere appreciation and gratitude for their efforts that they're putting forward to support the Jamie Chapin Classic and what an impact that has on furthering science for children and adults with brain cancer," he said. "The second is to re-

ally give people what I hope will be a very realistic but optimistic outlook in terms of how far the field of cancer immunotherapy has come."

As for his role in the annual golf tournament, Hanrahan said being able to honor Jamie and the Chapin family, and to assist with a program that aims to save others in Jamie's situation is what the event is all about.

"[The Chapin family] was sharing Jamie's story with us and allowing us to make it part of the event, and that's not something we take lightly," Hanrahan said. "You want to be a good steward of Jamie's legacy and his story and to put on an event that is worthy of that story and that cause."

This year's event will feature a silent auction, a hospitality tent and refreshments. There will also be a long-drive pro who will play with each foursome at a particular hole, and a chance to win a trip to Pebble Beach. Hanrahan said the tournament will also celebrate St. Patrick's Day with music, outfits and decorations.

For more information on the Jamie Chapin Classic, go to the 2nd Annual Jamie Chapin Classic event page on Facebook, visit the UF lacrosse page on Facebook, @gatorlacrosse on Twitter or email Hanrahan at ghanrahan6@gmail.com. You can also register for the tournament at [jcc.golfgenius.com](http://jcc.golfgenius.com).

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**OBITUARIES**

**Fred Feldman**

Fred Roy Feldman, 71, of Jacksonville, died Feb. 20, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Dorothy Golden**

Dorothy Rita Golden, 93, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Feb. 18, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Clara Harris**

Clara Sams Harris, 93, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Feb. 19, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**William Haselton**

William Haselton, 93, died Feb. 19, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com).

**Kenneth Heindel**

Kenneth A. Heindel, 97, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Feb. 8, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**James Howard**

James Howard, 83, died Feb. 18, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com).

**Esther Kuhns**

Esther Kuhns, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Feb. 18, 2018. Arrangements by

Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Dolores MacLaren**

Dolores Rita MacLaren, 87, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Feb. 20, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**William Meadows**

William Meadows, 65, of Neptune Beach, died Feb. 19, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Lewis Mushyn**

Lewis Robert Mushyn, 45, of Jacksonville, died Feb. 14, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Richard Pelletier**

Richard G. Pelletier, 77, died Feb. 17, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com).

OBITUARIES continues on Page 14



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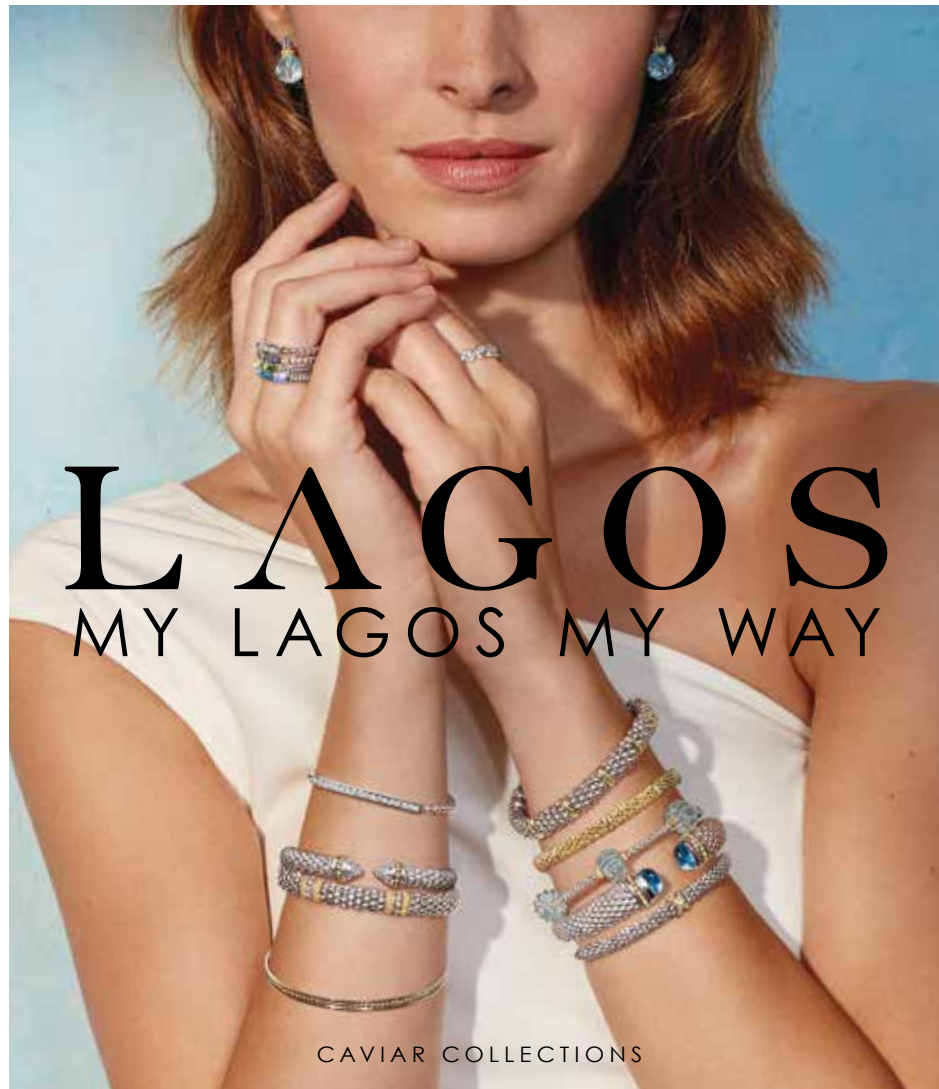
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# WHY I SERVE

## KARSTEN JACOBSON

By Benjamin Naim

In the latest edition of the Why I Serve series, the Ponte Vedra Recorder sat down with Karsten Jacobson, a Ponte Vedra-based financial advisor at Edward Jones, to discuss his time in the Navy, why he served in the military and what his experience was like. The full video version of the interview is available online at [www.pontevedrarecorder.com](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com).



he did so I picked the next best thing. To me, that was the Navy.

### Why did you enlist in the Navy?

I enlisted in the Navy because when I was a kid, my grandfather was a World War II veteran and my birthday is actually on Veterans Day, so I remember him always coming down for my birthday and meeting with us and I was so proud and so honored that he was a veteran in World War II. He fought for our country in the Philippines. That, I really admired; he was a really big role model of mine. He always calls and says, "Happy birthday," but I always was more proud to say, "Happy Veterans Day." I knew I always wanted to serve my country and I didn't want to be in the Army but I wanted to serve just like

### What was your experience like?

It was a great experience. When I was serving active duty – I'm still a reservist – just the camaraderie, the dedication, the teamwork, working with teams, flying on planes, was amazing. I pushed myself, did things that I didn't think I would ever do, go places, do things I didn't think would be possible, but it really gave me the dedication and the aptitude to go out and do anything I wanted to once I got out of active duty.



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# Democrats demonstrate determination to 'paint the town blue' at recent gala

By Jon Blauvelt

First Coast Democrats recently demonstrated their determination to tip the region's political scale from red to blue and win big in November at a gala held in the Republican stronghold of Ponte Vedra Beach.

Approximately 200 people attended the event held Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa and hosted by the Ponte Vedra Democratic Club. The "Paint the Town Blue" gala most prominently featured former U.S. Congresswoman Pat Schroeder as its keynote speaker, who represented Colorado in the House of Representatives for 24 years. Her address followed remarks from several congressional candidates and gubernatorial candidate Philip Levine, as well as entertainment provided by Rod MacDonald and the national anthem sung by Nease senior, Junior ROTC member and "Dreamer" Medina Blekic.

"It's so exciting to see these candidates," said Schroeder. "All of you are the most important people here tonight. You're going to help get these candidates elected."

The former congresswoman encouraged the gala attendees and Democrats, overall, to unite, get excited and rally behind those running for seats in November. Schroeder, who now lives in Osceola County, challenged the audience to follow in the footsteps of Central Florida, which she said recently elected three young Democrats to Congress. She reminded the audience that the primary elections are set for Aug. 28, which are often forgotten amid the beginning of the school year and Labor Day.

Schroeder also reminded attendees that Aug. 26 is the 98th anniversary of when women received the right to vote via the ratification of the 19th Amendment. In citing Ruth's List, which supports Florida Democratic women in running for office, Schroeder noted that 1,800 women in the state have shown up for their candidate training so far.



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder speaks at the 'Paint the Town Blue' gala.



Monica DePaul, a candidate for Florida's 4th District

## Local congressional candidates

Prior to Schroeder's remarks, local congressional candidates vying for the Florida 4th and 6th district seats — including two women — addressed the gala.

Monica DePaul, a transgender woman, author and former writing professor at University of North Florida, made her case for Florida's 4th District seat, which is currently held by Rep. John Rutherford (R.). DePaul first focused on education, emphasizing the importance of investing in students, providing necessary resources for teachers and working to make college tuition more affordable.

"Decades ago, it was possible to pay for



Ges Selmont, a candidate for Florida's 4th District

college with a summer job," said DePaul. "Now, I'm still paying off my student loans."

DePaul also discussed the need for wage equality, investments in infrastructure and solar energy (in opposition to offshore drilling) and Social Security expansion, among several other focus areas.

Ges Selmont, a Ponte Vedra Beach attorney and sports and entertainment entrepreneur also running for the 4th District seat, said Democrats thought they could accomplish anything when President Obama was elected, and consequently became complacent and cocky. Now, he stated emphatically, the Democratic

party is back.

"We will prove to people that Democrats have energy, the ideas, the stamina, the endurance, the creativity, the technology, youth and moral imperative to lead this country," said Selmont. "We don't look backwards to make America great again. In 2018, the Democrats are going to make America greater."

Selmont also said he believes the country is more united than the media portrays, citing recovery efforts after Hurricanes Matthew and Irma as an example of the country's solidarity.

Following remarks from DePaul and Selmont, the candidates running for Florida's 6th District addressed the gala. (Ron DeSantis, who has served as the U.S. representative for the 6th District since 2013, is running for governor.)

Dr. Stephen Sevigny, an Ormond Beach resident and radiologist, said he is running to reform the country's health care system, which he believes is focused on profits instead of the health of the people.

In his address, Sevigny was critical of big pharmaceutical companies that he said spent \$250 million in the 2016 election cycle on lobbying in Washington to influence policy in their favor. He also noted some of the "really disturbing policies" coming out of Washington, such as lifetime limits for Medicaid, which he said leaves families with special needs children in situations where they have to worry about bankruptcy.

"I want to go to Washington to fight for high quality, universal health care," said Sevigny. "I will not disappoint you. I will fight for you."

Ambassador Nancy Soderberg, who has served on four presidential campaigns, in the U.S. Senate, in the White House and at the United Nations, said she's running for the 6th District to restore middle class opportunities for every American.

DEMOCRATS continues on Page 11

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**Dr. Stephen Sevigny, a candidate for Florida's 6th District**



**Ambassador Nancy Soderberg, a candidate for Florida's 6th District**

## Democrats

Continued from 10

Additionally, Soderberg said if elected, she would focus on fixing the health care business by making health care more affordable and available. Currently a professor at UNF, she also said she's concerned about education, which she believes must remain a public service and not be treated as a business. Among several other focus areas, Soderberg stated her opposition to offshore drilling.

"I'm running for Congress to fight for what is right," said Soderberg. "We're going to win this seat, we're going to change this country and 'paint the town blue.'"

Across the board, the candidates addressed the recent Parkland shooting and called for an assault rifle ban, background checks and increased investments in mental health.

### Philip Levine

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Philip Levine, the former mayor of Miami Beach, also discussed the Parkland shooting and suggested similar policy changes. In addition, he

said if elected, he would pass a referendum in the state that would allow local leaders, mayors, council people and commissioners to pass their own local gun regulations. A gun owner and concealed weapon permit holder, Levine said this is not about taking peoples' guns away, but rather ensuring that responsible people own them.

An entrepreneur that made his success in the cruise ship industry, Levine reflected on his mayoral accomplishments, which included a half billion-dollar program in Miami Beach to address climate change, an increase in the minimum wage and police reform. As governor, Levine said he would work to attract the best companies in the country to Florida by investing in education and environmental policy. He also noted that he would pass an executive order that would ensure everyone has equal pay for equal work.

In conclusion, Levine called the 2018 midterm elections in Florida the most important in the world.

"It's not just the most important election in our country," Levine said. "It's the most important election in the world because so goes Florida this year, so goes the presidency in 2020."



**Rep. John Rutherford (center) gathers with event organizers Kristie Pape, Flavia Bowling, Francesca Rutherford, Helen Lateau and Tracie Rampley.**



Photos courtesy of Francesca Rutherford  
**Rutherford speaks with Dianne Lott, Corkie Gooden and Rosemary Thigpen.**

## Rep. Rutherford addresses local women's group at TPC Clubhouse

Rep. John Rutherford (FL-4) recently addressed and met with a group of local conservative women at the TPC Clubhouse in Ponte Vedra. About 50 women attended the event, which was held Saturday, Feb. 24.




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Thursday, March 8	Friday, March 9	Saturday, March 10	Sunday, March 11
<p><b>Andy McKee at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall</b> The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host acoustic guitar virtuoso Andy McKee March 8 at 8 p.m. McKee is among the world's most skilled acoustic guitarists. Doors open at 7 p.m. For more information, call (904) 209-0399 or visit <a href="http://www.pvconcerthall.com">www.pvconcerthall.com</a>. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.</p> <p><b>Ponte Vedra Wellness Center anniversary party in Nocatee</b> The Ponte Vedra Wellness Center will host an anniversary party and wellness event at its Nocatee office to celebrate two years of operation there. The event, to be held March 8 from 3:30 to 6 p.m., will feature fitness demos, chair massages, food, beverages, displays and giveaways from neighboring Nocatee businesses and more. The party is free and open to the public. The Ponte Vedra Wellness Center in Nocatee is located at 205 Marketside Ave.</p> <p><b>'A Wrinkle In Time' at IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame</b> Meg Murry and her little brother, Charles Wallace, have been without their scientist father, Mr. Murry, for five years, ever since he discovered a new planet and used the concept known as a tesseract to travel there. Joined by Meg's classmate Calvin O'Keefe and guided by the three mysterious astral travelers known as Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which, the children brave a dangerous journey to a planet that possesses all the evil in the universe. This film premieres March 8 at the IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame. For more information on showtimes and tickets, visit <a href="http://www.worldgolfimax.com">www.worldgolfimax.com</a>. The theater is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Pop-up barbecue at the Alhambra</b> Barbecue guru Blake Joyal will host a special barbecue pop-up event in the Alhambra's Harry Frisch Garden March 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. No reservations are required. The Menu includes pork ribs, pulled pork, mac and cheese and pinto beans, plus homemade pickles and barbecue sauce. The Alhambra is located at 12000 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting</b> Coastal Wine Market &amp; Tasting Room hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p><b>Cannon firing demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos</b> National Park Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>'Nature Reconstructed' exhibit at Beaches Museum &amp; History Park</b> The Beaches Museum &amp; History Park is hosting "Nature Reconstructed," an exhibit by Lana Shuttleworth, until June 3. Shuttleworth uses common plastic castoff materials, particularly traffic safety cones, to create landscapes and sculptural figures that challenge the viewer's comprehension. This event is free to museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. For more information, call (904) 241-5657 or visit <a href="http://www.beachesmuseum.org">www.beachesmuseum.org</a>. The Beaches Museum &amp; History Park is located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>'La Bohème' at UNF</b> UNF Opera will present "La Bohème" March 9 and 10 at 7:30 p.m. and March 11 at 3 p.m. at the Robinson Theatre. This fully staged and costumed production is sung in Italian with the English translation projected above the stage. Directed by Krzysztof Biernacki, the opera features top UNF School of Music talent and an orchestra conducted by Curtis Tucker of First Coast Opera. Email <a href="mailto:opera@unf.edu">opera@unf.edu</a> for information on tickets.</p>	<p><b>Dune restoration project community meeting</b> St. Johns County will host an informational community meeting to discuss updates to the proposed South Ponte Vedra/Vilano Beach dune restoration project March 10 from 10 a.m. to noon. The meeting will take place at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve.</p> <p><b>Florida State University Singers at Palms Presbyterian Church</b> Palms Presbyterian Church will host a Fine Arts Series concert featuring The Florida State University Singers March 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. All Fine Arts concerts are free and open to the public and a nursery is provided. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.palmschurch.org">www.palmschurch.org</a> or call (904) 246-6427. Palms Presbyterian Church is located at 3410 3rd St S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Veterans breakfast</b> The public is invited to a special breakfast at Applebee's in honor of the veterans lost in the battle of Benghazi and in appreciation of all veterans. To purchase tickets, visit <a href="http://www.benghazitribute.org/events">www.benghazitribute.org/events</a> or call (904) 402-2172. Veterans can get a complimentary ticket by emailing <a href="mailto:info@turningpointsinamerica.org">info@turningpointsinamerica.org</a>. This event will take place at 4507 Town Center Parkway in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Community grand opening event</b> Edgewater Properties and The Estates at Dolphin Cove, a new community in Ponte Vedra Beach located just north of Solana Road off A1A, will host a grand opening event March 10 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit <a href="http://www.estatesatdolphincove.com">www.estatesatdolphincove.com</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>Casino Night on the Greens</b> Join Loretta Swit for an evening of gambling, live music, dancing, surprises and saving animals March 10 from 6 to 11 p.m. at the TPC Clubhouse. Tickets for this event benefitting Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue cost \$125 and include two drink tickets (beer and wine), \$1,500 in funny money (15 bets), one raffle ticket and heavy hor d'oeuvres. To purchase tickets, call (904) 325-3554 or visit <a href="http://www.aylasacres.org">www.aylasacres.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service</b> Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Yoga retreat</b> The Sault108 residency at The King &amp; Prince Beach &amp; Golf Resort will host a weekend yoga and wellness immersion event on St. Simons Island March 9 through 11. This resort features lush marshes, sunrise views and more. The weekend will offer a mixture of fiery vinyasa, traditional hatha, meditation and gentle yin yoga. The King and Prince Hotel is located at 201 Arnold Road in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Visit <a href="http://www.sault108.com">www.sault108.com</a> for to register.</p> <p><b>First Coast Card Club lunch</b> Join the First Coast Card Club for lunch March 11 at 1 p.m. and cards from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Hyppo Cafe, located at 1765 Tree Blvd. in St. Augustine. Contact Lea Dally at (904) 829-0643 for more information and to RSVP.</p> <p><b>Temple Bet Yam presents 'The Solution'</b> Temple Bet Yam will present "The Solution," a play about the effects of climate change, March 11 at 7 p.m. at 2055 Wildwood Drive in St. Augustine. For more information, contact Carol Levy at (954) 895-7332 or visit <a href="http://www.templebetyam.org/solutionplay">www.templebetyam.org/solutionplay</a>. Tickets cost \$20 per person and will be available at the door.</p> <p><b>St. Augustine Community Chorus event</b> The St. Augustine Community Chorus, under the direction of Mike Sanflippo, will present "From Stage to Screen Opera Choruses, Broadway Fare &amp; Film Music" as part of its 2017-18 concert season March 10 at 7:30 p.m. and March 11 at 3 p.m. at Ancient City Baptist Church, located at 27 Sevilla St. in St. Augustine. This year's Pops concert will include piano, bass, drums, guitar and reeds. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.staugustinecommunitychorus.org">www.staugustinecommunitychorus.org</a>.</p>



# BOOK SALE

**Seymour's**, the beach's only used book store, presents its **Semi-Annual Book Sale** March 13th - 17th, 2018

Membership Preview Night—Tues., March 13th • 4:30pm–7:30pm  
Wed., March 14th • 10:00am–7:30pm  
Thurs. and Fri., March 15th & 16th • 10:00am–5:30pm  
**BAG DAY ON MARCH 17TH • 10:00AM–4:00PM**

*Seymour's book store is located inside the Ponte Vedra Library,  
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Monday, March 12	Tuesday, March 13	Wednesday, March 14	Thursday, March 15
<p><b>Caregiver support meetings</b> The St. Johns County Council on Aging will host caregiver support meetings Mondays (except holidays) from noon to 1 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center at 1048 A1A N. For more information, call Paulette Kozlowski at (904) 209-3674 or email pkozlowski@stjohnscoa.com. The meetings will provide a supportive environment for people who are experiencing similar challenges in which they can share problems, ideas and solutions.</p> <p><b>MOSH Mondays</b> The Museum of Science and History's MOSH Mondays feature discounts including buy-one-get-one-half-off admission for adults, 10 percent off MOSH-branded items in the museum shop, 10 percent off memberships when signing up in-person and 10 percent off birthday packages when signing up in-person. MOSH Mondays also feature rotating weekly programs. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville. Visit <a href="http://www.themosh.org">www.themosh.org</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>Spring exhibition by the Jacksonville Watercolor Society</b> This exhibition at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach will display works by the Jacksonville Watercolor Society. Admission to the exhibition is free. The center, located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach, is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. 4 p.m. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.ccpvb.org">www.ccpvb.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Ask the Expert: Julie Schafer</b> Join wellness expert Julie Schafer, MPH, on March 12 from noon to 1 p.m. to gain a deeper understanding of how to address and prevent excess inflammation. This event will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center in Ponte Vedra, located at 170 Landrum Lane. There is no cost to attend and a YMCA membership is not required. Reserve a spot at <a href="http://www.baptistjax.com">www.baptistjax.com</a>, space is limited.</p>	<p><b>Tapas Tuesday</b> The Cummer Museum of Art &amp; 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 <a href="http://www.cummermuseum.org">www.cummermuseum.org</a>. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p><b>Prenatal yoga</b> Prenatal and postnatal yoga is designed to help women cope with the changing needs of their body before and after pregnancy and birth. The public is invited March 13 at 6 p.m. to share individual experiences with other women and gain empowerment through yoga, meditation, and guided visualization. This approach is gentle and safe for women in all stages of pregnancy, and once recovered from birth, but prior approval from a healthcare provider is advised. This event will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center, located at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>13th Annual All-County High School Show exhibition</b> This exhibition at the St. Augustine Art Association, located at 22 Marine St., features 2D and 3D pieces by local ninth through 12th grade students. The exhibition is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Members only book sale at Ponte Vedra Library</b> Join the Ponte Vedra Beach Library for a special book sale March 13 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. for Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library members only. The book sale will open to non-members March 14 through 17 at 10 a.m. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Toastmasters Club</b> Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at <a href="mailto:lucyreep@gmail.com">lucyreep@gmail.com</a> for additional information.</p> <p><b>Living with Snakes and Gators workshop</b> Learn about the various species of snakes located throughout the state of Florida, the unique characteristics of snakes and alligators and important tips on how to live with these native neighbors. This event will take place March 14 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the St. Johns County Extension Auditorium, located at 3125 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine. Register online at <a href="http://www.snakesandgators.eventbrite.ca">www.snakesandgators.eventbrite.ca</a>.</p> <p><b>Disability sensitivity and inclusion</b> RSVP of St. Johns County is collaborating with ElderSource Institute to bring training opportunities to the community. On March 14, attendees will learn about inclusion practices for individuals, companies and organizations that interact and work with individuals with a disability. Register online at <a href="http://www.eldersourceinstitute.org/calendar">www.eldersourceinstitute.org/calendar</a> and choose from any of the "privately sponsored" trainings. This event will be held at the Fullerwood Auditorium, located at 10 Hildreth Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Middle school book talk</b> Middle Schoolers in grades 6 to 8 are invited to explore their love of reading through food, movies, dioramas and more. Guests can bring a bag dinner and a favorite book to share. This event will take place March 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, located at 101 Library Blvd. For more information, call (904) 827-6950.</p>	<p><b>Raise a Glass for a Cure</b> Raise a Glass for a Cure will be held March 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Blackfinn Ameripub. The event will be held in conjunction with the kick-off for the 2018 Take Steps Jacksonville walk to benefit the Crohn's &amp; Colitis Foundation in its search to find cures for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). Light hors d'oeuvres will be served, and each attendee will be given two drink tickets per person for beer and wine. Admission costs \$15 online at <a href="http://online.ccca.org/raiseaglassjax2018">online.ccca.org/raiseaglassjax2018</a> and \$20 at the door. Blackfinn Ameripub is located at 4840 Big Island Drive in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Grief support group</b> St. Paul's Catholic Church will host a grief support group March 15 at 7 p.m. in room 102 of the Family Life Center, located at 578 1st Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach. The group is intended for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. For information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665.</p> <p><b>Yoga for Survivors</b> The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a Yoga for Survivors class March 15 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 <a href="http://www.baptistjax.com/ymca">www.baptistjax.com/ymca</a> to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p><b>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 <a href="mailto:ben@opcfla.com">ben@opcfla.com</a>, post online at <a href="http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com">www.pontevedrarecorder.com</a> using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</b></p>



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# Lord of Life Lutheran Church receives steel shipment for new sanctuary

By Paris Moulden

The Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ponte Vedra recently received 23 tons of steel to build its new sanctuary.

“We have been at this for about 20 years,” said Cindy Tanton, council president for the church. “It feels like a dream come true. Truly a prayer being answered.”

Tanton said there have been many hurdles to getting the church built, including black mold in the previous structure and recent hurricanes, which necessitated updates to the structure design.

“We’re just so excited we can get to this point where we can actually see that we’re going to be building a building,” Tanton said.

The steel will be used for the exterior walls and roof of the 3,700-square-foot space, and Tanton said the major part of the building process will likely be complete in summer 2018. She said if all



**ABOVE: Steel is recently delivered for the Lord of Life Lutheran Church sanctuary.**

**LEFT: A rendering of the new building**

Photos courtesy of Lord of Life Lutheran Church

goes well, they hope to be able to move in during fall 2018.

Tanton said the new structure is a “really big deal” because it’s currently hard to hold services out in the elements, and several members are unable to attend because of the lack of an air-conditioned or heated space.

She also said having a physical structure will allow the church to contribute to the community.

“We think it will allow us to do more of what we like to do, which is mission work in the community,” Tanton said. “We have a group of people who are very mission-oriented. It’s going to be able to help us expand our vision for helping the community in places where there are gaps.”

Located at 276 N. Roscoe Blvd., Lord of Life is the only Lutheran Church in the Ponte Vedra, Ponte Vedra Beach and Palm Valley area and is one of only two Lutheran Churches in St. Johns County, that are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## Obituaries

Continued from 8

### William Reilly

William J. Reilly, 70, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Feb. 15, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Phyllis Sims

Phyllis Sims, 88, died Feb. 20, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedra-valley.com.

### Loretta Teston

Loretta Joan Teston, 71, of Atlantic Beach, died Feb. 15, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Marjorie Thomison

Marjorie Brown Thomison, 96, died Feb. 20, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com.

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# Women in Business

Financial progress tips for women

Page 18

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018  
www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Lisa Swindell Batts, CEO of Salty & Soulful, Inc., opened her business' women's fashion boutique and showroom in Jacksonville Beach last weekend.

## Opening of Salty & Soulful fashion boutique, showroom marks dream come true for longtime Beaches resident

By Jon Blauvelt

For Lisa Swindell Batts, CEO of Salty & Soulful, Inc., the opening of her women's fashion boutique and showroom in Jacksonville Beach is a dream come true.

Founded by Batts in 2015, Salty & Soulful first started as a jewelry line and expanded to a mobile boutique also offering clothing that hosted home parties at Batts' house. Three years later,

the business has an online store; 16 "Soul Sisters," or reps that hold pop-up shows, trunk shows and home parties of their own; and now a brick and mortar location that opened to the public on Saturday, March 3.

"It was phenomenal," Batts said of the grand opening. "Our wish for what we would do and the turnout that day, we more than doubled. I was in awe. The community turned out in full force to support us and it was amazing."

Located at 1602 Third St. North in Jacksonville Beach, Salty & Soulful specializes in boutique-style clothing, jewelry and personal items as well as home décor, but without typical boutique pricing. A longtime Jacksonville Beach realtor, Batts established the business after realizing that only a small number of women in the community could afford the prices of most local boutiques.

BOUTIQUE continues on Page 16

## APR Energy partners with Generation W to empower women in Northeast Florida

Jacksonville-based APR Energy and Generation W recently announced they have formed a strategic alliance to educate, inspire and connect women across the First Coast and beyond.

As a Generation W Foundation partner, APR Energy will serve as an ambassador of Generation W and its initiatives, using its resources to make a distinct impact in North Florida communities.

"We are very proud to join with Generation W as we work together to support this year's events," said John Campion, APR Energy Founder and Chairman. "As founder and chairman of APR Energy, I have long recognized the innate value women bring to our company and our clients around the world."

APR Energy's commitment is designed to support a wide range of Generation W's premier, impactful events and activities throughout 2018, including the following:

■ **Generation W "Rise & Shine" Signature Event:** This national event—held annually in Jacksonville, this year on April 13—consistently brings a compelling program of thought-provoking

topics, creating greater awareness and understanding of the relevant and resonant issues and the action steps available to affect change.

■ **Generation WOW:** This year-round program focuses on connecting girls to the positive and the possible through personal and leadership development, community service, WOW clubs, quarterly WOWsdom programs, an annual conference and a mentorship experience with women from diverse career paths. APR Energy's female leaders will take part in a month-long series to share the experiences that shaped their path, along with the skills, attributes and resources needed to succeed.

■ **Generation WORKS:** A dedicated day of service that brings sustainable change and impact to northern Florida neighborhoods. APR Energy's involvement includes participation in and support of community projects designed to improve quality of life for residents in the greater Jacksonville community.

GENERATION W continues on Page 16



## Women in Business

**DONNA GUZZO**  
Executive Director  
The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach  
(904) 280-0614

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King & Associates Insurance Agency  
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AGPCNP-BC, CPSN  
**MISSY R. HADLEY**  
**JENIFER SCOTT GEORGE, MSN,**  
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**Design Director**  
Juliana Koutazakis

**Chair Emeritus**  
Kristy Weeks

## Boutique

Continued from 15

“I realized I needed to do something about that,” said Batts, who is a fifth generation Jacksonville Beach resident. “I knew I could buy the same lines they buy for the same prices they buy, but I don’t necessarily have to do the mark up.”

Batts’ company intends to expand into Georgia and Central/South Florida next

with its Soul Sister concept, and then nationwide after that.

The boutique will be open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The showroom will be open for private shopping by appointment only during non-boutique hours.

For more information, visit [www.SaltyandSoulful.com](http://www.SaltyandSoulful.com) or contact Lisa Swindell Batts at [SaltyandSoulful@gmail.com](mailto:SaltyandSoulful@gmail.com).

## Generation W

Continued from 15

“Partnership with Generation W is grounded in the belief that women and girls play a critical role in supporting, building and strengthening our communities and our businesses,” said Donna Orender, Founder of Generation W. “This partnership is a call to action, for businesses across the country to stand together as we work to support women and girls in the service of building community.”

APR Energy is also the inaugural partner of “WOWsdom! The Girl’s Guide to

the Positive and the Possible,” Generation W’s newly released book. APR Energy will be donating WOWsdom! to the local WOW clubs as well as the PACE Center for Girls programs and across Northeast Florida and beyond.

APR Energy is the world’s leading provider of fast-track mobile turbine power, and has installed over 4,200MW of power capacity across more than 30 countries. For more information, visit the Company’s website at [www.aprenergy.com](http://www.aprenergy.com).

Generation W is a nationally recognized platform, based in Jacksonville Beach, focused on education, inspiration and the connection of women and girls in the service of building communities.

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Gerrie M. Obi, MSN, ARNP, AGPCNP-BC, CPSN, Missy R. Hadley, Jenifer Scott George, MSN, ARNP, FNP-BC, ABAHP

# Women in Business

Our mission at OBI is to treat the “whole person” and to advocate wellness through a partnership with our patients by implementing personalized integrative and Aesthetic Medicine Services. Patients will be empowered to be ambassadors of their health, through assessment and education of daily habits that facilitate wellness. Our practice of BioAesthetics is one of Holistic Integrative Aesthetics that will bridge the inside with the out.

### Meet Our Women in Business:

**Gerrie M. Obi** brings over three decades of plastic and aesthetic experience. She earned a master’s degree in nursing with a specialty in adult and geriatric primary care. Gerrie is a Master level injector and has held positions in several of the major aesthetic corporations serving as an educator and physician liaison providing clinical and scientific support for various products. Gerrie is also an international trainer; she trains the trainers as well as other Master injectors, both nationally and internationally. She was the first Certified Plastic Surgical Nurse (CPSN) in Northeast Florida and serves on the Board of Directors of the International Society for Plastic and Aesthetic Nurses (ISAPS). Gerrie has trained thousands of aesthetic providers globally over the past decades, as well as provided innovative aesthetic care in our area for countless clients.

**Jenifer S. George** is an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP), ANCC Board Certified in Family Care (FNP-BC) and is a Health Practitioner Diplomate with the American Board of Anti-Aging Health Practitioners (ABAHP) with the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of North Florida where she first earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, then her Master of Science in Nursing for Primary Care Nurse Practitioner. Jenifer has dedicated her career to Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Aesthetic Medicine and Functional Medicine. Her 22+ years of experience include the first 13 years of her career at Mayo Clinic Jacksonville in the department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, subsequently entering the private sector to continue expanding her skill set. Her advanced repertoire includes aesthetic and cosmetic treatments, as well as the education and training to optimize a patient’s health using lifestyle and food as medicine to treat the origin of the disease versus only the symptoms. Jenifer implements a holistic approach in providing care, recognizing that her patients are only at their best if they are healthy from the inside out.

**Melissa “Missy” Reagor Hadley** is the Practice Director at OBI BioAesthetic Institute. Her 30+ year career encompasses extensive customer service and upper management experience, including Publix SuperMarkets, Publix Pharmacy and supplement and skin care retail. Throughout her career she has been dedicated to fostering a healthy, balanced work environment for her associates, as well as being equally committed to cultivate positive experiences for the customers she serves. Her acquired knowledge in management, pharmacy and medical grade supplements supports her philosophy that optimal wellness starts from within. Missy brings her enthusiasm and experience to OBI BioAesthetic Institute to ensure that the environment our patients are welcomed to is healing and therapeutic, and the experience nothing short of what we all deserve.

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A delegation representing Girl Scouts of Gateway Council meets with Sen. Audrey Gibson at the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee during Legislative Days. From left: Taylor Henry, Dinejia Edwards, Sen. Audrey Gibson, Makenzie Samuels, Talia Kee, Aaryonis Cogdell, Karkayla Floyd and Jalyce Degelman.



Photo courtesy of Gateway Council

## Girl Scouts of Gateway Council attend Legislative Days in Tallahassee

A delegation of 25 girls representing Girl Scouts of Gateway Council (GSGC) recently joined nearly 120 girls from councils across Florida for Legislative Days in Tallahassee.

The three-day event emphasized the importance of civic engagement and provided opportunities to learn about public policy, how bills are passed into law and how to advocate for positive change. Highlights included visiting the Florida Capitol, participating in workshops and meeting state legislators.

During the event, Gateway Council facilitated a mock debate and attended workshops on public speaking and self-esteem. The delegation visited Florida A&M University and the Florida History Museum, attended sessions in the House and Senate chambers and met local law-

makers. Gateway Council met with Sen. Aaron Bean, Sen Audrey Gibson, Rep. Tracie Davis, Rep. Clovis Watson, legal assistant Michelle Sherfield and legislative analyst Milan Thompson.

“Legislative Days is just one of the ways that Girl Scouts inspires and prepares girls to stand up for what they believe in and lead positive change through civic engagement,” said Girl Scouts of Gateway Council CEO Mary Anne Jacobs. “For more than a century, Girl Scouts has supported girls by offering tools and programs that prepare them to lead, lift their voices, champion their views and be advocates for the issues and ideas that are important to them.”

For more information about Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, visit [www.girlscouts-gateway.org](http://www.girlscouts-gateway.org).



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# How can women make financial progress?



Karsten Jacobson  
Columnist

**By Karsten Jacobson, CFP®**

On March 8, we observe International Women's Day.

This year's theme is "Press for Progress," and events around the world will celebrate women's advancements in the political, social and cultural arenas. But right here in the United States, women still face barriers to their financial progress.

If you're a woman, you need to recognize these challenges – and respond to them. So, what are the key obstacles to financial security for a woman? Probably the first thing that comes to mind is the gender wage gap: Women generally earn around 80 cents for every dollar men earn, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

But women also face other threats to their financial security. For one thing, they are far more likely than men to take time away from the workforce to raise a family – and time away means smaller Social

Security payments and significantly lower balances in 401(k) plans and other retirement accounts. And women's roles as caretakers don't end when their children are grown – in fact, women are twice as likely as their male siblings to end up caring for an elderly parent, according to a Princeton University study.

What, then, can you do to help ensure a comfortable retirement and achieve your other financial goals? Here are a few suggestions:

**Take full advantage of your employer's retirement plan.** If your employer offers a 401(k) or similar retirement plan, take full advantage of it. Invest as much as you can afford each year, and every time you get a raise, increase your contribu-

tions. At the very least, put in enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered.

**Invest for the long-term.** Some evidence shows that women may be more conservative investors than men. But if you want to reach your long-term goals, you will need to consider some growth-oriented investments in your portfolio, factoring in your risk tolerance and time horizon. You may

want to consult with a financial professional

about the best way to invest for the long-term.

**Maximize your Social Security.** If your spouse is the higher earner, you may want to consider how you can use this dis-

parity to your advantage when you collect Social Security. Specifically, you may be eligible for Social Security benefits based on your spouse's earnings and Social Security record. You'll want to consult your tax advisor before making any moves.

**Protect yourself from long-term care costs.** More than two-thirds of nursing home residents are women, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. And the median rate nationwide for a private room in a nursing home is over \$97,000 per year, according to the Genworth 2017 Cost of Care Survey. Medicare generally pays very little for long-term care, so if you ever need these services, you'll have to find other ways to pay for them. A financial professional can suggest some ideas.

As a woman, you face special financial challenges, and striving to overcome them will be a lifelong activity. But it's worth the effort.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor. Karsten L. Jacobson, CFP®, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones at 2208 Sawgrass Village Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach.*



Image Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection

## SUP Yoga Center offers floating yoga classes on Intracoastal Waterway

**By Benjamin Naim**

BOGA Yoga Ambassador, marine life activist and St. Augustine resident Jessica Amendola doesn't operate her yoga studio in a building; it's located on the water.

SUP Yoga Center is completely mobile and open to a variety of skill levels, with a portion of its proceeds supporting marine life conservation organizations. Amendola started her St. Augustine-based business in March 2016 after growing up near the ocean and accruing a decade of experience practicing yoga and paddle boarding.

"My parents are entrepreneurs as well, so they've always encouraged me to follow my passion and not settle for nine-to-five in an office because that's just never been who I am," she said. "I took the plunge and tried it and put my whole heart into it and it's been incredible. I do think when you're doing something you're passionate about, people are drawn to that."

SUP Yoga Center features regularly scheduled classes that take place off the St Augustine Lighthouse Boat Ramp. Amendola calls it a "floating studio."

"I developed this anchor system that keeps everybody anchored down and also in a nice line," she said. "Typically, it's an hour-and-a-half class and we do at least 20 minutes of paddle boarding, so people can experience that part of it as well."

Additionally, the center offers teacher training for yoga instructors who are interested in starting their own business.



Photo courtesy of SUP Yoga Center

During a class, Amendola said she often paddle boards for ten minutes before finding a quiet spot that's protected from the wind to anchor with her students. The most unique aspect of SUP Yoga Center, Amendola noted, is that participants spend entire lessons doing yoga on paddleboards. She described the experience as a "full body workout" that allows for "deeper stretches."

Aside from the physical benefits, Amendola noted that her yoga classes produce mental benefits as well.

"Yoga is supposed to be a moving meditation where your mind is connected to what your body is doing," she said. "And your body is connected to your breath, so everything is moving as one when you're out here."

One of the benefits of doing yoga in

a natural environment is that people can forget about the stresses of life and "just breathe," the instructor noted.

"I think there are spiritual, mental, physical benefits to practicing on the water," she added.

Those who are interested in participating can register online at [www.supyogacenter.com/sup-yoga-1](http://www.supyogacenter.com/sup-yoga-1). For more information, visit [www.supyogacenter.com/about](http://www.supyogacenter.com/about).



# Dorothy Pitman Hughes to serve as keynote speaker at UNF's Women's History Month Luncheon

The Women's Center and Department of Diversity Initiatives at the University of North Florida (UNF) will present advocate and activist Dorothy Pitman Hughes as the keynote speaker for the Women's History Month Luncheon Wednesday, March 14 in the Student Union Building (room 3703) at noon.

This year's national theme for Women's History Month is "Nevertheless She Persisted." Hughes, who has worked with other activists and highlighted the connection between race, gender and the fight for civil rights, will be discussing her personal journey. Hughes is the co-founder of New York City's Agency for Child Development, the forerunner to one of the agencies that now provides care for over 250,000 children daily. She is also part of the research team that created the Business Resource and Investment Service Center, which has focused on the development of small businesses in Harlem.

Locally, Hughes opened the Gateway Bookstore in Jacksonville's Northside to bring educational resources, community outreach initiatives and reading and homework coaching to marginalized young people seeking mentorship and advocacy.



Photo courtesy of UNF

### Dorothy Pitman Hughes

The event will feature a book signing and question and answer session following the luncheon. Tickets are available online or at the UNF Ticket Box office, located in Building 8, Room 1100. General admission tickets cost \$25, while tables, which seat eight guests each, are available for \$250. For more information, contact Joanna Hillman, Women's Center coordinator, at (904) 620-5515 or at [Joanna.hillman@unf.edu](mailto:Joanna.hillman@unf.edu).



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## REVIEW

# Alhambra's 'Little Shop of Horrors' is a scream

By Samantha Logue

The Alhambra has done it again.

Featuring a sassy, talking plant; catchy, doo-wop-style tunes; and a hilarious cast, the Alhambra Theatre & Dining production of "Little Shop of Horrors" has all the ingredients of must-see musical comedy.

The second show of the Alhambra's 51st season, "Little Shop" follows the story of Seymour Krelborn, a poor and timid floral assistant at Mushnik's Skid Row Florists. After discovering an intriguing and mysterious plant, which he names Audrey II after his coworker crush, Seymour puts Mushnik's on the map and begins to make a name for himself, as well. Conflict arises, however, as Audrey II's ever-increasing appetite grows more and more ominous, and Seymour is forced to choose between his conscience and his newfound fame and fortune.

"Little Shop," based on the low-budget 1960 film "The Little Shop of Horrors,"



Photo courtesy of the Alhambra Theatre & Dining

Seymour (center) and Audrey converse with their boss, Mr. Mushnik, at the flower shop during a performance of "Little Shop of Horrors."

satirizes many things, including science fiction, comedy, musical theater and the all-female singing groups of the 1960s. The show frequently pokes fun at itself through its deliberate use of melodrama, outrageous characters and an outlandish plot, leaving the audience no choice but to laugh.

The standout performance of the night belonged to Daniel Robert Sullivan for his portrayal of the sadistic dentist Orin Scrivello, Audrey's cruel and abusive boyfriend. Sullivan's ability to take such a vile character and make him the subject of pure comedy is impressive. Truthfully, whenever he opened his mouth, the

audience would collapse into hysterics. Likewise, his remarkable talent for changing characters at the drop of a hat also deserves recognition.

"Little Shop of Horrors" will continue its run at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining through March 25. Experience the hilarity while you can.



Photos courtesy of Stellers Gallery

A painting by artist Jennifer J.L. Jones



A painting by artist John Schuyler

## Stellers Gallery to feature spring show with fine art painters Jennifer J.L. Jones, John Schuyler

Stellers Gallery at Ponte Vedra Beach will exhibit the work of nationally-recognized painters Jennifer J.L. Jones and John Schuyler with an opening reception on Friday, April 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. at 240 A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach. The show will feature a new body of work by each of the two artists.

Jones is an American artist raised in rural Virginia and on the central east coast of Florida who received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. With an exploration of beauty and energy, Jones' mixed media paintings are a meditation on the dichotomy of the existence of nature both as corporeal reality and intangible spirituality.

Jones' career is highlighted by exhibitions in select national and international galleries, including a 2013 group exhibition in Paris (in association with Besharat Gallery in Barbizon, France and the Taylor Foundation), and numerous solo and group exhibitions across the U.S. Her highly sought paintings can be found in many private and corporate collections worldwide such as the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Oprah Winfrey/Harpo Studios, Scana Energy and the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal. Jones currently resides in Beaufort, South Carolina.

While experimenting with various painting techniques in the late 1990s, Schuyler became absorbed in

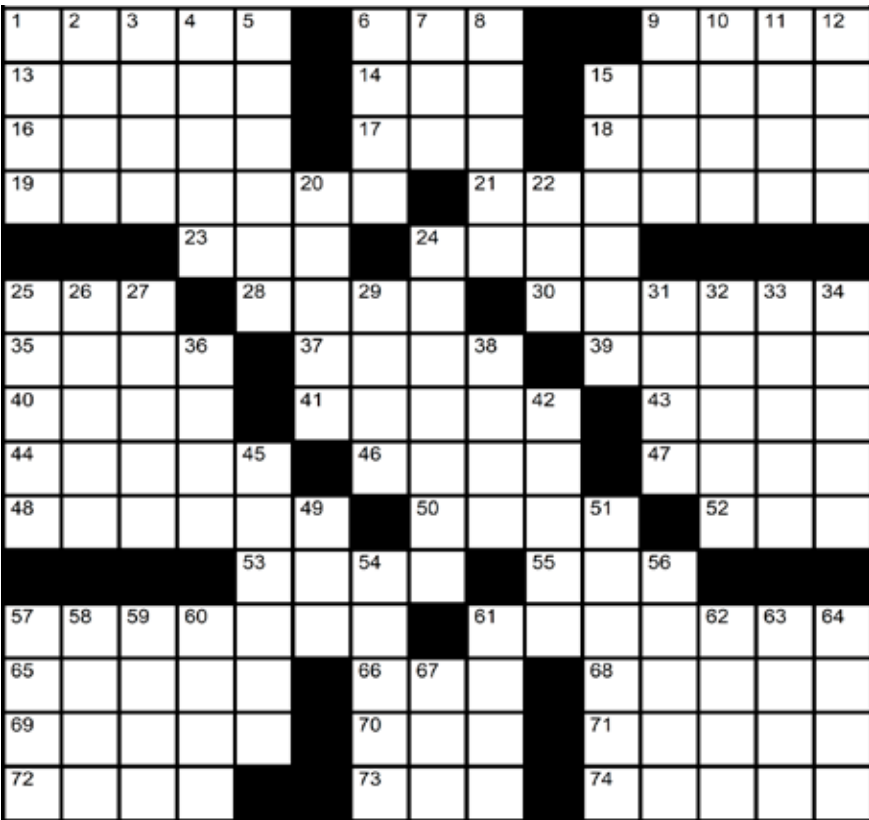
the texture created by different applications of paint and mixed media to his canvas. As his captivation with texture progressed, the content and form of his paintings became simpler. Color studies replaced traditional forms of content in his pieces, and the balance and contrast of color became the second focal point of his paintings.

Schuyler works in a process of layering, pouring, scraping off and scratching into the surface of the canvas while leaving traces of earlier information, plus a buildup and overlap of successive stages. The paintings reveal themselves slowly, while exploring each successive layer underneath to examine the relationship between space and depth, presence and absence.

Schuyler's rough texture alludes to a passionate physicality while its simplicity in form reflects a cool logic, a balance inherent in all his pieces without a predetermined idea of the outcome while the process guides him. Schuyler currently resides in Boca Raton, Florida.

Stellers Gallery at Ponte Vedra is open Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (904) 273.6065, visit the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/stellersgalleryatpontevedra](http://www.facebook.com/stellersgalleryatpontevedra) or visit the website at [www.stellersgallery.com](http://www.stellersgallery.com).





**THEME: SPRING BREAK**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Out of whack
- 6. Greek H
- 9. Goodness gracious!
- 13. Swahili or Zulu
- 14. "Was ist \_\_\_\_?"
- 15. \*What speakers do
- 16. Concluded
- 17. Chain letters
- 18. "A Doll's House" playwright
- 19. \* \_\_\_\_ Beach
- 21. Take advantage of an opportunity
- 23. \*Spring Break beach alternative
- 24. \*Resort island in Indonesia
- 25. Web robot
- 28. Tangerine plus grapefruit
- 30. Canine's coat
- 35. "The Three Faces of \_\_\_\_" pl.
- 37. Mound
- 39. Idealized image
- 40. Polly to Tom Sawyer
- 41. \*South Padre Island, \_\_\_\_
- 43. Jason's vessel
- 44. Intangible storage
- 46. Jamie Fraser's tartan
- 47. Hurries
- 48. Heavy lifting injury
- 50. "In your dreams!"
- 52. \*"Where the Boys \_\_\_\_," movie
- 53. Perfect houseplant

- 55. Clinton \_\_\_\_ Rodham
- 57. \*Tough to raise?
- 61. \*Like typical Spring Break traveler
- 65. \*Desired forecast
- 66. Sylvester to Tweety
- 68. Show opposition
- 69. Smoke detector, e.g.
- 70. Flying saucer acronym
- 71. Make laugh
- 72. Same as island
- 73. School org.
- 74. Everyone but clergy

**DOWN**

- 1. Tucked in
- 2. Supernatural life force
- 3. Indiana Jones
- 4. Cancel an edit, pl.
- 5. Logic-based puzzle
- 6. Icelandic epic
- 7. \*Sign of a Spring Break trip
- 8. Volcano near Nagano
- 9. Major European river
- 10. Knife wound
- 11. Domain
- 12. Say you didn't do it
- 15. \*In two pieces
- 20. \* \_\_\_\_ life
- 22. \*In high demand during Spring Break
- 24. With two axes
- 25. \*Top destination
- 26. Immature ovum

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

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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.

- 27. Pavarotti, e.g.
- 29. Potato's soup mate
- 31. Wet nurse
- 32. Shriver or Sharapova
- 33. Leaf-eating moth
- 34. \_\_\_\_ tooth
- 36. Render speechless
- 38. Buddies
- 42. Time on the job
- 45. Take weapon away
- 49. Lungful
- 51. Like medieval European society
- 54. Reduce pressure
- 56. Possible allergic reaction
- 57. Antioxidant-rich berry
- 58. Misfortunes
- 59. \_\_\_\_ Madrid
- 60. Taxi payment
- 61. Roofed colonnade
- 62. Red carpet purse
- 63. What birds do
- 64. Three pointer
- 67. Away from the bow

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# First Coast Opera holds annual fundraising gala

Held Feb. 24 in St. Augustine, First Coast Opera's (FCO) annual fundraising gala featured performances by musicians for an intimate audience at a private home.

Baritone Sean Stork and soprano Christina Rivera sang to FCO supporters and patrons.

The entertainment also included 13-year-old Zachary Russell and 16-year-old Hope Cruse, who were accompanied on piano by Bonita Wyke and Curtis Powell. Other highlights of the evening included a silent auction, and wine and food prepared by FCO's volunteer-based guild.

The Gala concluded FCO's 18th season, which included its debut at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall with "Opera's

Most Haunting Melodies." FCO then partnered with the EMMA Concert Association for a special holiday performance of Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors."

For the final program of the season, FCO put on one of opera's most popular and passionate tragedies, "I Pagliacci" by Ruggero. It was preceded by the regional premiere of Artistic Director Curtis Tucker's "The Stranger's Tale," a one-act opera of faith and hope set in New York City's Central Park.

FCO's 2018-2019 season will highlight Mozart's traditional and well-loved "The Marriage of Figaro" (Le Nozze di Figaro). Follow FCO on its Facebook page for upcoming events and productions.

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# Sports

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[www.PonteVedraRecorder.com](http://www.PonteVedraRecorder.com)

## Historic season for Ponte Vedra girls basketball ends with 59-33 loss in state championship



Photo courtesy of Ponte Vedra girls basketball

The Ponte Vedra girls basketball team gathers following its 59-33 loss to American Heritage in the Class 6A State Championship on Thursday, March 1 in Lakeland.

By Jon Blauvelt

A storybook season for the Ponte Vedra girls basketball team came to a close last week when the Sharks lost to American Heritage School Plantation 59-33 in the Class 6A State Championship.

The team finished the year 24-6, which head coach Jim Piggott said is the best record in the program's history. The state title appearance on March 1 was also the first for the Sharks' program, after falling short of the championship last year in the semifinals to Lakewood.

Ponte Vedra was the lone First Coast team to play for the state title at RP Funding Center in Lakeland. Piggott said the size, speed and strength of American Heritage made it difficult for the Sharks to be successful. The Ponte Vedra coach said the team had to make a decision going into the game: take away the paint or take

away the three-point shot. The Sharks decided to focus on the paint, and American Heritage consequently started hitting some deep, costly shots.

Regardless of the loss, Piggott is proud of his team's heart and desire throughout the season.

"They always found a way and will to win most of the games," he said.

Moving forward, Piggott said his team is in a good position to follow up this year's performance with another strong season next year, since the Sharks are only losing one senior starter. However, the Sharks aren't looking to repeat this year's performance, he said. They have plans to do even better.

"After we went back to the locker room, the girls weren't satisfied with the loss," said Piggott. "They want to get another shot down there, which they know is going to be a lot of hard work. ... Nothing's impossible if you put the work in."

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# LADY SHARKS SQUEAK BY SENATORS ON SENIOR NIGHT




Photo by Jerry and Chris Norton


Audrey Matt delivers a walk-off hit for Ponte Vedra to drive home the game winner in the bottom of the seventh inning, resulting in a 5-4 win for the Sharks over Fletcher on Friday, March 2. Pitcher Michelle Holder, who earned the win, contributed offensively with a long home run in the fifth inning to tie the game 4-4. Cat Beaton collected two hits for the Sharks. Ponte Vedra celebrated senior night for Quinlan Richmond and Kiley Hennesey. Visit [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com) for more photos from the win.



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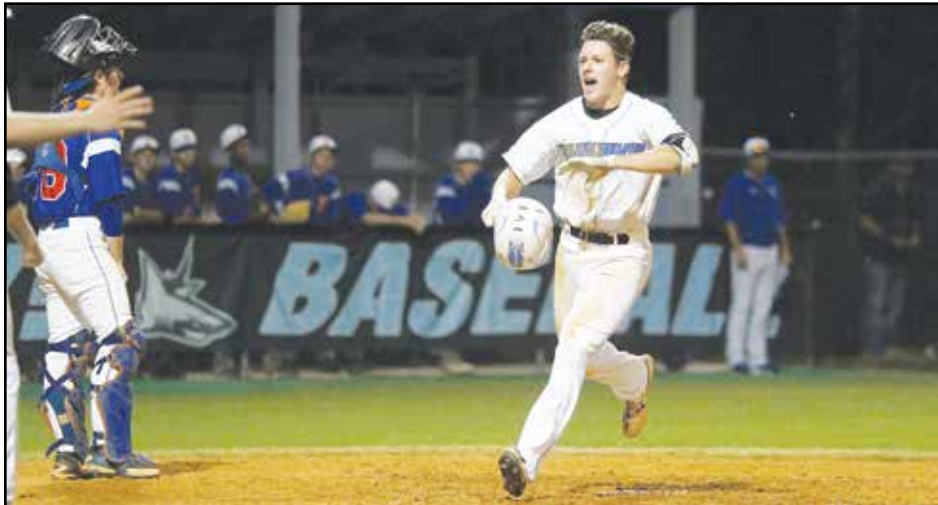


Photo by Jerry and Chris Norton

Ponte Vedra's Tony Roca celebrates as he crosses home plate after hitting a grand slam in the Sharks' 7-4 win over the Bolles Bulldogs on Thursday, March 1, at the Shark Tank. Roca also picked up the win in relief. Roca, Sebastian Rothman and Jacob Young each had two hits for Ponte Vedra in the home opener. Visit [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com) to see more photos from the win.

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# Celebrities converge on Ponte Vedra Beach for Tim Tebow Foundation's annual Golf Classic

By Samantha Logue

The Tim Tebow Foundation's eighth annual Celebrity Golf Classic brought celebrities of all kinds to THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass Saturday, March 3 for a charitable round of golf. Proceeds of the event and the preceding gala, held March 2, will benefit the foundation's various outreach efforts.

Players ranged from professional athletes and coaches to reality television stars, including professional golfer Lanto Griffin, retired Major League Baseball player Johnny Damon, University of Florida head football coach Dan Mullen, Chip Gaines of HGTV's "Fixer Upper," cast members of A&E's "Duck Dynasty" and of course Tim Tebow himself, among others. Spectators of the tournament had the opportunity to converse with some of their favorite celebrities between holes, and even grab a few photos and autographs to commemorate the experience.

In its first seven years, the Tim Tebow Foundation Celebrity Gala and Golf Classic raised more than \$10 million to fund its mission of bringing "faith, hope and love to those needing a brighter day in their darkest hour of need." Among the foundation's outreach programs and initiatives are the W15H Program, Timmy's Playrooms, the Tebow CURE Hospital, Orphan Care, Adoption Aid, Team Tebow and the annual Night to Shine prom.

Visit [www.timtebowfoundation.org](http://www.timtebowfoundation.org) to learn more about the Tim Tebow Foundation.



**ABOVE:** Tim Tebow signs an autograph for a fan before the start of the tournament.



**FAR LEFT:** Chip Gaines of HGTV's "Fixer Upper" takes a break from the course to talk with fans.



**LEFT:** Gators fans snag a photo with Florida football coach Dan Mullen.

Photos by Samantha Logue

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Senior Naval Science Instructor Captain Scott LaRochelle (from left), Peyton Gustafson, Troy Barber, Erin Sass, Christopher Oliver and Steven Sarama stand with Nease NJROTC's first-place trophy.

Photo courtesy of Nease NJROTC



## Nease NJROTC wins Middleburg Pentathlon Championship again

For the second consecutive year, Nease NJROTC was victorious at the Middleburg High School NJROTC Pentathlon Championship held Feb. 24 at Middleburg High.

The 12-team pentathlon is a five-event competition that tests the physical fitness, strength and endurance; academic knowledge; seamanship; and marksmanship of five-cadet teams comprised of four males and one female. Events included a 35-yard tire flip, speed knot-tying, a brain brawl puzzle, air rifle live fire and a 100-yard Humvee push—all while running a quarter- to half-mile between events with a 20-pound rucksack.

“We compete in local, regional and even national competitions all year, but the Middleburg Pentathlon is the one event we

circle the calendar for at the start of the year,” said Erin Sass, who captained the team.

Nease’s championship team was comprised of all juniors, and included Troy Barber, Peyton Gustafson, Chris Oliver, Steven Sarama and Sass.

“This competition is all about teamwork,” Oliver said. “We battled throughout and never gave in to the pain—especially during that final Humvee push.”

Nease finished the course in 16 minutes and seven seconds. Middleburg came in second at 18:56, and Lee High School was third at 19:12.

“This event, even though it’s physically grueling, is awesome,” Sarama said. “Middleburg really hosts a great competition.”



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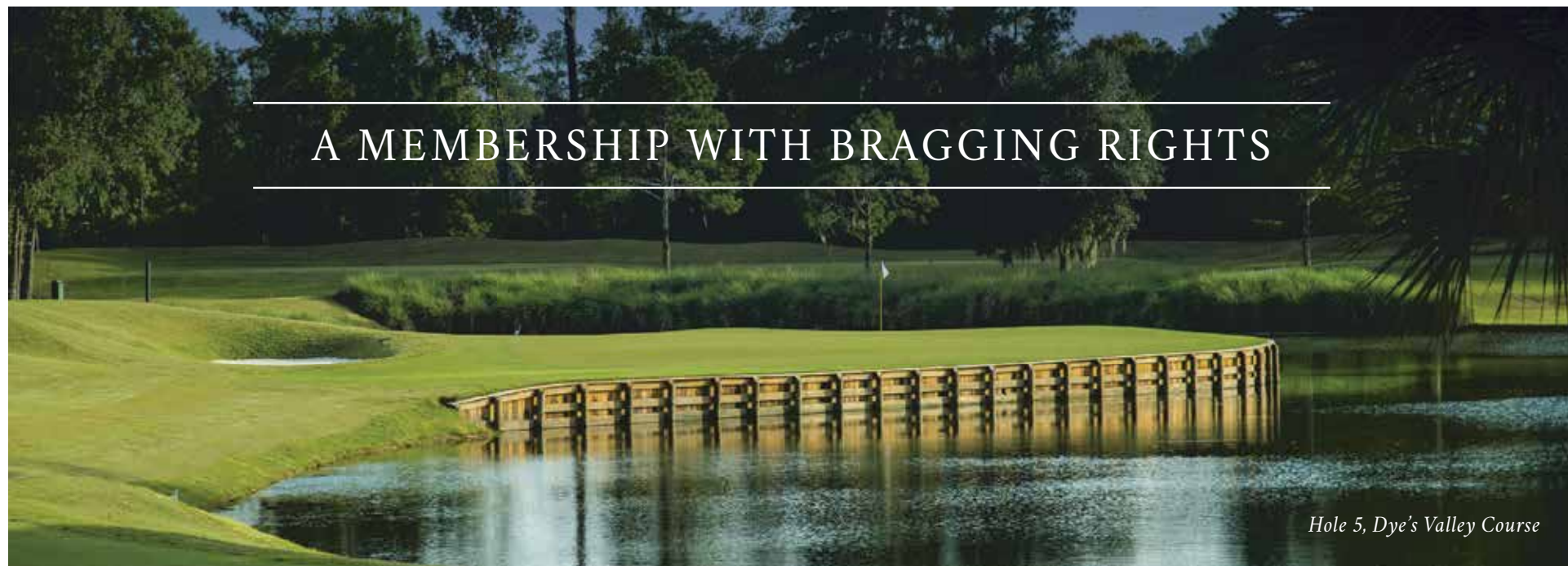
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# Ponte Vedra High prioritizing safety in football

Sharks will be first team in Florida to wear technology-advanced VICIS helmets

By Paris Moulden

The Ponte Vedra High School (PVHS) football team will be at the forefront of a new advancement in player safety when it opens the 2018 season.

The Sharks will be one of the first high school football teams in the country and the first in Florida to wear the VICIS ZERO1 helmets, which were first used last season by 18 NFL teams and 20 NCAA programs. The helmets, which just became available to high schools for the upcoming season, are designed to reduce impact forces much better than the traditional helmet.

PVHS football coach Matt Toblin said protecting student-athletes from head injuries is a big concern for his program, so coaches reached out to VICIS a few years ago when they first found out about the helmets.

“At that time, we were told they were



The PVHS varsity football team will be wearing VICIS ZERO1 helmets, which are technologically designed to reduce impact forces better than traditional helmets.

not ready to release them to the public and that they were still in the testing phase, so we started to slowly put reserves away for when this became public,” Toblin said. “We’re lucky that our booster club has done such a good job of not only fundraising, but also preparing for a situation like this, so we were able to get the helmets.”

Overall, Toblin said the new helmets

are part of an all-around push to make the game safer.

“There is no bigger threat to football right now than the threat of concussions, so not only do we need to change the way that we go about playing football, but any kind of equipment we can put on our kids that will help reduce the risk, we found that to be a proper investment,” he said.

The main difference in the helmet is that it boasts a deformable outer shell rather than the hard, plastic shell of the traditional helmet.

VICIS began as a technology company and was founded by a pediatric neurosurgeon, so it approached the design of its new helmet with technology in mind.

“We very much approached this as how do we create a fundamentally different way of mitigating impact forces,” said VICIS Vice President of Marketing Tony Titus. “The helmet is kind of like a car bumper with crumple zones that absorb and redirect energy by conforming to a structure.”

He said the company has a full-testing lab with state-of-the-art equipment, but the helmets were also independently



Photos courtesy of VICIS

tested by the NFL and ranked No. 1 in the league’s annual rankings.

“We wanted to make sure that it was designed to handle the game at its highest level first and then extend it into the high schools,” Titus said. “We’ve got high interest in every level of the game.”

Titus said PVHS has been very proactive in making the game safer for student-athletes.

“Ponte Vedra made a big commitment,” Titus said of the school becoming one of the first to equip its entire varsity team with the helmets. “It’s great to work with programs like that. It’s just a fantastic organization.”

Toblin said the helmets will have pretty much the same look as the previous ones, with a bit of a sleeker design and minimal modifications. But, he hopes the new helmets are a reflection of how much player safety means to the team.

“No helmet single-handedly can prevent a concussion, but we hope this is a sign of how important it is to us, how much effort and time we put into mitigating the risk,” Toblin said. “We practice differently than we did 10 years ago, and we play and coach differently than we did 10 years ago. We will leave no stone unturned in how to make the game safer.”



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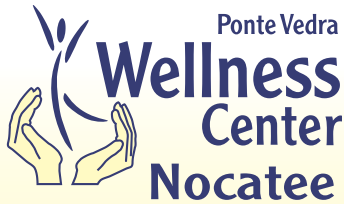
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Photo courtesy of Ted Miller

**LOCAL KARATE KID  
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CONGRATULATIONS**

Jessie Miller of Ponte Vedra Beach recently had a special meeting with Florida First Lady Ann Scott, who came to Ponte Vedra in January to kick off "Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!" Scott offered the 10-year-old congratulations on earning her second-degree black belt in ATA Songahm Taekwondo Karate. Miller, who first met Scott at a competition in Tallahassee in 2016, trains at the Karate America dojang located in Ponte Vedra Beach.

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