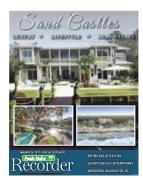


January 26, 2017 Volume 47, No. 4 75 cents

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Croquet: World-ranked pro comes to Ponte Vedra

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Funding for Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts will be the top priority for local legislators in the coming state budget session. Read more on page 5.

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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at 1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.



Visit our website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

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

WHAT'S THIS?



Six readers correctly identified last week's photo as Aqua Grill. Winner of the random drawing was **Bridgit Moore** – congratulations, Bridgit! You may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during regular business hours.

Don't forget — incorrect but entertaining guesses might also be rewarded with a trip to the zoo.

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Jag and I am a 4-year-old male cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit us today here at the pet center! #35647





hope you will visit me! Come visit us today here at the pet center! #35949

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

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

AQUA GRIL



Hi, my name is Charity and I am a 2-year-old female terrier mix who is looking for a new home! I was brought to the pet center as a stray. I am healed from a few old unknown injuries, but I still show scars I am a very sweet dog, so I

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

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WATSON COLLECTION



LAS PALMAS \$590,000

Just a few minutes drive from the ocean, this fabulous move-in ready, executive home boasts a wonderful floor plan with a gourmet kitchen, spacious family room, gas fireplace, built in bookshelves, additional office space and much more. MLS 849183



VISTA DEL MAR \$715.000

Spend your mornings taking a walk along the sand or enjoying the ocean breezes while drinking a cup of coffee from the patio of this well maintained, move-in ready condo in Jacksonville Beach. MLS 862998



JACKSONVILLE BEACH \$859,000

Tucked between the neighborhoods of Jax Beach and the iconic oceanfront Ponte Vedra Club, this Charleston inspired seaside cottage is located steps from direct beach 37th Ave S. beach access. Enjoy fresh sea breezes from the two front balconies or relax on the serene back porch. MLS 862334

PALENCIA \$949,000

Located on one of Palencia's premier streets, this former Arthur Ruterberg model home is perfect for entertaining with an expansive lanai with resort style pool, spa, waterfall, fireplace and summer kitchen. MLS 857713



3



Ponte Vedra Office 904.285.6300





Residents band together against digital billboards

By Jon Blauvelt

A group of concerned residents is objecting to a proposed two-year pilot program that would allow digital billboards in St. Johns County.

The proposed program is the result of a newly revised county ordinance that would allow the electronic signage on Interstate 95. Joe Cearley, a special projects manager within the county's growth management division, is working on the program and said the number of proposed billboards is unknown.

He also said the specific locations of the signs would depend on where the zoning designation would allow for industrial or commercial use. The signs would be 672 square feet, he said, which is about 100 square feet more than those currently on I-95.

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) recommended Nov. 1 that the proposal move to the Planning and Zoning Agency (PZA) board, and the PZA is scheduled to meet Feb. 16 to decide whether to send it back to the BCC for a final vote.

Residents who oppose the proposal have gathered research about the adverse effects of the electronic signage and disseminated that information throughout the community. Their goal is to mobilize the

public and persuade the BCC to cast down the proposal before it's presented to the PZA.

The county was forced to revise its signage ordinance after the U.S. Supreme Court found in Reed v. Town of Gilbert that a Gilbert, Arizona municipal ordinance restricting content of a church's signs was unconstitutional When rewriting the ordinance, Cearley said the billboard industry approached the county about digital billboards, and it made sense, he said, to work the provision into the ordinance. Cearley said digital signage benefits the billboard industry because companies can include up to eight advertisements on one sign.

Speaking on behalf of the residents at the Ponte Vedra Community Association meeting Jan. 17, Mary Kohnke said the digital billboards, which display a different advertisement every eight seconds, would be distracting to drivers.

She cited a report conducted by News-4Jax in which the TV station obtained records from the National Highway Safety Administration and Florida Highway Patrol that concluded in 2015 that Florida's section of I-95 has the highest fatality rate of any road in the United States. Kohnke doesn't understand why the county would want to make the road even more dangerous.

"Any sane minded person would realize this is dicey," she said.

Cearley, however, referenced a Federal Highway Administration study from 2009 that demonstrates the difference in eye movement when looking at digital billboards compared to traditional billboards, and he said that difference in movement is miniscule

"There's nothing new that I'm aware of that's come out that says these are really bad, that they're a distraction to drivers," said Cearley.

Kohnke also said the sign's LED lights emit more light pollution than standard bulbs, referencing photos taken by the International Space Station of Milan, Italy before and after LED lights were installed to illustrate the difference. In addition, she said there is "no such thing" as a two-year trial. Once a billboard goes up, she said, it cannot come down because it costs too much money to take down.

Cearley confirmed the validity of both arguments, saying the county is calling it a trial because it wants to experiment with solely I-95 and not inundate every major road.

If the proposal is passed, Cearley said the new regulations would be effective in late March. He also said the county would abide by the "swap down program," which requires the county to take down multiple

billboards for every new billboard that is installed. The digital billboards, said Cearley, would be used for public service announcements like hurricane evacuations and AMBER alerts.

At the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition meeting Jan. 23, resident Lisa Cook questioned the necessity of the billboards for announcements when she said the Florida Department of Transportation has already installed 11 digital messaging signs for that very reason on the same stretch of I - 95

At the same meeting, PZA member Dick Williams said he'd be concerned about the public safety of St. Johns County residents and visitors if the billboards were installed

"I don't know how the billboard companies can overcome that," said Williams, who will be one of the seven PZA members to vote on the proposal Feb. 16. "They're very effective advertising. So, you have to be looking at them, and then you're not watching the road."

Cook reiterated Williams' concerns about public safety, noting that multiple places around the world have outlawed digital billboards.

"Everybody seems to know about this," she said. "Why is St. Johns County wanting to go back in the dark ages and be ok with this?"

Forson names Kunze new principal of Nease High School

PV2-LV34729

Switzerland Point Middle School Principal Lisa Kunze has been selected by St. Johns County Schools Superintendent Tim Forson to be the next principal of Allen D. Nease High School.

Kunze's nomination will be presented to the St. Johns County School Board at its Feb. 14 meeting. She will succeed Kyle Dresback, who was recently named associate superintendent of student support services

"Mrs. Kunze is an outstanding leader as demonstrated by the success of SPMS for more than seven years," Forson said.

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The Ponte Vedra Recorder/First Coast Register seeks a bright, creative, money-driven New Business Development Rep. to join our team. If you have the knowledge and the drive, we have the resources to get you selling and making money! Advertising sales experience is required; we need a positive person who is not afraid to cold call. The ideal candidate will be familiar with the First Coast area and possess a dedicated work ethic, reliable transportation, proficient computer skills and attention to detail. The ability to meet deadlines, multi-task and sell multiple products is the key to success in this sales role.

Interested candidates please call Susan Griffin at 904-686-3938 and email your resume to susan@opcfla.com.



"Her focus on the academic success as well as the emotional and social development of her students will serve her well at NHS and complement existing programs offered there."

Kunze previously served as the assistant principal at Nease before joining Ponte Vedra High School as an assistant prin-

cipal to help open the school. She began her career in education in Duval County as a science teacher at Mandarin High School, where she taught for seven years before becoming the assistant principal at Stanton College Preparatory School. She was later promoted to vice principal at Sandalwood High School before joining St. Johns County.

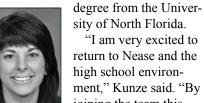
Kunze holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana State University and a master's

SHORT TAKES

Volunteers needed for Sunshine Fund Dinner & Dance

Volunteers are needed to drive seniors to and from the First Annual Sunshine Fund Dinner & Dance to be held Saturday, Feb. 25 from 6 to 10 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will support the Sunshine Fund for field trips, music,



sity of North Florida. "I am very excited to return to Nease and the high school environ-

KUNZE

ment," Kunze said. "By joining the team this school year, I will have the unique opportunity to observe and listen to

the faculty, students and parents about the culture of the school and their goals for the future."

The transition of Kunze and Dresback will not take place, officials said, until a new principal has been appointed for Switzerland Point. Forson will begin the process of gathering input from staff and the community within the next two weeks.

entertainment and educational seminars for participants.

Call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@ stjohnscoa.com to volunteer or to learn more

The Sunshine Fund Dinner & Dance will take place at the St. Johns County Agricultural Center in St. Augustine.



The St. Johns County legislative delegation told community members at their Jan. 18 meeting that funding is on the way for Hurricane Matthew recovery projects like dune restoration.

Local lawmakers to make hurricane recovery a priority in 'tough' budget year

By Jon Blauvelt

Hurricane Matthew recovery will be the top budget priority for St. Johns County's legislative delegation in the coming Florida legislative session, delegation members told attendees at their most recent meeting.

"The big issue for us in St. Johns County and big ticket item is storm recovery," said Rep. Cyndi Stevenson of District 17 at the meeting Jan. 18 in the St. Johns County Commission chamber auditorium. "We're certainly going to look to meet the needs of this community."

In addition to Stevenson, the delegation includes Rep. Paul Renner from District 24 and Sen. Travis Hutson from District 7.

This will be a "tough" budget year, Stevenson said, noting that state budget revenues continue to grow modestly. Stevenson said the state projects a \$7.5 million surplus this year, which she said is "very, very thin" in relation to a multibillion-dollar budget. The state's long-range outlook forecasts a total deficit of \$3 billion over the next few years. As a result, state lawmakers are taking a conservative approach and starting to determine how they can save money this year to avoid drastic steps in the future.

Stevenson closed with these comments after more than 30 local officials, interest group and agency representatives, and concerned residents requested support and funding from the delegation for various projects and initiatives, several of which were related to hurricane recovery.

Darrell Locklear, assistant administrator of operational services for St. Johns County, asked the delegation for support in increasing the state's share of disaster recovery from 50 to 75 percent. He also requested support for an increase in public beach accesses and parking as well as improvements to existing accesses, especially for those beaches north of the St. Augustine inlet.

Renner said the current beach restoration situation leaves his team with no choice but to be resourceful in devising and prioritizing its funding.

"We're going to be if not singularly focused at least primarily focused on that this upcoming session to the best of our ability in a very, very tight budget where we're not going to have any access cash that we had, which means it's going to have to come out of some other pocket," he said.

St. Augustine City Manager John Regan requested funding for a sewer extension on West Fifth Street; a retrofit project involving 17 existing storm water outfalls in the Davis Shores neighborhood; and another retrofit project of a sewer system nearby the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, all deemed especially necessary projects after Hurricane Matthew. The total estimated construction value for the projects would be nearly \$7 million.

Stevenson responded sympathetically to Regan's requests.

"My heart goes out to the city and county residents," she said. "We really suffered. We'll get out there and do what we can."

Not every meeting attendee requested funding. Veronica Valentine attended on behalf of property owners at Ocean Villas and Serenata Beach Club, who are seeking approval from the state to construct a sea wall and a dune to protect their 90 oceanfront properties in South Ponte Vedra. She told delegation members that outdated Florida Department of Environmental Protection requirements are preventing them from installing coastal armoring, and asked that the requirements be modified.

"We just want permission to protect our property," Valentine said. "Time is not on our side because we're having continual erosion."

In addition, community members asked for assistance with insurance companies "running rampant," while others suggested that the state create a plan to combat rising sea levels.

Hutson said he expects to attain a funding source for storm recovery by early February via an emergency order from the governor or support from the legislative budget conference, which is a series of public meetings between House and Senate representatives to complete the budget.

"We understand how bad you're hurting," Hutson said. "We have been working really hard with local governments and the state governments of interest, and we are going to continue to work hard to ensure we get dollars back as soon as possible."

Florida's 60-day legislative session will begin in March.



Jacksonville native Dr. Melinda Greenfield recently returned to the First Coast after building a thriving dermatology practice in Georgia. The mother of Nathan, 15, and Josie, 12, is now practicing in Ponte Vedra, offering a full range of both medical and aesthetic services and procedures.

Dr. Melinda Greenfield

By Jennifer Logue

You recently returned to Jacksonville after 16 years in Georgia. What brought you back to the First Coast?

I grew up in Jacksonville, but my family moved away to Maryland when I started high school. I attended high school and college in Maryland. My family moved back to Jacksonville when I started medical school, so I chose a medical school in Florida. After my dermatology residency in Bronx, New York, I purchased my cousin's practice in Albany, Georgia and was there for 16 years. My parents, Gail and Stanley Greenfield, moved to Albany for a few years after my youngest child was born, but they moved back to Jacksonville about three years ago. I knew I would eventually make my way back to the area. My son just started high school at Ponte Vedra and my daughter just started middle school at Landrum. So, this was a great time to transition everyone. It's so nice to be back in the Jacksonville area, but it's nothing like I remember growing up here over 35 years ago.

What services does your dermatology practice provide?

I focus mainly on the medical aspects of a dermatology practice - acne, psoriasis, eczema, skin cancer, mole checks, etc. With my very busy practice in Albany, I got used to seeing everyone, everything and all ages. I also offer Botox and fillers and chemical peels as well as a variety of skin care items.

Do you specialize in treating any particular dermatological conditions?

I treat everything and all ages. I especially enjoy my more challenging psoriasis patients.

What first piqued your interest in dermatology?

My cousin, from whom I purchased the Albany, Georgia practice, was a huge inspiration to me. I saw that he loved what he did and it motivated me to excel in school so I could garner one of the prized dermatology residency positions. Dermatology is a highly desired specialty because we have the benefit of seeing mostly healthy patients and we are often in the front line of finding a variety of disease processes that show up early in the skin

What do you enjoy most about being a dermatologist?

I enjoy taking care of folks of all ages and being in a position to educate on so many levels. The skin is the window to the inside of our bodies, and understanding and recognizing certain subtle findings can offer clues to more systemic diseases that might show up years later.

I enjoy teaching young adults about acne and healthy skin care, and embracing a healthy lifestyle as well as offering advice for all ages about how to be "sun smart" while enjoying all that the great outdoors has to offer. I'm also excited about some of the procedures now offered that can help prevent skin cancers down the road.

How do you enjoy spending your free time?

I enjoy cooking, hiking, travel, any type of exercise, being outside (with a hat and sunscreen on) and spending time with my family. I have also become a master of brewing my own kombucha tea, sprouting, and anything related to living a healthy lifestyle.



Photo by Jasmine Marshall



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Thursday, Jan. 26 Friday, Jan. 27

Defiance: Movie and Discussion

A free screening of the feature film "Defiance" will be held Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Alliance (JCA). Sponsored by JCA and MOSH, the screening will present the film that recounts the largest armed rescue of Jews by Jews during World War II, led by the three Bielski brothers who built a protective village and saved more than 1.000 Jewish non-combatants from Nazi death camps. Assaela Weinstein, daughter of Asael Bielski, will provide accurate

and personal insight into what really transpired. For more information or to register, visit www. jcajax.org/ji or call (904) 730-2100 ext.228.

Free Line Dance Classes

The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club will offer free line dancing classes Jan. 26 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, located at 5125 Palm Valley Road. Learn the Cupid Shuffle, Biker's Shuffle, Electric Slide, Macarena and more dances to be featured at the club's Second Chance Prom coming in April. All are welcome to participate For more information, or to RSVP, visit www.PonteVedraWomansClub.com.

Chinese New Year Dinner

The Candy Apple Café & Cocktails will host a Chinese New Year Dinner Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. The celebration will include unlimited lychee martinis, Executive Chef Jamey Evoniuk's family-style menu of Chinese-inspired fare, a traditional tanghulu (candied fruit) demo by Sweet Pete's and a chocolate-dipped fortune cookie. Tickets are \$49 per person (price includes gratuity). For more information or to purchase tickets, visit bit.ly/ChineseNewYearDinner2017.

Life Enrichment Day Retreat

Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra hosts a Life Enrichment Day Retreat every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For more information, call (904) 834-7578 and ask for Ilene Thrasher or visit www.at-pontevedra. com.

UniverSoul Circus

The 2017 production of UniverSoul Circus takes fans of all ages on a journey of light, soul and sound. Hailed as the most interactive circus in the world, this event plays Jacksonville in the parking lot of the Prime Osborn Center through Feb. 5. This fusion of circus arts, theater and music running the gamut from Latin to Hip Hop is rated one of the top three circuses in America alongside Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey and Cirque du Soleil. As has become its trademark after 24 years, UniverSoul Circus will present a multicultural/multinational cast of rock-star performers in 2016. Tickets are on sale via Ticketmaster.com or by phone at 1-800-745-3000. Visit www.universoulcircus. com for more information, show times, and schedules.

Children's Pen Pal Program

The Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church's Children's Ministry will introduce a "pen pal" program connecting seniors with 3rd-6th graders so that they may learn from each other, support one another and exchange items. This program is open to anyone interested in participating. Contact Marv Margaret at mmbarbour38@gmail.com.

Coastal Wine Market Wine Tasting

Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.

PV Professionals Networking Group

The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets Fridays at 9 a.m. at Watson Realty Corp., 615 Highway A1A S., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call Gloria at (904) 635-6103, visit www.pvpng.com or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.

Saturday, Jan. 28

Music at Grace Organ Recital

Grace United Methodist Church will present Organist Barbara MacGregor in recital as part of its Music at Grace program. This recital will take place Saturday, Jan. 28 at 5 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church located at 8 Carrera St. in St. Augustine. MacGregor's program at Grace United Methodist will feature the theme of Bells and Carillons in organ music, as the festive season of Nights of Lights in St. Augustine ends. For more information, contact Michael Sanflippo at music@gracestaugustine.org or call (904) 829-8272.

Fun & Fearless Cooking Class

St. Augustine's Hot Shot Bakery N' Café will host a Fun & Fearless winter cooking class. With a featured recipe of chocolate crepes filled with custard sauce and fresh fruit topped with raspberry sauce, the Fun & Fearless classes cap at six attendees and reservation is necessary. The adult class also features hot apple cider and will be held Saturday, Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. and costs \$35 per person. For more information or to reserve a spot, visit www.hotshotcafe.com and call (904) 824-7898. Hot Shot Bakery N'Café is located at 47 Cordova Street in St. Augustine.

Horror-writing Workshop

Join veteran horror writer Will Ludwigsen as he shares his secrets with "Getting Personal with Horror," at the FWA Ponte Vedra Writers meeting Saturday, Jan. 28 at 10:30 a.m. To take place in the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, Ludwigsen will teach techniques including how to develop characters attuned to a story, how to depict those characters and how to describe the terrors they encounter. This meeting is free and open to members and non-members of the Florida Writers Association.

Ponte Vedra YMCA Open House

The Ponte Vedra YMCA will host an open house event every Saturday throughout the month of January to showcase its offerings. With activities for the entire family, the free event will take place throughout the day. Ponte Vedra's YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 543-9622

Recorder

Sunday, Jan. 29

Katz 4 Keeps Adoption Weekends

Join Katz 4 Keeps Jan. 28-29 for a weekend adoption event helping cats and kittens find their forever homes. This event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Katz 4 Keeps facility located at 935B A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information about this event or organization, call (904) 834-3223 or email info@katz4keeps.org.

Anne Frank: A History for Today

The international exhibit that inspired a community-wide initiative will open to the public at the Museum of Science History (MOSH) in Downtown Jacksonville. Through Feb. 12, visitors will enjoy free admission to the museum and exhibit, which has informed visitors all around the world through excerpts, photographs and events held throughout the city. The exhibit will be presented as part of "Voices of Hope," a larger community initiative guided by MOSH that will incorporate several coordinated programs by leading organizations throughout Northeast Florida. "Anne Frank: A History for Today" and "Voices of Hope" will aim to generate conversation among Jacksonville communities, from school children to prominent leaders and professionals, on the theme of universal acceptance

Care Connection Volunteers Needed

Adult volunteers are needed at Care Connection, located at 180 Marine St. in St. Augustine, to mentor young adult volunteers on weekend home improvement and minor repair projects for seniors who can no longer do the work themselves. Adult volunteers will help youths engage with seniors as they learning career skills and professional behavior in the field of community service. For more information, call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com.

Let's get social! "Like" us on facebook Stay up to date on contests, advertising specials, and real-time news in Ponte Vedra. Our fans get access to exclusive content you can't find anywhere else! Not your average newspaper, not your average reader. PV2-LV34726

FREE ADS!

The Recorder is now offering all Garage/Yard Sale & Lost/Found Classified ads at no charge to you!

Free ads are up to 4 lines. Additional lines may be purchased. Deadline is Monday by 3PM to be in following Thursday Publication.

> Contact Us Today! aprils@opcfla.com at 904-686-3937

CALENDAR 9

Monday, Jan. 30

Time is Brain

Prenatal Yoga

On Tuesday, Jan. 31, Neurologist Casey Carri-

gan, MD, and Stroke Center medical director

at Baptist Medical Center Beaches, will pres-

ent "Time is Brain." This lecture, to be held at

THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center at

11 a.m., will discuss stroke prevention, diag-

nosis, treatment and recovery. THE PLAYERS

Community Senior Center is located at 175

Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Lawn Service Volunteers Needed

for Care Connection at 180 Marine St. in

St. Augustine. Lawn service volunteers are

a job scheduler, job supervisor and equip-

ment maintenance person. For more infor-

mation, call the Council on Aging at (904)

209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com.

Share experiences with other women with

empowerment through yoga, meditation,

and guided visualization. This approach is

gentle and safe for women in all stages of

pregnancy. Participants are asked to bring

be held at 6 p.m. and there is a \$13 class

fee per attendee. For additional informa-

in the Ponte Vedra YMCA located at 170

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sun-

the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more informa-

(904) 412-5409 or email jwhart1208@gmail.

set meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at

tion, call club President Janeene Hart at

Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Sunset Rotary Club Meeting

tion or to register, all (904) 202-5376 or visit

baptistjax.com/ymca. Prenatal yoga classes

will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center

a voga mat, towel and water. This event will

needed, including volunteers who will act as

The Council on Aging is seeking volunteers

Soap Making Workshop

THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center will present a soap making workshop Jan. 30. from 10 a.m. to noon. Guests will learn the craft of soap making in a class made possible through the St. John's County Cultural Arts Council State of the Arts License Plate Grant. Registration is required. For more information or to register for this class, call (904) 280-3233. THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Travel Training Program

The Council on Aging's Travel Training program is designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. Residents interested in expanding their transportation options or who would like to increase their confidence as a bus rider can receive assistance from trained volunteers in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging at (904) 315-6505 or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.

Life Enrichment Group

This group is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. The program is offered daily, serving the Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call: 904-417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@ vahoo.com

Adult Day Health Volunteers Needed

Ponte Vedra Therapeutic Adult Day Health Care at 1050 A1A North is in need of a volunteer any weekday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This volunteer will help participants in activities such as games, music, chair exercises and simple arts and crafts projects. Certified pet therapy dogs are also welcome. Call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com for more information.

Tuesday, Jan. 31

Wednesday, Feb. 1

Clear Up the Cholesterol Confusion

The Y Healthy Living Center of the Ponte Vedra YMCA presents a part of its HeartWise Prevention series with Nancy Crain, PA-C. Community members are invited to learn more about how to gain personalized knowledge, guidance and support to maximize their heart-healthy lifestyle. The presentation will take place Feb. 1 at 11:45 a.m. and is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax. com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Y Healthy Living Center is located in the Ponte Vedra YMCA at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Understanding the Civil War

The monthly meeting of the "Understanding The Civil War" discussion group will be held Wednesday, Feb 1. at 1 p.m. in the Watson Realty conference room located at 3175 A1A South in St. Augustine Beach. This is a change in the day of the week and the location from previous meetings. The topic will be centered around the two events significant in sealing slavery as the issue for war. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, email Charlie Smith at smithc32@bellsouth.net

Town Hall Meeting on Proposed Park

A town hall meeting will be held to discuss a proposal by a group of Ponte Vedra residents to purchase a portion of the Oak Bridge Club golf course and preserve it as a community park and botanical gardens. To be held Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, the meeting will discuss options for raising the funds needed to purchase the property, which the golf course owners are proposing to sell for development. For more information, visit www.SawgrassVillagePark.com.

Toastmasters Club

Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Players Community Senior Center. These meetings will help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane. Email Carmen at carmenjsardinas@gmail.com for additional information.

Thursday, Feb. 2

'A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline'

Alhambra Theatre & Dining will present "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline," showing through Feb. 19. Starring Gail Bliss, this show is endorsed by the Patsy Cline Estate as "the most authentic Patsy story ever told." Bliss traces Cline's career from her first time singing on the radio until her untimely death in a plane crash. Featuring a live band with Grammy Award-winning musicians, "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline" is an Alhambra favorite that always sells out. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.alhambraiax.com/show/closer-walk-patsv-cline.

Toddler Movement Class

All active walkers up to 3 years old and their caregivers are invited to join the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Feb. 2 for Shaky Egg dancing and singing as they move our way through active storytelling. Set to take place from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., this class is specifically designed for the interactive reader with their caregiver's participation and for families with multiple children, including babies. Call Youth Services Librarian Anne Crawford at (904) 827-6950 with any questions.

Dementia Caregiver Presentation

Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra will host a free presentation titled "Dementia and Caregiver Burnout: How to Know When it's Time to Get Help"Thursday, Feb. 2 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the dedicated memory care facility, located at 5125 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. Presenters will include Dr. Sean Orr and caregivers Angie Johnson Witwer and Joe McClure. The presentation is designed to assist those who are caring for someone in cognitive decline. Refreshments will be provided. To register, RSVP to ithrasher@ arborcompany.com or call (904) 834-7578.

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 jasmine@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com usi the automated form or call (904) 686-3939. . n using

FLAGLER College

International Nights: France Experience another culture through delicious food! Join us for

international themed nights on the last Tuesday of every month. We will have themed drinks and featured entrees. Get your passport stamped each month provided by our bartender. If you get 10 passport stamps, you will win a prize. The first night is France, santé! Tuesday, January 31st

5:00 - 9:00 pm

Big Game Sunday Enjoy extended Happy Hour drinks and a tailgate buffet while cheering on your favorite team during the Super Bowl!

Sunday, February 5th 4:30 - 9:00 PM

\$25.00++

For complete information on our dining and social events, visit our website at http://www.tpc.com/sawgrass-dining. ore information or to make a reservation in NINETEEN or for a Social Event, please contact the dining room at 904.273.3238

FORUM ON GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31



Chuck Raasch Author and reporter for St. Louis Post-Dispatch

"After the guns go silent, and the ballots are cast"

LECTURES BEGIN AT 7 P.M. Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College 14 Granada St. St. Augustine, FL

NO ADMISSION CHARGE For more information, call the Events Line: (904) 819-6400

TPC SAWGRASS January/February 2017

com

First annual Jamie Chapin Classic to honor late 'Gator Great,' former lacrosse captain

By Jasmine Marshall

The first annual Jamie Chapin Classic golf tournament hosted by the University of Florida's Men's Lacrosse team is set to take place Sunday, Feb. 19.

Honoring former captain and Ponte Vedra resident Jamie Chapin, who died at age 25 in 2011 after battling brain cancer, the event will feature lunch, silent auctions and other festivities in a tribute to his legacy. The classic was born thanks to the efforts of new coach Garrett Hanrahan, who looked to Jamie's story to build character within his team and support a charitable cause. Hanrahan and the team reached out to UF Health and the Chapin family to bring the classic to life. All proceeds will benefit UF Health's Research on Brain Cancer Immunotherapy lead by Dr. Duane Mitchell, and donations will be made in Jamie's honor

Jamie's mother, Deb Chapin, said she's grateful her son's impact is being remembered in a way that will help others

"We're just thrilled that Jamie's legacy continues because he was a man who pioneered lacrosse in this area and carried exceptional value and morals," she said. "And we're hopeful. During the first year, we just want to make sure there's a successful start."

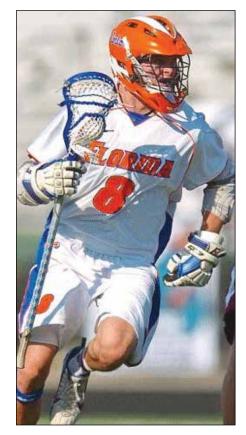
The classic will kick off with a home game against the

University of South Florida's Bulls at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, which guests may enjoy free of charge. Following the game will be a social event at the Swamp Bar and Restaurant to be held from 6 to 8 p.m. The classic itself will take place Sunday, Feb. 19 at Gainesville's Ironwood Golf Course beginning with a lunch and silent auction at 10:30 a.m. and a shotgun start for golfers at 12:30 p.m.

With the inaugural event, Hanrahan, the Chapin family and the lacrosse team hope they can bring a breakthrough in brain cancer research that much closer, ending brain cancer for good.

"In addition to ourselves, we know of several others who've lost people to brain cancer," Chapin said. "It's a challenge, to say the least, because there aren't as many options for brain cancer treatment. You really just need one breakthrough. So we're hopeful at the aspect of being able to participate in some way that helps find treatment and causes."

Tickets for the Jamie Chapin Classic are \$20 for nongolfers and \$100 for participants. Ironwood Golf Course is located at 2100 NE 39th Ave. in Gainesville. For updates and additional information about the Jamie Chapin Classic, including sponsorship and donation information, discounted hotel accommodations and event day festivities, visit www.gatorlacrosse.com/jamie-chapin-classic.



The Jamie **Chapin Classic** golf tournament will honor the memory of Ponte Vedra resident Jamie Chapin, a **UF** lacrosse player who died at age 25 of brain cancer.



FRENCH CONNECTION

Florida Blue Masterworks Series Feb 3 & 4 at 8 pm

bestbet Symphony in 60 Series Feb 2 at 6:30 pm Coffee Series Feb 3 at 11 am

Courtney Lewis, conductor • Michael McHale, piano (not on Coffee) Friday evening concert sponsored by: Fleet Landing



Tickets: 904.354.5547 JaxSymphony.org



lemacaronpontevedrabeach@gmail.com f lemacaronpvb 330 A1A North, Suite 300, in the Shoppes of Ponte Vedra near Underwood's, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Ponte Vedra couple establishes charity, launches inaugural fundraising event for cancer

By Jasmine Marshall

A Ponte Vedra couple is set to partner with The DONNA Foundation for an inaugural "Night of Wine and Roses" event co-sponsored by their newly founded charity.

Linda and Bill Adams are co-directors of the CancerKare Fund, a new charity that helps people who have been diagnosed with breast cancer pay for imaging and other necessary procedures. After deciding to embark on the journey just this month, the Adams have already planned an event they hope will be the first of many.

On Feb. 2, the Nocatee Welcome Center will be alight with live music, art and celebration. The Adamses will recognize Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery's Dr. Brett Snyder for his approach to breast cancer patients facing reconstructive surgery with the first "Breasty" Award acknowledging individuals who contribute to the fight against breast cancer. Fine wine, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, gifts, prizes and silent and live auctions will also be featured throughout the event, the proceeds of which will benefit The DONNA Foundation. Dr. Snyder will also be presented with an original oil painting by Bill Adams.

The couple has wasted no time since establishing CancerKare Fund in a bid to lessen the pain, fear and financial burden of people living with breast cancer. But it was a personal experience that drove them to act.

Empathy by experience

The lone symptom Linda Adams experienced before she was diagnosed with breast cancer seemed benign enough.

It could have been any number of things – trauma caused by the impact of a fall she'd taken while decorating her home at Christmastime, an infection or even plugged ducts in the tissue of the breast.

An ultrasound taken less than two months later would show no cancer, and the small odds of malignant cells kept

Bill Adams puts the finishing touches on a painting as Linda looks on.

lf you go

The inaugural Night of Wine and Roses will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2. Tickets are \$25 per person with a limit of 800 attendees. Sponsorship packages are also available. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit http://bit.do/ wineroses

worry at bay. By the time Linda had been referred to a surgeon for a needle biopsy, she was still under the impression that lone symptom was a sign of anything but breast cancer.

She went on about life as normal as she awaited definitive results when finally, on a shopping trip with her husband, the call came.

"Of course there was the shock and the emotional element," Linda said, recalling the afternoon her worst fears had been confirmed. "But more than that ... you just go numb. You don't know how to respond."

The "silent cancer" had gone undetected for Linda because the cells were atypical, or precancerous; and though the cancer was caught relatively early, the realization did little to soothe Linda's worry. Facing each step presented new problems and realizations that the couple had never considered.

From changing the side of the bed Linda slept on to lessen the pain of getting out of bed to dealing with the insecurity she felt having a breast removed, the acceptance and worry came in waves.

"It was such an emotional time and it greatly affects your self-esteem and your outlook," she said. "I was thinking of my grandchildren, my family. I kept thinking, 'Oh my God, I'm too young for this.""

Paying kindness forward

Like many people diagnosed with breast cancer, Linda thought of the illness as a death sentence. But it was the help she received from Pink up the



Bill and Linda Adams pose next to one of Bill's original paintings.

Pace – which funded her MRI – and her breast cancer team, among them Snyder and next year's Breasty recipient, Dr. Christine Routhier, that made all the difference. Following her mastectomy, Routhier recommended Snyder for her reconstructive surgery. Together, they worked through aftercare, surgery and recovery, guiding the couple each step of the way with the knowledge and humor Linda says was desperately needed at the time. Their help was ultimately what made the couple decide to pay that kindness forward and establish the CancerKare Fund.

"The journey was a series of steps –

Photos by Jasmine Marshall

ignorance, knowledge, awareness, fright and acceptance," Bill Adams said. "With CancerKare, we're trying to share the second phase because it took us a long time to understand what we were getting into. This is how we're able to help others become more aware."

Now, they hope to bring their own experience to the table to create a resource that will be of help to others.

"The most important thing about all of this is that people understand it's okay to reach out," Linda said. "Don't isolate yourself, don't be embarrassed. We want to help people seek the help they need medically and emotionally."





Second annual SOUPer Bowl to benefit First Coast Blessings in a Backpack

Allen D. Nease High School will host the second annual SOUPer Bowl Feb. 2 to raise money for First Coast Blessings in a Backpack.

To be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Nease PAC courtyard and cafeteria, the event will feature gourmet soups from more than 25 local restaurants, including the Ice Plant, M Shack, the Floridian, the Blue Bamboo, Gator's Dockside, Palm Valley Outdoors and Sawgrass Marriott. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at studentstacklehunger.org. Donations are also being accepted via the event's website.

Proceeds will benefit First Coast Blessings in a Backpack, a nonprofit organization that provides consistent weekend nutrition for children on the federal free and reduced meal program. The organization provides more than 145,236 meals a year to more than 600 children in St. Johns County. By providing consistent nutrition to these children, the nonprofit is working to avert issues like weaker immune systems, impaired neural development and lower academic achievement. Blessings in a Backpack estimates that it costs \$100 to provide one student with meals for an entire



Photos courtesy of Rohan Bhargava

In conjunction with Valley Ridge Academy and St. Johns Technical High School, Nease debuted the SOUPer Bowl event in 2016 and raised over \$23,000, which provided weekend meals to 230 local children for a year.

school year.

In conjunction with Valley Ridge Academy and St. Johns Technical High School, Nease debuted the SOUPer Bowl event in 2016, raising more than \$23,000, which provided weekend meals to 230 local children for a year.

SOUPer Bowl attendees this year will receive a custom made ceramic bowl crafted by students from Bartram Trail High School, St. Johns Technical School, Valley Ridge Academy, Palencia Elementary, Webster Elementary and Nease High School.



SOUPer Bowl attendees this year will receive a custom made ceramic bowl crafted by local area students.

Annual Legacy Trust Home and Art Tour to be held April 8

The Legacy Trust Ponte Vedra Beach Home and Art Tour will return to the community on Saturday, April 8.

To be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the tour will enable participants to visit and view some of Ponte Vedra's most distintictive homes.

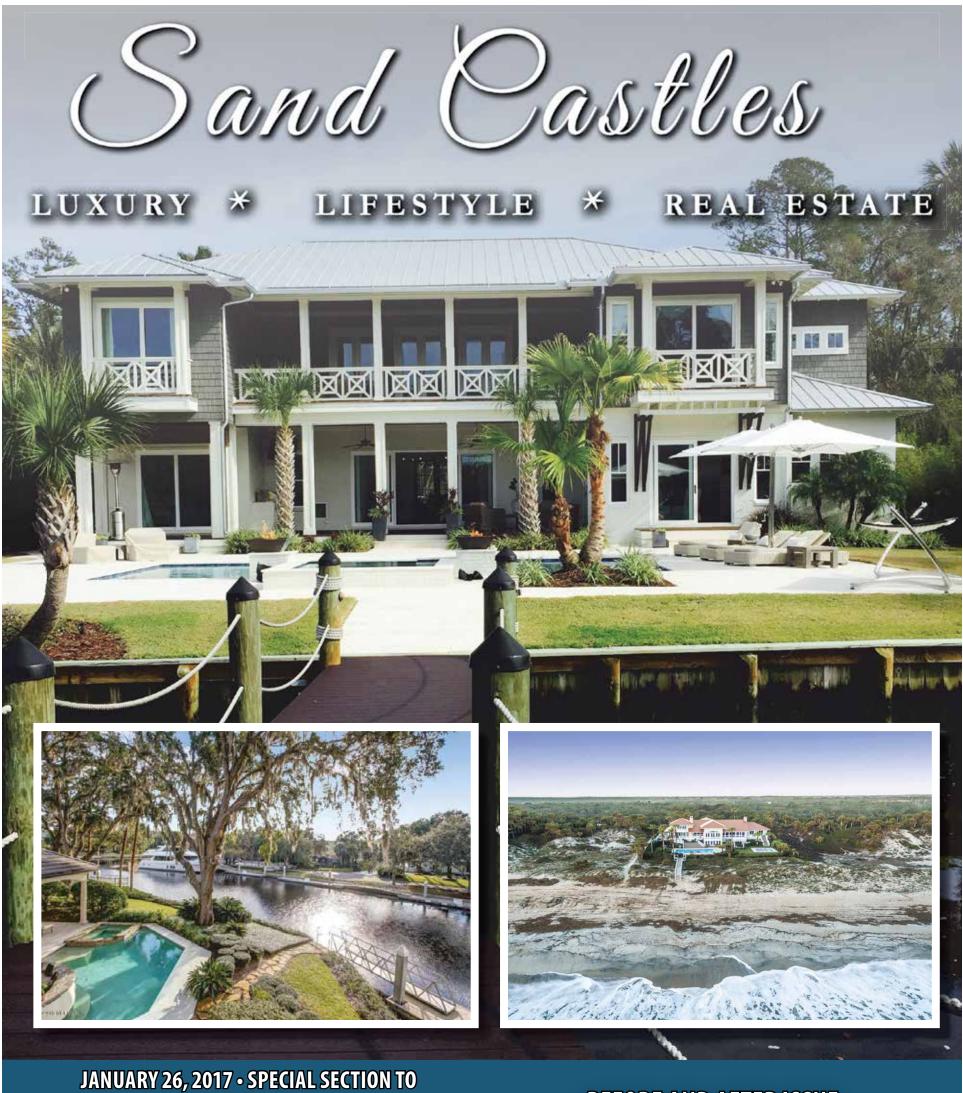
This year's tour will highlight artwork, landscape and architectural design in each home, allowing guests to see how each homeowner incorporates art and color into the overall design.

While each home will be staffed with volunteers from the cultural center, the program is a self-guided tour showcasing homes located in The Plantation, Sawgrass Island and Marsh Landing, and on Ponte Vedra Boulevard and Roscoe Boulevard.

Tickets for the tour are \$35 per person, with proceeds benefiting the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit www. ccpvb.org.



<text>





- BEFORE AND AFTER ISSUE
- LUXURY COASTAL CONTEMPORARY
- WONDERFUL WASHINGTON, DC

Before and after

elcome to Sand Castles, an awardwinning special section, and our fourth "Before and After" issue – one of my favorite issues!

With any before and after project we undertake, there is always anticipation of the changes you will make.

With design, it usually involves updates to your home that create a new look and greater value.

In this issue, we look at the before and after not only in design, but also in our current political landscape and what is new in the real estate market trends for 2017.

Jenny Turner, owner of J Turner and Co., shares her story of design on a major home project. It all began when she and her husband, Mark, purchased a home on the Intracoastal that was 75 percent completed.

They finished the construction and along the way embarked on a new venture, J Turner & Co., that would transform their home, lives and lead them to travels



Janet Westling attends inaugural festivities with her granddaughter, Emma Ferebee. around the world.

This before and after design project is amazing!

The last year has been an interesting cycle in politics, to say the least. No mat-

ter what your political leanings are, the year was not boring. Washington once again is at the center of a major before and after, with a new president, cabinet and a new direction.

On Jan. 20, the new president was sworn in and in this issue and we cover that change as well! Washington D.C.is a wonderful place to visit, and a stay at the Willard Hotel is the perfect place to begin your tour!

There is a lot of optimism on the economic front and our local market watch by Berkshire Hathaway Home services FNR broker Kevin Waugaman shares his insight on the 2017 real estate market. In addition, 10 of our top local real estate agents share their stories about some amazing properties currently on the market.

From Jacksonville to the Beaches, I think we all agree the First Coast is a wonderful place to live. Our home is our castle, and at the Beaches it is our castle in the sand.



Janet Westling Contributing Editor

From palm trees to sand dunes, golf courses to resort living, Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra Beach and the Beaches communities offer the most desirable real estate in Northeast Florida!

Janet Westling, REALTOR, GRI,CIPS Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Sand Castles creator and contributing editor Award-winning section www.janetwestling.com

MARKET WATCH

Making moves: First Coast/Beaches residential real estate report

By Kevin Waugaman

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

At the national level, the election is behind us. Whether you perceive the result as good or bad, consumer confidence is now at its highest level since 2004 and interest rates have reacted in a manner that speaks well for economic strength and a good housing market into 2017. The challenge continues to be housing supply. Demand remains strong.

Sellers – beware interest rate trap: Sometimes it is important to remember the major decisions are what we call the "life decisions." We need a bigger home for our growing family. We want to experience the lifestyle of a different neighborhood. The kids moved out and we should look at something smaller. We're grandparents now and need to be closer to our family. And of course, we also have death and divorce that prompt the life decisions. As interest rates move up, we are sometimes distracted from the life decision by that amazing rate at which we refinanced last year. Rates are still at super-low levels to make moves that make sense. You may begin to feel trapped in your home by your current low rate when rates move beyond 5 percent.

Also, check with your Realtor® on the value of your home. Only 37 percent of the U.S. population of homeowners believe they have greater than 20 percent equity in their home. The percentage that actually do? A staggering 79.1 percent!

Buyers, "maybe next year" is here: The

average 4th Quarter 2017 rate expectation from Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Mortgage Bankers Association and National Association of Realtors is 4.43 percent – still very low, and on the climb. If you are renting and considering signing another lease, consult with a trusted Realtor® first. If you keep visiting our area and know you will retire here, it may be time to buy your future home and rent it out for a few years in advance while the cost of ownership is still extremely low.

For investors, pay very close attention to your model and cap rates that make sense. Some markets are saturated and you will want some guidance from a professional to help with current valuations and rental or improvement projections.

Local update

The First Coast Beaches (Ponte Vedra, Atlantic, Neptune, Jacksonville) residential report shows a steady and consistent market year over year. The inventory issue for our area exists in the lower price points. The local absorption rate is still near equilibrium, at an average of 5.51 months for the six months ending in December 2016, compared to 5.07 for the same period ending in December 2015. The absorption rate is the amount of time it would take the current demand level to absorb the available supply. Six months equals a normal market. A number less than six months indicates a seller's market while greater than six months indicates a buyer's market. This number will fluctuate widely based on the market price segment that is

being analyzed.

October 2016 saw an unusually high absorption because of a low number of closings relative to inventory. The market was substantially impacted that month across all price points by both Hurricane Matthew aftermath and to a lesser extent pre-election concern. These averages are indicated on Figure 1 with green lines.

The six months ending in December 2016 averaged 607 active Beaches residential listings. This number is virtually even with the 604 for the same period ending in December 2015. Demand was off just a touch, averaging 110 units sold per month compared to 119 per month last year. Again, this was due to the low number of sales in October of 67 units for the Beaches. This does not appear to be a trend, and December sales were even with last year at 116 units.

When looking at average price per transaction for the six months ending in December 2016, there has been an increase compared to 2015 due to market appreciation. In that period in 2016, the average price for Beaches residential sales was \$555,354 versus \$533,433 for the same period last year, a modest 4.1 percent improvement. Average days on market was 87 compared to December 2015 at 94 days; both are indicative of market strength of sales in the lower price ranges.

Beaches home sales in the \$1 million + segment were steady compared to the second half of 2015 thanks to a strong summer. October through December were especially light with only 15 closings compared to 35 last year, again probably associated with Hurricane Matthew and the election. With consumer confidence now at 2004 levels, this market segment should gain steam again in 2017. In the middle to upper segment, or \$500,000 to \$1 million, there appears to be some strengthening. Closed sales were up 11 percent for the second half of 2016 compared to 2015. This made up for some weakness in the first half of 2016.

The greater Northeast Florida area saw pending home sales up a mere 1.5 percent year to date compared with 2015. However, the absorption rate for our entire region is still extremely heated now, down to 3.3 months – substantially below the market equilibrium target of six months. Again, this is due to low inventory; there are 20.3 percent fewer active listings compared to December of last year – 7,699, down from 9,668.

What now?

There is pent-up seller demand as equity continues to build. The average length of primary home ownership is pushing nine to 10 years and the historical norm is six years. As long as this inventory comes to market, 2017 should be another excellent year and a healthy market with good appreciation. If it doesn't, many would-be buyers could decide to rent and be subject to future mortgage rate increases and continued rental rate increases

Moves

Continued from 14

- both of which will affect wealth creation.

The decision to sell or purchase real estate deserves great attention to personal objectives. The overall market conditions noted above convey the real estate environment for our area. It is extremely important to drill down to an even more hyperlocal level when evaluating a sale or purchase of real estate. Make sure you consult your real estate professional for analysis on price trends in specific neighborhoods and on the property you are considering selling or buying. This way, you can make a great decision based on your personal circumstances.

Kevin Waugaman is managing broker of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. **Statistics from NEFAR MLS 1/1/2015-12/31/2016 for residential property type located in Ponte Vedra Beach, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, and Jacksonville Beach.

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Example: Homeowners aged 69 and 68, would like more money to live on as their income has decreased as they have aged. They live in a \$375,000 home. They can receive \$197,696 in their Reverse Mortgage -out of that they can receive \$113,396 at closing and place \$84,300 in a Line of Credit that grows at 5.50% (est), and is available to them after one year. Their home is always in their name and the money received can be used for whatever their needs are. Amounts change based on borrower's age, home value and interest rates at time of application.



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PVHS Boy's Lacrosse team's annual sale Pre-Order now for FREE Delivery! Get your home ready for Spring and help support Ponte Vedra lacrosse!

Go to **pyhsmulchmadness.com** to place your order Your mulch order will be delivered to your home on February 25th or 26th WE THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PONTE VEDRA LACROSSE!





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Southern-style cottage with coastal charm in Ponte Vedra Beach

By Janet Westling

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Step inside 38 Valencia Street and experience a recently updated coastal home close to the beach, restaurants, shopping and schools!

This 3-bedroom, 2-bath home located in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach features more than 1,900 square feet and is the perfect family home within walking distance to the beach, in one of the most sought after communities east of A1A. The spacious, light-filled living room with a wood burning fireplace and a wall of windows was chosen as the recent location for a commercial in a national advertising campaign.

Recently remodeled in 2016, this southern-style home features stunning custom upgrades, from an

architectural wood ceiling in the vaulted breakfast room, to the custom moldings and wainscoting in the foyer and dining room, hardwood and ceramic tile flooring throughout, stainless steel appliances, stovetop cooktop, double ovens, gorgeous newly installed marble kitchen countertops and completely updated bathrooms.

Additional features include a new HVAC system (2016), and a fenced back yard with relaxed outdoor living space with room for a pool!

This single-story, lovingly maintained home has a large master suite overlooking the back yard. This is the perfect family home in a pedestrian-friendly neighborhood with a sidewalk all the way to the ocean!

The community of Ponte Vedra Beach is a short commute to downtown Jacksonville and is home to

the TPC, ATP Tour and excellent public and private schools. This beautiful oceanfront enclave has five private oceanfront clubs, seven golf courses, beach access and a community park. Davis Park is home to the Ponte Vedra Athletic Association, and community members can enjoy all the park's many features, including six soccer/lacrosse fields, three football fields, four softball fields, and six baseball fields. The park also includes four stocked fishing ponds for children under the age of 12 and two fenced-in dog parks!

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach offers art classes as well as exhibitions, and offers residents the perfect place to experience the arts!

Come home to 38 Valencia Street and welcome to the beach life! This home is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, listed by Janet Westling and offered for \$599,000.



At home with the Turners

By Janet Westling

Contributing Editor

Jenny Turner, co-owner of J Turner and Co. along with her husband Mark, shares her story of design on a major home project. It all began when she and Mark purchased a home on the Intracoastal Waterway that was 75 percent completed.

They finished the construction and along the way embarked on a new venture, J Turner & Co. that would transform their home, lives and lead them to travels around the world. Here, Jenny gives us the details on this amazing before and after design project.

Why did you and Mark decide to purchase your home that was not completed?

Mark and I are ambitious! We continually look for new opportunities and projects. We heard about this particular home even before it hit the market, and saw a vision immediately.

So, you looked upon this house as a blank canvas to create the designs that you love?

Yes! We definitely saw that we could design this house to fit our family and lifestyle brilliantly. The truth of the matter is that this is not the first house we have renovated. We have remodeled and redeco-

> rated homes in Atlantic Beach, on the ocean, along the Intracoastal and in town.

Pulling this new house together, what was your greatest challenge?

By far, our greatest challenge, and the greatest challenge for many of our family and friends, was finding stores in Jacksonville that offered cutting-edge interior design that fit our needs and style. We wanted furniture and unique design elements that were sourced from countries around the world. This new trend in design blends tradition with the future of interior design from visionary designers and manufacturers. We knew we were on to something when we went on a buying trip to the design center in North Carolina. On our way home, we made the decision to create a gallery of beautiful and exclusive furniture, lighting and rugs. That is how J Turner & Co. began!

So tell me about the home you created that started this all?

The style I envisioned and created for our home combined West Indies elegance with comfort and practicality. I adorned the house with inspiration and hand-picked eclectic pieces. We traveled to Belgium and discovered antique mirrors and to China to purchase handmade consoles.

Did you go directly to the manufacturers?

It depended, honestly. For some pieces, yes, we did; but many are one of a kind. J Turner & Co. has broadened our adventures in travel to places we never dreamed of. We now work closely with manufacturers from around the world to ensure the perfect style and highest quality in all of the products we carry. Recently, we embarked on a new

TURNERS continues on Page 18



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> > Contact us at 904-280-6055 or visit website: ubs.com/fa/heatherhayes for more information and to RSVP.



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UBS Financia

GORGEOUS EUROPEAN INSPIRED HOME 4bd 3.5ba, entry & internal courtyard, great rm & formal dining rm. Gourmet kitchen with island & gas range. Mediterranean features throughout from the Italian ceramic tile with travertine details to the travertine gas fireplace & wood beams. Home offers one floor living, three-way split floorplan & light, neutral colors. Concrete tile roof with transferable lifetime warranty & close proximity to the beaches & Jacksonville. Enjoy the peaceful backyard, which backs up to a





venture and manufacture teak furniture in Indonesia

So, your home is reflective of the store you created?

In essence, yes! Believe it or not, this spring we will be placing our house on the market. As much as we love this cozy and stylish home, we have other aspirations for our next home.

That is wonderful! Tell us some of the details of this house.

This two-story home is nestled on an acre of land with direct access to the



Hello, neighbor!

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Jonathan A Gibbs, Agent 466 Town Plaza Avenue Suite 330 Ponte Vedra, FL 32081 Bus: 904-834-7312 jonathan.gibbs.e1fm@statefarm.com

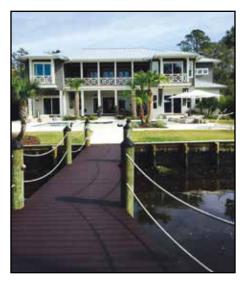


Intracoastal Waterway. With over 5,100 square feet, we had a lot of space to decorate.

This house has four spacious bedrooms, one of which is an in-law suite. Our goal was to complement the personalities of our children while maintaining clean, simple comfort.

Our kitchen truly is the heart of this home, and offers Shaker-style cabinets and crisp, white and black granite. My favorite spot in the house is on my Bertha sofa in front of the fireplace in the great room.

The entire house is ornamented with character and details that make it beautiful and enjoyable to live in. When we list this home, we will include the opportunity to purchase it completely furnished.

















Waters Edge home offers views of lagoon, golf course

By Debi Kopp RE/MAX Unlimited

Located in Sawgrass Players Club, this quaint home presents panoramic views of the lagoon overlooking the famed Dye's Valley Course at TPC Sawgrass. It is the sister track to the world-famous Stadium Course, and ranked No. 14 in Golfweek's 2015 rankings of "Best Courses You Can Play" in Florida. It was designed by Pete Dye, Bobby Weed and player consultant Jerry Pate.

The home features built-in speakers that fill both the family room and screened-in lanai, making it a great place for entertaining guests. The open floor plan features split bedrooms, while the master suite boasts scenic lagoon views, a walk-in closet and garden tub with vaulted ceilings. Both the living room and family room accentuate this prime lot with French doors and a wall of windows that are not short on views or natural light. The back yard has plenty of room for those looking to build their dream outdoor entertaining space and pool!

Don't feel like cooking? The new 3 Palms Grille at The Oak Bridge Club is only a short golf cart or bike ride away, as is Nineteen, located in the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse. Both are ideal for brunch, cocktails on the green, a 19th hole lunch or sunset dinner. Just outside of the south gate, Sawgrass Village offers several shops and restaurants.

Don't miss this opportunity to own one of the best lots Waters Edge has to offer in a golfer's paradise! Contact The Kopp Group today for more details or to schedule your own private showing.

This property is represented by RE/ MAX Unlimited, listed by The Kopp Group (Debi, Drew and Keely Kopp) and offered at \$515,000.



Excited about the prospect of a new "Central Park" in Ponte Vedra? If you haven't already heard, the portion of the Oak Bridge Golf Course just North of the Sawgrass Village Shopping Center is set to be sold in order to raise the funds needed to transform & revitalize the remaining 12 holes of the course, and in effect, saving the golf club and protecting the property values of the community. The success of this golf course affects us all, regardless of where you live in Ponte Vedra. We believe that selling this property to create more residential development is NOT the answer. We are proposing a "central park" that will be funded & supported by tax-deductible donations from local individuals and businesses. So allow us to present our vision, the Sawgrass Village Community Park & Gardens! Our non-profit organization, in partnership with like-minded, reputable organizations in town, are well on our way to making this vision a reality... and we need the community's help! We are in need of volunteers to help us organize the fund-raising effort in order to purchase this last significant piece of open-green space remaining in Ponte Vedra for our residents to enjoy! Please visit our website for more information on how to pledge a donation, or to sign-up to volunteer to help us with our cause & protect the charm of our wonderful coastal town. We need to come together as a community to preserve this land for our families, and for the generations of families to come! Visit www.SawgrassVillagePark.com

Attention Ponte Vedra Residents! The Community Needs Your Help!

Our Lifestyle Is Being Challenged by

New Development Proposals in the HEART of Ponte Vedra!

It's YOUR Choice ...

Would You Rather Have This Happen?

Or Would You Prefer This Instead?

This Will Be Up to You as the Community to Change the Course of this Proposal. Time is of the Essence, and we Need Your Help NOW!

TOWN HALL MEETING Wednesday, February 1st, 2017 6PM - Ponte Vedra Library









Tuscan coastal community of Palermo offers best of Florida living

By Allison Ferebee

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Welcome home to an elegantly designed, European-inspired home in the exclusive community of Palermo. As you step inside 3559 Valverde Circle, you experience the marriage of two worlds!

Michael Rutherford is from Jacksonville and Francesca Romana Dal Savio is from Rome. Drawing inspiration from their lives in Rome, the owners have designed a fabulous grand foyer filled with beautiful Italian paintings and two large porcelain pieces made in Deruta, Italy, in the Umbrian region not far from Rome. They instantly fell in love with Palermo, a singlefamily gated community designed and developed by the prestigious Pineapple Corporation. It reminded them of the beautiful designs and architecture they admired in Europe.

The attention to detail is what defines the stunning homes that distinguish the Pineapple Corporation from every other builder. From the tile roofs to the extensive use of moldings and wood beams, the unique and rare neighborhood of Palermo offers its residents the best of Florida living.

This Tuscan Coastal home located in the heart of Jacksonville is just minutes to the Town Center, our beautiful beaches, UNF and the Mayo Clinic. Palermo borders the Jacksonville Golf and Country Club and offers residents the best of both lifestyles.

Enter this 4 bedroom, 3 ½ bath home through a gated private courtyard. The foyer is spacious, elegant and inviting. The interiors of this stunning home are warm, welcoming and incorporate the textures and colors found in nature. The natural tile found throughout the main living areas is a light stoned porcelain tile that blends old world charm with modern amenities.

The living room or drawing room features floor-to-ceiling bookcases and is home to a baby grand piano. The large dining room adjacent to the family room and kitchen offer a great area for entertaining on a large scale. A beautiful courtyard for outdoor entertaining and al fresco dining adjoins the dining room.

The master suite overlooks the beautiful back yard, and the master bath with custom cabinetry, granite counters, spa tub and beautiful porcelain stone throughout offers the perfect retreat! The chef's kitchen, with spacious granite counters and island, features a gas range and is open to the family room, with built-in bookcases, a travertine gas fireplace and wood beams.

This gorgeous home offers one-floor living with a three-way split floor plan and light, neutral colors. The roof includes a transferrable lifetime warranty.

Enjoy the peaceful back yard, from your lanai, which backs up to a preserve for maximum privacy and space for a pool. Neighborhood amenities include a swimming pool, covered lanai, exercise room and community pavilion, with close proximity to the beaches and Jacksonville. Come home to Palermo, a Tuscan coastal community and experience the Florida lifestyle! This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, is listed by Janet Westling and Allison Ferebee and offered at \$685,000.



French-inspired home offers deep-water dockage, Intracoastal access

Ponte Wedra Elub IR ealty

By Michelle Floyd

Marsh Landing Country Club Realty

When deciding on that special place called "home," location is such an important factor. With a guard-gated community featuring 18 holes of golf and a clubhouse, tennis, pool and fitness center – plus deep-water access to all your favorite water activities - this location has it all! And with concrete block construction, high elevation, and concrete tile roof, this home was built to stay.

The entrance to this 8,900 squarefoot home is through inviting wrought-iron gates that lead into a spacious courtyard. Just off the courtyard is the 2-bedroom 2-bath guest home, the main entrance into the home, and the entrance to a tranquil garden area. Double custom wood and glass-front doors lead into the two-story great room with literally a wall of glass out to the pool, fire pit, gardens, and deepwater concrete floating dock. The elegant yet relaxed room incorporates the wood flooring, wood beamed ceiling, two-story custom stone fireplace, and custom rich wood cabinetry making it a "slice of heaven."

The open-air kitchen redefines "open and airy," with views of the family room and water beyond. A banquette table with cozy seating is off the kitchen with a three-cornered glass surround window for viewing

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FRENCH continues on Page 22

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PV2-LV34707

French

Continued from 21

the dock and that special vessel beyond. A spacious master suite continues to feel cozy due to the wood-detailed built-ins and stone fireplace.

Located off the kitchen is an oversized summer kitchen with bar seating that overlooks the pool, a fire pit with builtin seating and floating dock with water and electric. The Intracoastal Waterway is seconds away from the dock with easy accessibility.

This home is a true jewel of luxury amid a private gated golf community with deep water dock. Invest in a lifestyle with exquisite refinements and quality!

With 6 bedrooms, 6 ½ baths, game room, pool, hot tub, summer kitchen, dock , and guest home, this 6,014 squarefoot home is represented by Marsh Landing Country Club Realty, listed by Cici Anderson and Michelle Floyd and offered at \$2,599,000.







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Oceanfront condo boasts luxury amenities

By Gwinn Volen Ponte Vedra Club Realty

If you live in Ponte Vedra Beach, you probably know you are in a bit of an insular bubble. But literally, just a mile up the street there are some incredible pieces of real estate. Case in point: unit 1107 in the luxury Costa Verano building in South Jacksonville Beach.

Costa Verano is a 14-story, 100-unit luxury oceanfront property. Built in 2007, it has the finest amenities of any oceanfront condominium. For the exercise-conscious, there is an Olympic size pool, sauna, indoor/outdoor hot tub, steam room and a large gym overlooking the ocean that is equipped with high-end equipment, several TVs and free weights.

The building also has a billiards room, large theater available for reservation, an enormous entertainment room perched above the beach, and two lovely guest suites that can be used for visitors at an incredibly reasonable price. Costa Verano also has 24/7 monitoring with a concierge.

Out of 100 units, what makes unit 1107 special? Seriously, it's perfect from top to bottom in this agent's eyes. It has just the right amount of style without being overdone or pretentious, and the gorgeous backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean is to die for. This penthouse floor plan was renovated in 2012 under the guidance of interior designer Amanda Webster, who was able to take an already beautiful unit and turn it into something spectacular.

The interior exudes coastal elegance. Details such as shiplap on the ceilings and some of the walls enrich the overall feel of the residence. High-end lighting, custom built-ins and custom drapes finish the home. There are two open living spaces, a bar with wine chiller and ice maker, and a well-appointed kitchen with a Sub-Zero refrigerator.

There is a large balcony on the entire backside of this end unit, which sits on the southeast side of the building. With more than 4,000 square feet, this 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath plus office home is a dream as a full-time residence or a spacious getaway space.

Walk to Sun Deli for breakfast in the morning, and to restaurant 11 South in the evening for drinks and dinner.

This luxury residence is represented by Ponte Vedra Club Realty, listed by Gwinn Volen and offered at \$1,950,000. Furniture is available as part of a separate agreement.



Marsh Landing home offers 360 degree views

By Barbara Maple

Watson Realty Corp.

Sweeping panoramic vistas of Florida marsh and wildlife surround this custom home in Marsh Landing Country Club. The owner, Lin Knapp, and Collier Custom Homes collaborated to create the ideal living space for functionality, comfort, entertaining and lush outdoor havens.

The grand two-story foyer sets the stage for entering the sunlit-bathed, 20-foot tall living room with floor to ceiling windows overlooking the marsh. Lin noted, "We deliberately offset the pool with the pool screen away from the main rooms so it did not block the views." The result is stunning. The thoughtful planning of this home shows throughout, from the view vantage points to the small details such as adding a steam shower. The foyer is flanked by a spacious formal dining room and open library, both with picture windows capturing the marsh. Anywhere you are in this house brings a sense of peace and serenity from the outside in. The gourmet kitchen is just brimming with chef's appeal and warm livability. And the adjacent breakfast room brings in more natural light, views and serenity – just perfect for sipping your morning coffee and watching the sunrise! The downstairs is rounded out with a luxurious master suite, guest suite, powder and laundry rooms, and a 3-car garage. The master suite features a 12' by 12' sitting area enclave, a separate fitness room, a sumptuous en suite bath and two walk-in-closets – all with nature views, of course.

Upstairs greets you with the family room and large outdoor terrace, a second master and another guest bedroom and bath. And what else? More marsh views! Overall, these spaces encompass 5,023 heated and cooled square feet. Lin has lovingly and meticulously maintained her home in show home condition, as evidenced by the gleaming wood floors and extra measures such as UV-protected windows and LED lighting. The special touches are innumerable.

Outside the house, the screen enclosure also has much to boast including specially designed pool, waterfalls, hot tub, built-in grill and lush tropical landscape. There are covered and uncovered patios, and what else? The peaceful and serene marsh views!

It is a rare treat for this home to come on the market, as Lin moves on to the next stage in her life with new friends in a new community. This home is represented by Watson Realty Corp, listed with Barbara Maple, and offered at \$1,295,000.

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BERKSHIRE Florida Network Realty HATHAWAY HomeServices PV2-LV34604

117 Newport Lanco Breathtaking Mediterranean home on bulkheaded lakefront in Harbour Island. Bullet-proof masonry

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construction including huge outdoor entertainment area with pool, spa and gas grill, all fully screened for year-round enjoyment. 6 bedrooms, 9 full and 2 half baths, study, game room, 3 staircases and elevator. Jerusalem stone flooring on both levels. Gorgeous, custom Bennett Cabinets throughout. 60 ft. dock in the yacht basin. \$2,900,000



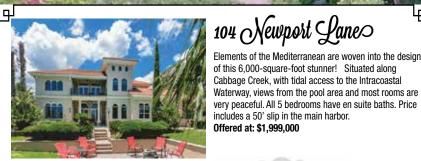
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Contact: Janie Coffey (904) 525-1008 Janie.coffey@sothebysrealty.com

149 Bristol Place

A masterful blend of contemporary & organic. Traditional & modern. An unexpected combination of materials & design elements. These are just some of the artful & unique things you will think as you enter this coastal inspired home with European touches. Gracious & airy interior living areas allow light in while providing many living spaces from the water view gym to the wine cellar to the private massage room in the master. One of a kind materials can be found throughout including large rare onyx slabs, fossil embedded stone to white oak floors. Outdoor living can be enjoyed in full splendor with a fire pit, summer kitchen, covered lanai and 60' lap pool. floating dock and in pool lounging. Offered at: \$3,750,000

Manormor

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SAND CASTLES 25





Marsh Landing's natural beauty shines here

By Clare Berry

Berry & Company Real Estate

One of the fun things about real estate is the surprise factor. Often the front facade doesn't clue you in to the full story of living there. The property at 412 Turtle Run Court in Marsh Landing is just such a property.

As soon as you walk into the foyer, the magnificent back yard is revealed to you, in all its natural and pristine glory. Not only is there a dock that is perfect for fishing, but the tidal estuary there leads to Cabbage Creek, a tributary of the Intracoastal Waterway, so you can explore in your kayak, canoe or Jon boat. The large fenced back yard is part of the half-acre site, which is surrounded by marshlands teeming with many varieties of birdlife! This property is made for those who treasure their privacy and the natural Old Florida terrain. Being on a cul-de-sac limits the traffic.

The surprises inside include a "wow" kitchen with all the latest style components, and wood floors that have that durable tile-like surface so in vogue. The kitchen's custom-made cabinetry is a pleasure to use; easy gliding drawers and smooth-to-the-touch finish as well as soothing colors make this a stylish and practical space. The cabinetry continues in the family room, offering storage for games and books as well as audio-video component equipment. The equipment is top-notch, and includes Wolf, Sub-Zero and LG.

The floor plan makes so much sense for the way we live today. There are formal areas separate from the family area (kitchen/family room/breakfast room/ screened porch). The owner's suite and study are downstairs. Upstairs, there's a huge guest room with private bath and balcony overlooking the marsh and waterway. There are two bedrooms with a connecting bath and a recent addition, a bonus room, also with a full bathroom, which could be another bedroom suite. Plentiful windows throughout the house bring in the sunlight and the views of the surrounding nature. Close by is Fletcher Park, one of two community parks, with playing fields, playground, a small track and a party pavilion. This is the site of such popular resident events as Food Truck Fridays, Movie Nights, the annual Marsh Landing Concours d'Elegance and Marsh Landing Dog Show, and Jazz in the Park. The Solana Road gate access is near Turtle Run, providing easy access to stores, restaurants, the beach (pedestrian public access at the end of Solana Road) and schools.

412 Turtle Run Court is move-in ready, and is offered for \$875,000. Listing Broker is Clare Berry, Berry & Co. Real Estate, located at The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra.



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices

Florida Network Realty



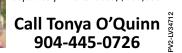
OCEAN VIEWS AT ACQUILUS II This 2 bedroom 2 Bath condo is located on the ground floor with expansive views over the dunes and beach to ocean. Ocean terraces offers a gas connection for a grill. Amenities include 2 pools, 2 hot tubs, fitness center, his & hers sauna, showers, and



social room for entertaining. \$739,000 Call Elizabeth Hudgins 🗟 904-553-2032



BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME In the exclusive gated community of Belvedere Place. This beautiful custom home can be built by Arthur Rutenberg Homes on one of the last available lots in this neighborhood. MLS#848158 / \$813,803 or Lot Separately MLS#840069/\$230,000





GORGEOUS ST. JOHNS GOLF & CC HOME ON QUIET CUL-DE-SAC Stunning 5 bedroom, 4 bathroom home with multiple upgrades including plantation shutters, granite countertops, upgraded SS appliances, Energy Star spray foam insulation in roof decking, custom front door and built-in book-

shelves. Offered at \$475,000 Call Sarah Hewett 904-334-3104



COASTAL CHARMER! Brand new construction in Ponte Vedra Beach. You will fall in love once you enter this 4BR/3. 5BA, 3,244sf home, large designer kitchen with oversized island, custom cabinets stunning hardwood floors. Located on a private cul de sac. \$724,000





HISTORIC ORTEGA Stunning Riverfront 4BR/4.5BA, 3858sf home in Historic Ortega custom designed and built in 2010 with a uniquely gorgeous blend of fine finishes and detail coupled with a strong focus on energy efficiency and sustainability.



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330-232-5343

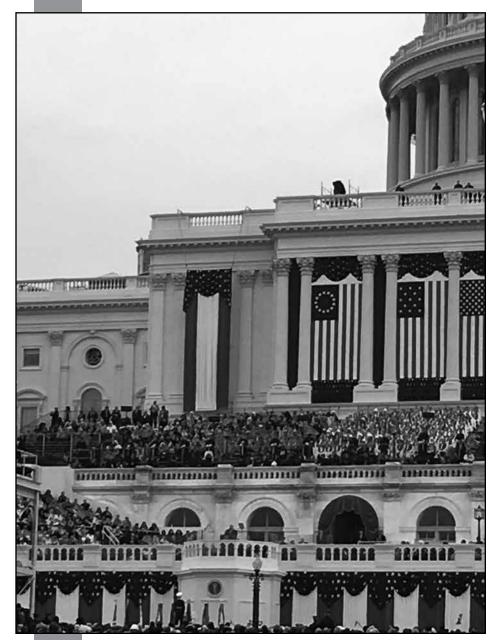


Stunning curb appeal on this beautiful Ponte Vedra Beach 4BR/4.5BA, 4.228sf pool home with gorgeous water views. Home features an office and a bonus room. This a must see on this quiet street in desirable gated Plantation Oaks. \$885,000



Call Tina Webster 904-982-7330

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U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio welcomes Janet Westling during the 2017 inaugural festivities in Washington, D.C. From left: Westling, her grandson, Scott Ferebee; Rubio; granddaughter Emma Ferebee; and daughter Allison Ferebee.

Inauguration Day in front of the Capitol

The Inauguration of Donald J. Trump

By Janet Westling

Contributing Editor

Thirty years ago, businessman and entrepreneur Donald Trump wrote, "The Art of the Deal." Thirty years later, on Jan. 20, 2017, he closed the biggest deal of his life as he was sworn in as the 45th president of the United States.

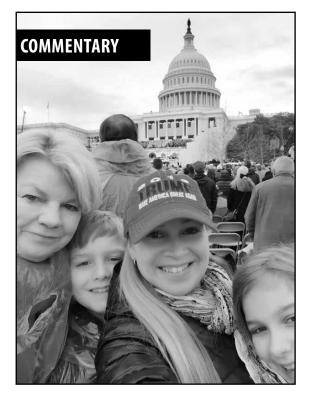
The ceremony began at 11:30 a.m. as former presidents, dignitaries and family members gathered at the Capitol. And at noon, the man who many said would never be president stood and took the oath of office while we all watched.

I attended the inauguration with my daughter Allison and grandchildren Emma, aged 11, and Scott, aged 9. Like so many Floridians who made the journey to Washington D.C. to attend the inauguration, we came prepared with our warm clothes and rain ponchos!

"We are very grateful," said Ponte Vedra resident Kay Carn, "to have the opportunity to experience and witness this triumphant moment in history."

As it turned out, the temperature was mild for Washington, D.C. and the rain stayed away until the ceremony was over.

"My mother and I had an excellent afternoon, attending the inauguration of our 45th president, Donald Trump," said Allison Ferebee. "My children had an experience that will last a lifetime! I was so happy



to witness this historic event, and look forward to new beginnings."

Amid all the pomp and circumstance, just as he has done so many times before, President Trump

delivered a speech that was direct, concise and clear. The speech was just 18 minutes long. The message was familiar, one that we all heard throughout his campaign for president. And the promise to "make America great again" was more than a promise, as he spelled out his message with strong words that reverberated throughout the audience and the world.

According to Billie Tucker, "I remember standing on this same spot in front of the Capitol with 1.5 million Tea Party patriots on Sept. 12, 2009, petitioning our government. Trump validated that petition and gave control back to the people!"

"Jan. 20, 2017," said President Trump, "will be remembered as the day the people became the rulers of this nation again."

Jacksonville resident Sheila Collier, who was in Washington with her husband and friends, said, "President Trump's speech was strong and highlighted the challenges before us as a nation. To me, one of the greatest points President Trump made is that even though we have differences, "there is nothing we as Americans can't do if we are united."

It is clear our president plans on delivering on what he promised. In his speech, Trump said, "We must think big and dream even bigger. The time for empty talk is over. Now arrives the hour of action. Do not let anyone tell you it cannot be done."

Well said, Mr. President!

The Willard: An iconic base for exploring Washington, DC

By Janet Westling

Contributing Editor

Centrally located just a block from the White House, the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel is the perfect place to stay while you explore Washington, D.C.

As you enter the lobby, you are immediately surrounded by history. In fact, President Ulysses S. Grant would often escape the pressures of his office with a brandy and a cigar in the Willard Hotel Lobby.

As word spread of Grant's fondness for the Willard, many would-be power brokers approached him with their individual causes. Grant dubbed them "lobbyists" – a term with which we are all now very familiar!

I learned from the hotel staff that the Willard, established on its present site in 1850 by Henry Willard, hosted every president, either as a sleeping guest or a guest at a special function, from Franklin Pierce in 1853 to Bill Clinton in the 1990s.

President-elect Abraham Lincoln and his family stayed at the Willard from Feb. 23, 1861 until his inauguration on March 4, 1861. The stay was initiated by detective Alan Pinkerton because of assassination threats. President-elect Lincoln was smuggled into the Willard where he lived until the inauguration, holding meetings in the lobby and carrying on business from his room. When President Lincoln received his first paycheck as president, he used part of it to pay his bill at the Willard – a total of \$773.75 including meals.

Today, this historic Beaux Arts hotel features numerous luxurious guest rooms, several restaurants, the famed Round Robin bar, the Peacock Alley series of luxury shops and luxe spa!

Take the back entry of the Willard, where you can exit and walk one block to the famous Old Ebbitt Grill. Established in 1856, the Old Ebbitt Grill is touted as being the oldest saloon in Washington, D.C. It is frequented by locals and tourist alike. And it is noted that when Presidents Grant, Cleveland, Harding and Teddy Roosevelt were in need of libations, they went to the Old Ebbitt saloon.

Capital city

Every year, thousands of people visit Washington, D.C. to see the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, Smithsonian Institution and the White House. If you visit during April, you will be fortunate to see the beautiful cherry blossoms that line the Tidal Basin along the Potomac waterfront.

The idea for the planting of the cherry trees is credited to travel writer Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore after a trip to Japan in 1885. She thought it would be a wonderful addition and lobbied for 27 years to make it happen. In 1912, Japan made a gift of 3,020 Yoschino cherry trees to First Lady Helen Taft in a gesture of friendship between the United States and Japan. In 1965, Japan gave First Lady Lady Bird Johnson 3,800 more trees.

The National Cherry Blossom festival takes place every spring and for two weeks, numerous festivities take place that celebrate spring and Japan's gift of the cherry trees. It is



a great time to visit!

The Smithsonian National Zoo, established in 1889, is another great destination for families. With more than 163 acres, the zoo and park was planned by the secretary of the Smithsonian Samuel Langley, conservationist William Temple Hornaday and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. The zoo is home to some wonderful exhibits and famous residents! Since 1972, the zoo has been the home for panda pairs in the Fujifilm Giant Panda habitat.

Another wonderful home to visit is the White House, which was the first public building to be constructed in the new city. Scheduling a visit is done through your congressional representative and the tour is free of charge.

The White House was designed by Irish-born architect James Hoban, who worked closely with our first President George Washington, who never lived to see it completed. John Adams was the first president to live in what some have called the "President's Palace," the "President's House" and the "Executive Mansion." In 1901, President Teddy Roosevelt officially gave the "White House" its current name.

The first state dinners at the White House were introduced in 1874, when President and Mrs. Ulysses S Grant hosted one for David Kalakaua, king of the Hawaiian Islands. The state dinner was much smaller then and took place in an east-west oriented state dining room. White House state dinners are a diplomatic tool used to honor a visiting head of state or reigning monarch and are considered one of the most grandest and glamorous of White House affairs!

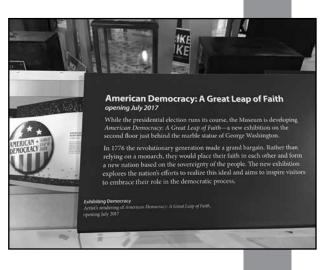
Because of the size, many state dinners are actually held under a tent on the south lawn of the White House. The east room, at 80 feet by 37 feet, is the largest room that can hold a state dinner.

In 2011, Donald Trump offered to build a magnificent ballroom that was befitting of our country for visiting heads of state. And while on the campaign trail in February 2016, candidate Donald Trump offered again to build a magnificent dedicated ballroom to entertain foreign guests!

"If there is one thing I know how to build," Trump wrote in his 2011 book "Time to Get Tough," "it is a grand ballroom."

Stay tuned in the coming year for a possible new tourist site to see while exploring Washington, D.C.: a grand ballroom, Trump style!





Luxury oceanfront contemporary offers a coastal perspective

By Jim Zeller and Linda Ostoski Watson Realty Corp.

Located on famous Ponte Vedra Boulevard, this intriguing custom oceanfront property demonstrates the perfect balance of luxury and today's casual lifestyles. As you grant access to your guests through the gated entry, you appreciate the large circular drive and porte cochere parking at the home's entry.

As you enter the foyer, you feel an immediate connection with the everchanging Atlantic Ocean. All public rooms have a stunning ocean view, with outdoor access to a large veranda and patios below. The living room/ music room with massive fireplace delivers a spacious casual elegance, perfect for entertaining or relaxing with friends and family. This area flows seamlessly into an additional large casual seating area surrounded by large glass walls with spectacular ocean views. There is plenty of room for large gatherings here, yet the space is intimate and comfortable for smaller family events. The incredible open dining area that can easily accommodate 12 guests is perfect to enjoy great food and the relaxing sound of the breakers as they push their way to the beach.

LUXURY continues on Page 31



Luxury Continued from 30

The true coastal epicurean kitchen makes food preparation enjoyable and encourages great conversation with the large marble breakfast bar. It boasts a large Sub-Zero refrigerator, two additional refrigerated drawers, two freezer drawers, a Wolf gas six-burner cooktop, double ovens, two dishwashers and microwave. Extensive marble counter tops mixed with beautiful solid walnut and custom tile backsplash create a chef's dream kitchen.

An additional large library/family room with the third cozy fireplace and ocean view is the perfect place to get some work done and still be part of family activities.

There are an additional four bedrooms: Two are oceanfront and the others have a tropical garden view. The three additional baths feature stunning Italian tile work, as does the separate powder room off the foyer. The remarkable owner's retreat is located on the south side of the property and enjoys great light and a private oceanfront veranda. The large space with soaring ceilings and glass sliding doors opens directly to the ocean. This room has a separate and unique loft area with private access and intimate fireplace, and is the perfect place to get away and relax. The en-suite master bath with solid walnut counters, large jetted shower and spa tub has everything you need to start the day in grand style.

The lower level features a large recreation/TV room, that opens directly out to the swimming pool and ocean and is perfect for casual beach entertaining. The substantial professional bar features icemaker, dishwasher and large wine cooler. A spacious spa-like bathroom is perfect for freshening up after a day at the beach. Also on this level is a home gym.

This one of a kind residence is represented by Watson Realty Corp., listed by Jim Zeller and Linda Ostoski and offered at \$6,200,000.









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Classic design, Creole influences highlight Harbour Island home

By Lisa Barton

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Welcome home to 24716 Harbour View Drive, a lovely, custom-built pool home in the estate section of Marsh Landing's Harbour Island. This magnificent home was designed by the renowned, award-winning architect Ken Tate and reflects a timeless blend of classic design and Creole influence. Situated under lovely oak trees, this lot is well over an acre and has beautiful water views from almost every room of the house.

From the moment you enter, you'll notice extraordinary attention to detail. The beautiful accents on the porch and driveway are reclaimed bricks, which give an antique air to the spacious front porch and poolside covered areas. The arched front door is solid mahogany with custom hardware and opens to a gracious but casual living and dining room. This room has soaring ceilings, which are criss-crossed by cedar beams, and

contains one of the three gas fire-

places. A fantastic bar area with custom cabinetry, a large wine refrigerator, sink, ice maker and television are perfect for your next party. The gourmet kitchen boasts custom-built cedar cabinets and a full accoutrement of chef's quality appliances. The kitchen opens to a large family room area with a second fireplace; it's a wonderful space for casual entertaining or family gatherings.

The luxurious master bedroom has two enormous closets, another gas fireplace and its own laundry area. The spectacular master bathroom features two separate vanities with custom cabinetry, a large jetted tub and a walk-in shower. An additional bedroom downstairs has its own bathroom and a private entrance, making it perfect for guests. Lots of light and lots of privacy can be found throughout the house.

Upstairs, you'll find three, beautiful en-suite bedrooms and another family room with a small kitchenette and additional storage. The apartment above the garage has its own bath and a private entrance, making it a great office or guest apartment.

Moving outdoors reveals spaces that are no less extraordinary: An infinity pool that blends seamlessly with the large lagoon behind the house, a well-equipped summer kitchen and a cozy fire pit make outdoor entertaining easy at any time of the year.

This lovely home includes a 40-foot boat slip in the Harbour Island marina, which is located directly on the Intracoastal Waterway. Harbour Island is a premier residential neighborhood in Ponte Vedra Beach.

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Lisa Barton and offered for \$2,850,000.



A jewel in Sawgrass Country Club

By Jacquelyn Bates Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty

What you've been waiting for: a jewel in Sawgrass Country Club!

Custom designed and built, this handsome home on sought-after Sea Island Drive offers superior concert block construction, a spacious open floor plan and a peaceful lake view.

The lot was elevated three feet prior to construction. The home's interior is

enhanced by windows galore, spilling sunshine throughout. A sparkling heated screened pool and covered terrace with summer kitchen invite outdoor relaxing and entertaining. And there's an outdoor/ indoor sound system to add music to the mix.

Even lesser gourmet skills will be increased in this chef's kitchen with a Viking six-burner gas cook top with griddle, double ovens, two warming drawers, wine chiller, pot rack over large center island, granite and Corian countertops, and KitchenAid stainless appliances.

Other notables include a large family room with gas fireplace and informal eating area, a second double-sided gas fireplace which warms both living and dining rooms, an upstairs bonus room with a sink and refrigerator, distinctive library/ office, with bookshelves, a spacious master suite with its own attached reading room, three-car garage, wood and tile floors, decorative mantles and moldings, tinted windows, central vacuum, built-in safe, automatic irrigation system and two heat pumps with eight zones.

Quality speaks!

A Sawgrass Country Club membership offering access to all the amenities of Sawgrass is available for separate purchase at closing. Located on the Atlantic Ocean, the gated community

JEWEL continues on Page 34





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Stunning brick beauty on one acre

By Kelley Cressman RE/MAX Specialists

Set your sights on this stunning traditional home in Marsh Landing Country Club! Situated on a premium, very private cul-de-sac location within the community, this 5,000-plus squarefoot, all-brick home backs to the water, affording a desirable southeastern exposure with views of the golf course. "Move in ready" does not begin to describe the exquisite updates and designer finishes of this distinctive pool home, which has been updated throughout.

The kitchen boasts custom cabinets in a beautiful cream finish, with softclose doors and drawers. Additional hidden storage is available inside the corner appliance cabinets and pull out trash. The built-in appliances include two Sub-Zero refrigerators with freezer drawers below, pull-out dishwasher drawer, and a pull-out food warming drawer

Cook on the professional six-burner gas stove with pot filler and overhead custom hood vent. Additionally, the kitchen has exquisite green marble countertops on the cream cabinets, contrasting with the warm wood-finished center island, under-cabinet lighting, above-cabinet ambience lighting, and built-in pantry with pull-out drawers. Enjoy the incredible outdoor spaces

through the large kitchen window above the sink. Adjacent to the gourmet kitchen is a beautiful built in bar with onyx countertops and copper bar sink.

The outdoor saltwater pool and waterfall spa are amazing, with soft gray pavers, wood ceilings on the covered patio, and a custom-built summer kitchen with granite countertops. The screened pool and spacious heated spa are surrounded by lush tropical planters that have watering hoses that are connected to the irrigation system. No more watering plants with a can! And just beyond the pool is an adorable custom-built children's play house.

Step back inside the home and enjoy wood flooring in both the upstairs and

downstairs, smooth ceilings, custom dentil moldings throughout, and four fireplaces. The master suite boasts separate his and her bathrooms with beautiful Carrara marble, water closet with bidet, and large walk-in shower with dual shower heads. Updates include a 2016 roof; three AC units replaced in 2013; custom painting throughout; refinished wood floors; and a redone pool, new spa, outdoor kitchen and four out of five bathrooms remodeled all in 2009.

Located at 6260 Highlands Court, this home is represented by RE/MAX Specialists, listed by Kelley Cressman and Katie Hughes and offered for \$1,500,000.



Mission House to mark 20th anniversary with community open house

By Jasmine Marshall

Mission House will mark its 20th year of operation next month by doing what the nonprofit organization does best: opening its doors.

In keeping with its longstanding tradition of opening its doors to those in need, Mission House will welcome community members to its newly renovated facility to thank them for their contributions and ongoing support.

Scheduled for Feb. 25, the celebration will recognize city officials and community leaders – among them Jacksonville Beach Mayor Charlie Latham and Chief of Police Patrick K. Dooley – for their support and dedication over the years. Champagne, cake and light hors d'oeuvres will be served, and guests are also invited to tour the facility's new features.

It's an event Executive Director Lori Delgado-Anderson hopes will give first-time visitors insight into Mission House's unique functions and the changes the facility has welcomed over the years.

"What sets Mission House apart is that we're supported so strongly by volunteers," Anderson said. "More than 500 people do a lot of day-to-day work, including one-on-one time with clients and patients. For such a small organization, we're able to do so much under one roof. And we can show people in need of our services that they deserve a clean, bright, positive place to be served."

In 2016 alone, the organization helped nearly 80 men and women find housing and assisted more than 250 new patients, saving the community \$350,000 in emergency room costs. Anderson said the greatest changes have come recently, with Mission House refocusing its efforts to help people into housing and communicating their goals and results to the community. One such effort was the remodeling of the facility, which allowed clients the privacy they needed to seek help and medical treatment.

Mission House will also present a dinner for founders Feb. 4, Anderson said, where a \$1 million Jim Shields Memorial Endowment will be introduced. Shields was a past president of Mission House and an avid volunteer, and his son and daughter-in-law are the first members of Mission House's newly established Circle of Hope for donors who give \$10,000 or more. The endowment, Anderson said, is to ensure Mission House is around for decades to come to continually service the Beaches area, covering gas, utilities and other necessities of the facility.

As for the immediate future, it is An-

derson's hope that more people will drop by to see what Mission House is capable of — and what it's thankful for.

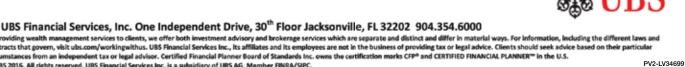
"With the open house event, we really want to let everyone know how grateful we are for their support over the years," she said. "We encourage them to come see what we do because it makes a difference to see what's done under this roof." To learn more about this community open house in honor of Mission House's 20th year anniversary, contact the Mission by phone at (904) 241-6767, by email at missionhousejax@gmail.com, or online at www.missionhousejax.org.

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The Great Recession vs. the Great Depression



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MOVERS & SHAKERS



Miller elected hospitality network president

Rock Solid Law Founder John Miller was recently elected president of the Beaches Hospitality

Network. The 20-yearold nonprofit organization promotes the Jacksonville Beach-area business community. An annual sponsor of a float in the Opening of the Beaches parade, the organization most recently was a sponsor of the annual Deck the Chairs festival.



Perry elected Shriners potentate

The Morocco Shriners elected Comadore A. J. Perry to the position of potentate. The annual elections were held at the Morocco Shrine Center

PERRY

in December 2016 at the beginning of Morocco Shrine's 129th anniversary in Jacksonville.

A retired Navy Tailhook pilot, Perry completed 26 years in the Navy as a captain with the Department of Defense as aviation program executive for all military and civilian services aircraft systems and administration. Perry has been an active member of many of the Morocco

Shrine's clubs, units, and associations, including Arab Patrol, Funsters (Clowns), Highlander, Flying Fez, Provost Guard, Thunder. Beaches Shrine Club and the Ocala Shrine Club.



Toedtman to receive **Columbia Journalism** School alumni award Jim Toedtman. a

director of Flagler TOEDTMAN College's Forum on Government and Public Policy lecture series, will receive

a distinguished Columbia Journalism School Alumni Award in April. According to the Columbia Journalism

School, the alumni awards are presented annually for a distinguished journalism career in any medium, an outstanding single journalistic accomplishment, a notable contribution to journalism education or an achievement in related fields.

"This is a terrific award from a great institution," Toedtman said. "It is really a tribute to the many very talented people I've worked with and for in a long career from my early days as a newspaper reporter and editor, then as a magazine editor and most recently in and outside the classroom at Flagler."

MOVERS & SHAKERS continues on Page 39





Photo by Jennifer Loque

Acclaimed Spanish artist ROYO joins the Cutter Family, gallery staff and representatives from the chamber of commerce as they cut the ribbon on the new Cutter & Cutter Fine Art gallery in Sawgrass Village

Visit from acclaimed Spanish painter highlights Cutter & Cutter grand opening

By Jennifer Logue

Local residents had an opportunity to meet one of the art world's noted stars Jan. 20, when acclaimed Spanish painter ROYO visited Ponte Vedra Beach for the grand opening celebration of the Cutter & Cutter Fine Art gallery in Sawgrass Village.

The artist, who traveled from Valencia, Spain for the event, participated in the gallery's ribbon-cutting ceremony before visiting with guests and art collectors, who came to Ponte Vedra to view a special exhibition of works the artist painted especially for the occasion. In addition to attending cocktail receptions held Jan. 20-21, ROYO also signed copies of his book showcasing his works.

"It's significant for Cutter & Cutter to have an artist such as ROYO, a world-class master, join us all the way from Valencia, Spain," said Len Cutter, founder of Cutter & Cutter. "The art world and its collectors know well the impact he has had on our business, and we predict the impact he will have on Ponte Vedra and Greater Jacksonville is about to unfold."

Throughout the gallery's grand opening weekend, guests perused ROYO's works

while enjoying the opportunity to speak with the artist through an interpreter.

"He has a certain aura about him when he comes to town," said gallery partner Mark Cutter. "He has such a knowledge of and love for art history. (Collectors) really come out because they know there's something special about him."

In addition to the portraits for which he is well known, ROYO created a number of landscapes specifically for Cutter & Cutter, many of which depict the cherry, almond and orange trees that adorn his home in Spain.

ROYO is also a collector, Mark Cutter added, noting that in many of the artist's works, his models display antique fans and 150-year-old silk shawls.

"They're not props," he said. "They're a part of his life."

That sentiment was echoed by the artist himself during a gallery talk with collectors and guests. When asked about his inspiration and reasons for painting, the artist gave a brief answer in Spanish, which his interpreter translated.

"It is his life," she said simply. "He has to do it."

Ladies Valentine's luncheon, financial seminar Feb. 9

A ladies' Valentine's luncheon exploring financial topics will be held Thursday, Feb. 9 at noon at Sawgrass Beach Club.

Hosted by UBS Account Vice President

Heather Hayes, the event will address wealth and retirement planning for women. To RSVP or for more information, call (904) 280-6055 or visit ubs.com/fa/heatherhayes.

The Great Recession vs. the Great Depression



Many who argue that the financial shocks of 2008 were bigger than 1929 like to piggyback off former Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke's quote, "Septem-

ber and October

of 2008 was the

Harry Pappas Columnist

worst financial crisis in global history, including the Great Depression."

Most people vehemently disagree with arguably the most decorated scholar of the Great Depression, but when you consider, according to Bernanke that, "Of the 13 most important financial institutions in the United States, 12 were at risk of failure within a period of a week or two," one can possibly appreciate his position. Nevertheless, when compared to human suffering, the Great Recession pales in magnitude with the 1930s

Consider these differences: The Great

Depression lasted 43 months; the Great Recession 18 months. Industrial production declined by more than 50 percent during the Great Depression; the Great Recession, 15 percent.

At one point during the Great Depression, one in four Americans was without a job. At the height of the Great Recession, one in 10 Americans was without a job.

Finally, 50 percent of all the nation's banks failed during the Great Depression. During the Great Recession, less than 1 percent of the country's banks collapsed.

In closing, no matter what position we take, one thing is certain: Humanity has shown that it can adapt and learn, and that is exactly what we did during the Great Recession. We learned from our mistakes from the Great Depression, and that is why I argue the outcome was dreadful, but not as disastrous!

Harry Pappas Jr., CFP®, Managing Director-Investments, Certified Estate and Trust Specialist™, Certified Divorce Financial Analyst®, Pappas Wealth Man-

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

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Before serving as editor of AARP Bulletin, Toedtman was editor of The Baltimore News American, executive editor of the Boston Herald and managing editor of Newsday. He has covered local government, Congress and the White House and has reported from three continents. At Newsday, he was a member of the reporting team that won the 1970 Pulitzer Prize, and he helped direct Newsday reporters who won Pulitzers in 1993 and 2002. He was named editor of the AARP Bulletin in 2005, and in this role he was consistently recognized for excellence in covering a range of public policy and consumer issues.

In addition to graduating from Columbia University, he received his bachelor's degree from the College of Wooster and studied at the University of Queensland, Australia, as a Rotary Foundation Fellow. In 2012, he accepted the directorship of Flagler's Forum on Government and Public Policy. For more than 30 years, the lecture series has invited nationally recognized iournalists and commentators to St. Augustine to discuss issues of importance in regional, state and federal government.

"Jim's distinguished professional career speaks for itself," said Flagler College President Dr. William T. Abare, Jr. "He is the consummate professional, and he has contributed in numerous ways to the betterment of our college. I am pleased to know that he is to be recognized by his alma mater for his many accomplishments."

MARCH 14

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THE WAILERS





The Lady Sharks celebrate after wining the Class 3A District 4 title playoff game against Pedro Menendez 3-0.



#10, Kia Hayes' header gets past the Menendez keeper for a Ponte Vedra goal.

Lady Sharks district winners again

By Jerry Norton

It's playoff time again for girls' soccer, and no one should be shocked to learn that the Ponte Vedra Sharks are the 3A District 4 champions again.

They did it by blanking Pedro Menendez 3-0 Friday evening on the Falcons' home field. Nor should the shutout by Ponte Vedra be a big surprise. Strong defense is a characteristic of coach Dave Silverberg's teams and is the reason his girls have enjoyed perennial post-season success. For goalkeeper Hannah Suder and the Sharks defense, it was the third straight game in which they did not allow a goal. In 20 games, Ponte Vedra has allowed just 16 goals or 0.8 goals per game; against district opponents it's even better – a miniscule 0.6 goals per game.

The Sharks win avenged a 1-0 loss to Menendez earlier this month and Friday's game looked like it might be a replay of that affair. Ponte Vedra did everything but score in the opening half, thanks in some

WINNERS continues on Page 41



Shark keeper Hannah Sudder makes one of just a few saves she was called upon to make against Menendez as a Falcon player closes in.



Layla Adamo, #17 controls the ball for the Sharks.



Piper Dotsikas, #4, works the ball up field despite pressure from the Menendez defender.

Sharks hoping to peak as regular season nears end

By Jim Moyes

Special to the Recorder

The return to the lineup of leading scorer JD Pirris will be most welcomed by the Ponte Vedra Sharks this week.

With Pirris on the court the Sharks could boast of a 8-1 record as the All-Area performer returns to action. It will be a busy week for the Sharks: On Friday, the "Beech Boys" will have the daunting task of defeating the First Coast's number one-ranked team when they play at perennial power Providence High.

The return to action by Pirris can come none too soon for Ponte Vedra, as only six games remain in the regular season before the PHSAA playoffs begin Feb. 7 in Palatka.

Although the Sharks were shorthanded without the services of senior point guard Mike Nicandri and Pirris, Coach Beech had to be pleased with the improvement shown by a number of his Shark players. In the Sharks' Jan. 19 loss at always tough Bishop Kenny, Beech saw one of his three sophomores, Ben Houser, score a career-high 12 points in a 83-69 loss to the Crusaders. Sophomore center Luke Martin (6'5")

BASKETBALL

demonstrated that he could become a major contributor during the upcoming playoffs, with a fine showing in their losing cause at Matanzas. A very aggressive Martin tossed in 13 points, while yet another promising sophomore, Reese Russi, has played very well of late after moving into a starting guard position.

The Sharks began the week with a 61-53 district win over Menendez, avenging an earlier loss to the Falcons in early December. The win also guarantees the Sharks the number one seed in the upcoming playoffs.

With the score all even at 25-25 at halftime, the Sharks outscored the hosts 19-8 in the third period and then withstood a late Menendez rally to post their 13th win of the season against but five defeats. Senior Eston Hensley and Russi led the charge in the third quarter by scoring 14 of the Sharks' 19 tallies.

In their next game at Bishop Kenny, the Sharks were unlucky to face the 2016 state finalist at the top of their game. In the loss to BK, the Sharks gave up the most points scored against them all season. Ponte Vedra did hold a short-lived lead at 25-24 early into the second quarter, only to let their guard down as Bishop Kenny went on a decisive 13-3 run en route to a 83-69 defeat of the Sharks.

The Sharks had to be well aware that they would have tough sledding against a vastly improved Matanzas team that dropped their earlier game at the Sharks 70-64. However, playing without the services of Pirris, who netted 23 points in that first contest, the Sharks fell to an inspired Matanzas team that jumped out to an early 11-0 lead en route to the victory.

The Sharks were able to regroup, thanks to a 21-11 third quarter, to narrow the gap to 47-43 heading into the final quarter. However, the well-coached Matanzas squad never lost their poise as they netted 14 of their 20 fourth quarter points at the free throw line to hold off the Sharks.

After playing 13 of their last 14 games away from the Shark Tank, the Sharks will welcome their return home on Wednesday when they have a return engagement with Bartram Trail. Prior to their visit from Bartram, the Sharks have high hopes of taking undisputed possession of the top seed in district play with a victory at Clay. A loss would drop the Sharks into a tie with Palatka, each with a 5-3 record. The Sharks would earn the top seed, however, as they defeated Palatka twice during the regular season.

A bright spot for the Sharks over the past few games has been the consistent play from 6'0" senior Jack Shannon, who languished on the bench throughout his sophomore season on the Junior Varsity. Shannon has improved his game to the point where he will soon finish among the all-time leaders in Shark history.

Shannon has scored in double figures in each of his last five games, including a 20-point performance in the losing cause at Matanzas. He has also added another element to his game, complementing his outstanding shooting from three-point land with slashing moves to the basket that often find him then shooting free throws.

With Shannon playing at the top of his game, and with the improved play from the team's sophomores, the Sharks have high hopes of peaking at the right time as tournament time rapidly approaches.

Winners

Continued from 40

large measure to the outstanding performance of the Falcon keeper as well as some bad luck finishing plays on the part of the Sharks.

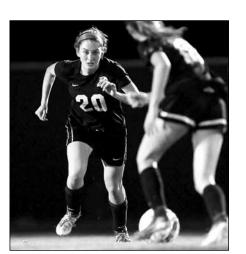
When the first half was over, the Sharks had controlled play for most of the 40 minutes, taken perhaps a dozen shots on goal and had nothing to show for it. But Menendez wasn't able mount any kind of attack against the tough Ponte Vedra defense so the score stood 0-0 at the break.

Ponte Vedra started the second half in much the same way as they had played in the first. At the 38-minute mark, their first shot on goal banged off the cross bar. Things changed four minutes later. Piper Dotsikas sent a perfect pass to Kia Hayes in front of the Falcon goal and the sophomore headed it in to give the Sharks a 1-0 lead.

Dotsikas – who played magnificently throughout the game – blasted a laser from outside the arc into the corner of the goal to pad Ponte Vedra's lead with 20 minutes left. Despite the Sharks' 2-0 lead, Dotiskas wasn't finished. She fed a pretty pass to Lillian Mace, who slipped the ball over the keeper's head for Ponte Vedra's third and final goal with ten minutes left to play.

"The girls are peaking at the right time," said Silverberg. "They believe they're going to win."

Ponte Vedra will host the regional quarterfinals against Terry Parker on Thursday ,Jan. 26 at 7 p.m.



#20 of the Sharks, Leah Cills makes a strong run for the ball



#10 Kia Hayes of the Sharks boots a shot on the Menendez goal.

Photo by Chris and Jerry Norton



Ponte Vedra Croquet Club imports Australian pro to help grow the sport

Club to offer free weekend introductory sessions to learn the basics

By Jennifer Logue

For some, the word "croquet" conjures up images of genteel Victorian ladies politely tapping balls through wickets at summer garden parties. For others, it recalls childhood games at back yard picnics.

To the thousands of croquet enthusiasts around the world, however, croquet is an adult competitive sport, and to spotlight the serious side of the game, the Ponte Vedra Croquet Club has imported a world-ranked croquet player from Australia to help grow the game locally.

Jim Nicholls, who has competed in croquet matches around the world, was recruited by club founder and U.S. Croquet Association Hall of Fame Member John Curington to come to Ponte Vedra.

"Like many people, I played croquet as a child," said Curington, who went on to compete in more than 100 croquet tournaments across the nation and in several foreign countries. "Now I want to see more croquet in my back yard, Ponte Vedra."

Curington said he recruited Nicholls to come to the First Coast after an extended search. Based at the club's home at 100 Mosquito Control Road through the end of April, Nicholls will oversee a series of free weekend open house lessons and other club activities. His mission: To help raise the profile of a sport he believes has a lot going for it.

"It's a real sport," said Nicholls, who is currently ranked 32 in the world and in the top 10 in his native Australia. "People have likened it to billiards on grass. There's a lot of strategy involved."

A financial planner for a large accounting firm, Nicholls was in his mid-30s when he took up croquet. The sport has since taken him to competitions around the globe, where he's found that croquet seems to hold particular appeal to people who like chess or bridge.

"It's the tactical, strategic side of the game," he said, adding that accountants and engineers also seem attracted to croquet. "You get into the geometry, the angles," he said. "You're constantly weighing risk and reward."

A sport for all ages

Yet the sport is also uniquely well suited to attract a much broader audience, Nicholls said

"In Australia, we say croquet is the game for people ages 9 to 90," he said, noting that in some forms of croquet the matches can be as short as 30 minutes. "It's a non-contact sport, so parents don't have to worry about those types of issues for their kids."

The game is also well-suited for active retirees: The Ponte Vedra Croquet Club, Nicholls said, has some strong players who are well into their 80s. What's more, unlike other professional sports, croquet allows men and women to compete against one another or on co-ed teams.

"We're one of the few sports where you can go to the world championships and men and women compete on equal terms," he said.

To help raise awareness of the sport locally, Nicholls and other club members will be offering free open house sessions Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and Sundays from



Photo by Jennifer Logue Australian croquet player Jim Nicholls will be at the Ponte Vedra Croquet Club through April, introducing locals to the sport.

2 to 4 p.m. where local residents can learn the fundamentals of the sport. Those who are interested in continuing with croquet can consider becoming members of the Ponte Vedra Croquet Club (www.pontevedracroquetclub.com), which offers a variety of membership levels for both beginners and serious players alike.

"There is a big social side of croquet, even among the top players," Nicholls said. "We may have 'white line fever' on the lawn, but off the lawn it's all pretty friendly."



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SUDOKU nominee (2017) 64. Apathetic **GOT KNEE PAIN?** 65. Ante up 67. Reflective thinker 69. Ringworm 70. Rub the wrong way 1-800-984-0360 71. Open-mouthed 72. Perching place 73. *1995 Grammy 4 7 nominee, _____ of Base 2 7 74. and rights 2 1 3 9 1. Work stopper? 2 8 2. Reduced Instruction 5 1 Set Computer 3. Amazon's smart 9 8 5 2 4. Not here 9 3 1 5. India VIP 6. ____ Zhen, played 7 4 by Bruce Lee and Jet Li 7. Hudson's Bay Com-6 3 pany's original ware 8. Irritate by rubbing ^{max} blank squares in the grid, making sure that ever mn and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 5 Fill in the blank so 9. *4-time Grammy row, colu nominated Ja Color' 49 " the season ..." 10. Part of house frame 31. Hindu serpent 11. U.S. President's deity special power 32. Like TV with brows-12. "Pretty in Pink"

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34. *Adele's multi-

36. Dunking treat

42. Golden Globes'

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20. Do like a volcano

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22. Popular pickup

26. Cool & distant

27. Motionless 29. *"

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OBITUARIES



John D. Cochrane III

John D. (Jack) Cochrane III turned 90 years old Nov. 12, 2016 and died Jan. 15, 2017, after a brief illness. He lived a long and full life. They

broke the mold when Jack Cochrane came into the world, and heaven is bracing for his entry!

He was born in Wyoming, Ohio, to John D. Cochrane Jr. and Frances Earl Cochrane. As a teenager, his nickname was "Pretzel" because he was so thin. He excelled in basketball and tennis. He achieved the rank of Life in Boy Scouts. He stayed active as a leader (Uncle Jack), experienced Philmont and several other high adventure bases. His "knot head" scouts really knew their knots!

He served in the Army at the Presidio in California, where he typed court martial papers for General Stillwell. He attended Purdue University, where he got a degree in chemical engineering. While at Purdue, he met his wife Marie on the tennis courts. They married 65 years ago on June 30, 1951. Jack worked for Hercules Powder

Company and Hoover Ball Bearing in early plastic industry sales. He operated several entrepreneurial endeavors later in his working career. Their children John, Barb and Mary Ann were born in New Jersey. They built their family home in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1965 and were blessed to have amazing neighbors and friends for 50 years. They had wintered many years in the Jacksonville area with their daughter Barb, and in 2015 they moved to Fleet Landing, a continuing care retirement community.

Clear Lake, Indiana was a special place for Jack. He was heavily involved in the sailing program there. He enjoyed fishing, playing tennis and playing golf – with a new putter and/or putting stroke each year. Less than a year ago, Jack was still riding his tricycle up to nine miles a day at Fleet Landing.

Jack was the king of "putzing" – no product was complete without Jack's improvements. He and Chuck Single invented The SqueezerTM, a male incontinence device that is comfortable to wear and now sold commercially.

Jack is survived by his wife of 65 years Marie Cochrane and their children (and

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spouses) John (Tammy) Cochrane of Hiram, Ohio; Barb Wenger (Klaus) of Ponte Vedra Beach; Mary Ann Gardner (Mark) of Dunwoody, Georgia; and nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Several beloved dachshunds predeceased Jack, most recently Trina.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Jack Cochrane's name to the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy at 111 Gecowets Drive, Fremont, IN 46737 or the Boy Scouts of America at Huron Trails District, 3914 Bestech Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

Please visit our online tribute at www. quinn-shalz.com. Services are under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre3600 Third Street South(904)249-1100

Randy S. Wise

Randy S. Wise, 65, of Ponte Vedra Beach died Jan. 20 after a long battle

SHORT TAKES

'A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline'

The Alhambra Theatre & Dining will present "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline" Jan. 27 through Feb. 19. Starring Gail Bliss, the show is endorsed by the Patsy Cline Estate as "the most authentic Patsy story ever told." Bliss traces Cline's career from her first time singing on the radio until her untimely death in a plane crash. Featuring a live band with Grammy Award winning musicians, "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline" is an Alhambra favorite that always sells out. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit with frontotemporal dementia. He leaves his loving wife of 43 years, Valerie McEwan.

The family would like to thank the team of angels at Green House 400, where Randy lived the past 27 months, and Community Hospice, which joined the care team several months ago, for taking such attentive care of this kind, loving man.

Please visit his online tribute at www. quinn-shalz.com.

Services are under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home in Jacksonville Beach.



A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre 3600 Third Street South (904)249-1100

Cody Covington

Cody Covington, 23, passed away January 17, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 - www. pontevedravalley.com

www.alhambrajax.com/show/closer-walk-patsy-cline.

Senior Singles Social Club

The Council on Aging invites single seniors to the Senior Singles Social Club. Join the group Feb. 7 at 11:30 a.m. for a lunch gathering at La Pentola located at 58 Charlotte St. in St. Augustine's historic district.

There is limited parking behind the restaurant. Seating is limited; reservations are required and can be made by calling River House at (904) 209-3655.



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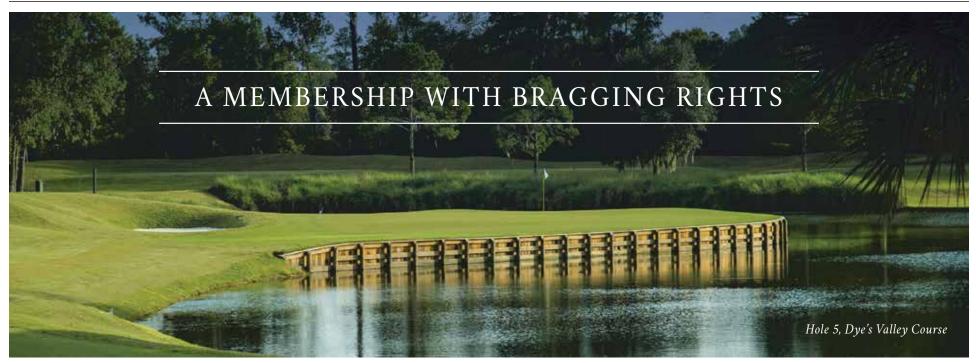
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